



# 2011 California Dried Plum (Prune) Forecast

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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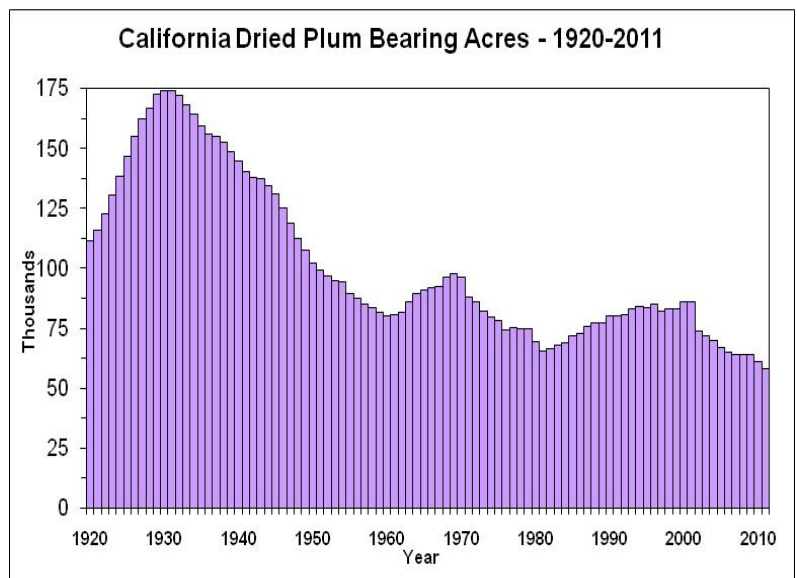
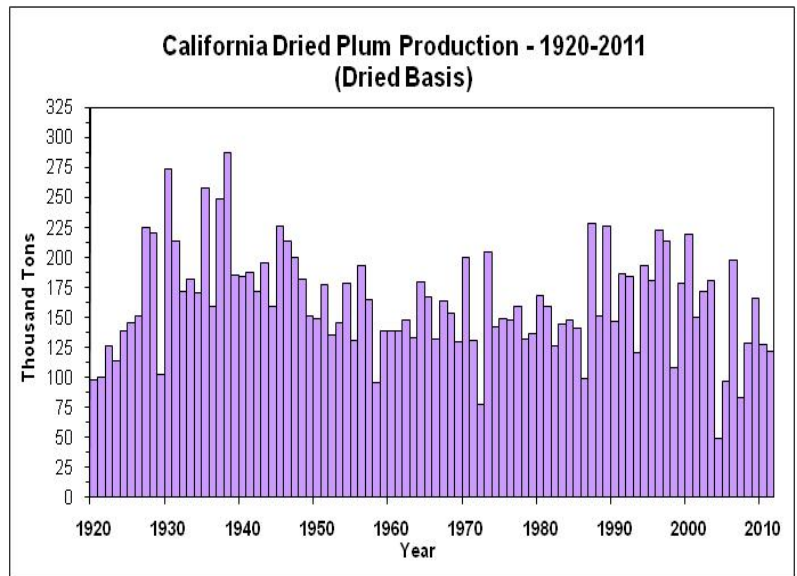
Released: June 2, 2011, 12:00 p.m. PDT

The 2011 California dried plum (prune) crop is forecast to be 122 thousand tons, down 4 percent from the 127 thousand tons produced in 2010. Total 2011 bearing acreage is estimated at 58,000. A significant number of dried plum trees were pulled after the 2010 harvest, reducing acreage by 5 percent for the 2011 season. The production forecast is based on a survey of dried plum growers conducted by the USDA, NASS, California Field Office from May 9 - 20, 2011.

The survey used a random sampling design based on total dried plum acreage for each operator. The sample is designed to provide a State estimate of production for all growers.

Questionnaires were mailed to growers on April 22, 2011 with return requested by May 6<sup>th</sup>. Non-respondents were telephoned. Responses were received from 223 growers representing 59 percent of the total bearing acreage.

The 2011 dried plum bloom was delayed by cold, wet weather. Rain held up pollination and some growing areas experienced hail and frost, but no major damage was reported. Despite these issues, growers expect yields to be similar to last year. Pest control remains a concern as cool temperatures persist.



**California Dried Plum (Prune) Acreage, Production, and Value, 1995-2011**

Year	Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total Production	Utilized Production	Yield Per Acre	Price Per Ton	Value of Utilized Production
	Acres		Tons (Dried Basis)			Dollars	1,000 Dollars
1995	83,500	23,200	181,000	181,000	2.17	1,040.00	188,240
1996	85,000	23,700	223,000	223,000	2.62	839.00	187,097
1997	82,000	21,300	214,000	205,000	2.61	883.00	181,015
1998	83,000	26,000	108,000	103,000	1.30	764.00	78,692
1999	83,000	22,000	178,000	165,000	2.14	861.00	142,065
2000	86,000	15,000	219,000	201,000	2.55	770.00	154,770
2001	86,000	11,000	150,000	135,000	1.74	726.00	98,010
2002	74,000	9,000	172,000	163,000	2.32	810.00	132,030
2003	72,000	8,000	181,000	168,000	2.51	772.00	129,696
2004	70,000	c/	49,000	48,000	0.70	1,500.00	72,000
2005	67,000	7,500	97,000	94,000	1.45	1,470.00	138,180
2006	65,000	7,500	198,000	189,000	3.05	1,390.00	262,710
2007	64,000	7,500	83,000	81,000	1.30	1,450.00	117,450
2008	64,000	c/	129,000	129,000	2.01	1,500.00	193,500
2009	64,000	c/	166,000	166,000	2.59	1,200.00	199,200
2010 a/	61,000	c/	127,000	127,000	2.08	1,180.00	149,860
2011 b/	58,000	c/	122,000	c/	2.10	d/	d/

a/ Revised.

b/ Forecast.

c/ Non-Bearing discontinued in 2008.

d/ Preliminary Price and Value will be available January 2012.

Source: USDA, NASS, California Field Office

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