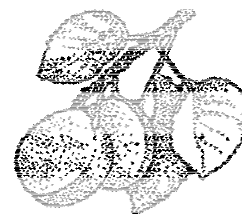


2000 California Prune Forecast



Released: June 2, 2000



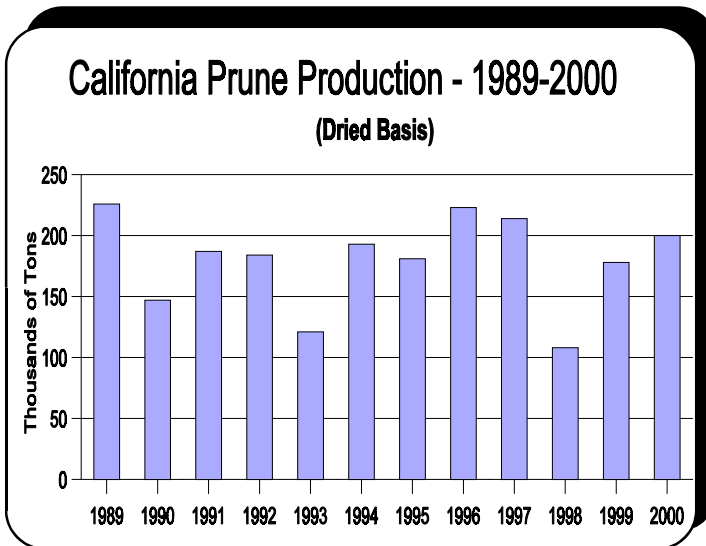
CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

The 2000 California prune crop is forecast at 200 thousand tons, up 12 percent from the 178 thousand tons in 1999. Total 2000 bearing acreage is estimated at 86,000. The French prune variety accounts for more than 98 percent of all prune acreage grown in California. The production forecast is based on a survey of prune growers conducted by the California Agricultural Statistics Service (CASS) from May 1-18, 2000. The acreage estimate is based on a survey of prune growers conducted by CASS from January through May 2000.

CASS designed the survey using a stratified random sampling scheme based on total prune acreage for each operator and analyzed the data. The sample is designed to give a State estimate of all growers.

Questionnaires were mailed to growers on May 1, 2000 with return requested by May 14. Non-respondents were telephoned. Responses were received from 170 growers representing 33 percent of the total bearing acres.

The 2000 prune season is progressing well. The northern and central prune growing areas are experiencing a heavier fruit set than the previous year. The southern area is slightly lighter than last year.



PRUNE PRODUCTION AND ACREAGE 1989-2000

Year	Bearing Acreage	Yield Per Acre	Production
	Acres	Tons	
1989	77,400	2.92	226,000
1990	80,100	1.84	147,000
1991	80,200	2.33	187,000
1992	80,400	2.29	184,000
1993	83,000	1.46	121,000
1994	84,000	2.30	193,000
1995	83,500	2.17	181,000
1996	85,000	2.62	223,000
1997	82,000	2.61	214,000
1998	83,000	1.30	108,000
1999	83,000	2.14	178,000
2000 (Forecast)	86,000	2.33	200,000