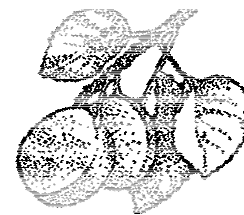


# 2001 California Prune Forecast



Released: June 1, 2001



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

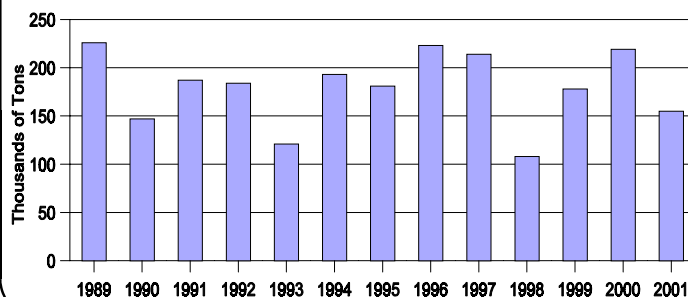
The 2001 California prune crop is forecast to be 155 thousand tons, down 29 percent from the 219 thousand tons in 2000. Total 2001 bearing acreage is estimated at 86,000. The French prune variety accounts for more than 96 percent of all prune acreage grown in California. The production forecast is based on a survey of prune growers conducted by the California Agricultural Statistics Service (CASS) from May 1-25, 2001. The acreage estimate is based on a survey of prune growers conducted by CASS from January through May 2001.

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, 2001 with return requested by May 11. Non-respondents were telephoned. Responses were received from 169 growers representing 39 percent of the total bearing acreage.

The 2001 prune crop experienced favorable weather conditions during bloom. However, these favorable conditions did not result in a heavy set Statewide, as several growers reported very little fruit on their trees. The crop was further reduced by freezing temperatures and hail during April, which damaged the fruit in various areas of California.

**California Prune Production - 1989-2001**  
(Dried Basis)



## PRUNE PRODUCTION AND ACREAGE 1989-2001

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	86,000	2.55	219,000
2001 (Forecast)	86,000	1.80	155,000