



2008 California Raisin Grape Overhead Trellis Report

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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RESULTS

California raisin-type grapes using the overhead trellis management system totaled 17,977 acres (bearing and non-bearing) during 2008. This amounted to 8.3 percent of the total raisin-type grape acreage. The Dovine and Fiesta varieties had the highest percentage of acreage using the overhead trellis system, at 42.9 percent and 46.7 percent, respectively. Approximately 39 percent of the total raisin-type acreage planted since 2001 was managed using this system. In Kings County, 20 percent of the raisin-type acreage were grown using overhead trellises, followed by 17 percent in Madera County and 13 percent in Kern County. Only 5.5 percent of Fresno County's acreage was devoted to this system.

Most California raisins are produced by sun drying after laying the bunches on paper trays on terraces between vine rows. The overhead trellis system has led to increased production of dried-on-the-vine raisins, increased machine harvesting, and decreased hand labor use.

PROCEDURES

The California Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, conducts an annual grape acreage survey. The 2008 Grape Acreage Report, published in April, summarized the

latest survey results. At the request of the raisin industry, an additional question was added to the grape acreage survey form the past four years to gather information on raisin-type acreage grown using an overhead trellis system. In addition to the overhead trellis system data, producers were asked to update acreage by variety and year planted. Growers were first contacted by mail with telephone follow-up. Field staff personally visited large growers who did not respond by mail. This report summarizes data for raisin-type grapes grown using the overhead trellis system.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Raisin Type Grapes: Total Acreage Standing by Variety, California, 2007-2008 1/

Variety	Total Acres		Overhead Trellis Acres 3/		Trellis Percentage of Total	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Black Corinth 2/	1,798	1,797	0	0	0.0	0.0
Dovine	703	713	306	306	43.5	42.9
Fiesta	12,678	12,811	5,422	5,977	42.8	46.7
Negrita Black	0	76	0	0	0.0	0.0
Selma Pete	1,967	2,225	479	620	24.4	27.9
Sultana	163	126	0	0	0.0	0.0
Thompson Seedless	205,933	198,094	9,790	10,914	4.8	5.5
Other Raisin	1,223	836	229	159	18.7	19.0
STATE TOTAL	224,464	216,679	16,225	17,977	7.2	8.3

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

2/ Also known as Zante Currant.

3/ 2007 figures were revised.

Raisin Type Grapes: Total Acreage Standing by County, California, 2007-2008 1/

Variety	Total Acres		Overhead Trellis Acres 2/		Trellis Percentage of Total	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Fresno	145,442	142,581	6,731	7,868	4.6	5.5
Kern	18,362	17,134	2,433	2,279	13.3	13.3
Kings	788	678	135	135	17.1	19.9
Madera	38,110	36,884	5,661	6,252	14.9	17.0
Merced	723	646	21	21	2.9	3.3
Riverside	1,969	1,641	143	0	7.3	0.0
San Bernardino	152	152	0	0	0.0	0.0
San Luis Obispo	272	206	0	0	0.0	0.0
Stanislaus	258	253	0	1	0.0	0.4
Tulare	18,348	16,463	1,091	1,411	5.9	8.6
Other	38	38	10	10	26.3	26.3
STATE TOTAL	224,464	216,679	16,225	17,977	7.2	8.3

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

2/ 2007 figures were revised.

Raisin Type Grapes: Total Acreage Standing by Year Planted, California, 2000-2008 1/

Year Planted	Total Acres		Overhead Trellis Acres 2/		Trellis Percentage of Total	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
2000 and Earlier	213,278	205,651	12,282	13,674	5.8	6.6
2001	1,549	1,416	730	885	47.1	62.5
2002	1,665	1,278	388	466	23.3	36.5
2003	1,964	2,034	1,236	1,236	62.9	60.8
2004	876	689	317	194	36.2	28.2
2005	2,737	2,718	747	856	27.3	31.5
2006	1,581	1,610	378	423	23.9	26.3
2007	814	906	149	244	18.3	26.9
2008	NA	378	NA	0	NA	0.0
STATE TOTAL	224,464	216,679	16,225	17,977	7.2	8.3

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

2/ 2007 figures were revised.