

# 2003 California Prune (Dried Plum) Forecast

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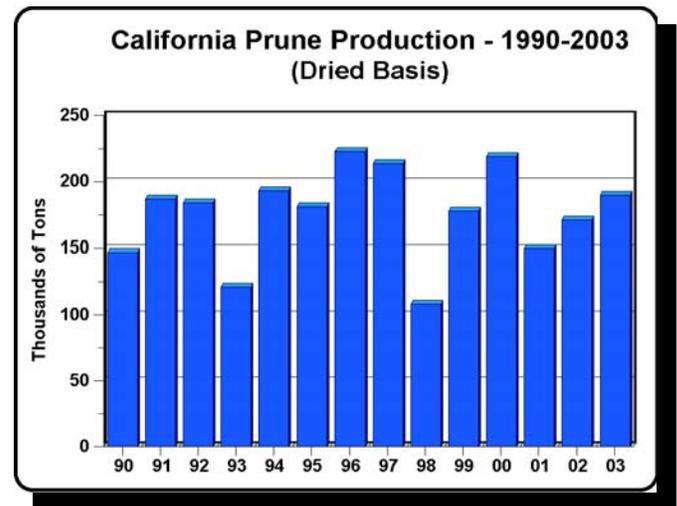
CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

The 2003 California prune (dried plum) crop is forecast to be 190 thousand tons, up 11 percent from the 171 thousand tons in 2002. Total 2003 bearing acreage is estimated at 72,000. The French prune variety accounts for more than 97 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 1-27, 2003. The acreage estimate is based on a survey of prune growers conducted by CASS from January through May 2003.

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 production for all growers.

Questionnaires were mailed to growers on May 1, 2003 with return requested by May 15. Non-respondents were telephoned. Responses were received from 219 growers representing 39 percent of the total bearing acreage.

The 2003 prune crop encountered more rain and cooler temperatures during March and April than normal. Limited hail damage was reported in both the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys. Favorable weather conditions prevailed during May.



## PRUNE (DRIED PLUM) ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION, 1990-2003

Year	Bearing Acreage	Yield Per Acre	Production
	Acres		Tons
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	86,000	1.74	150,000
2002	74,000	2.31	171,000
2003 (Forecast)	72,000	2.64	190,000