1997 California Olive Probability Survey Results

Released: August 12, 1997 5:30 A.M. PDT

1997 CALIFORNIA OLIVE FORECAST

The 1997 olive crop is forecast at 95,000 tons, down 43 percent from the 1996 production of 166,000 tons. Bearing acres are estimated at 33,700. A warm, mild spring brought a heavy bloom, however, the resulting fruit set was light compared to last years. The Manzanillo variety accounts for about 70 percent of the total production. Growers expected the Manzanillo variety yield to drop 53 percent. Growers expected the yield of Sevillano and Ascolano varieties, which account for about 23 percent of production, to drop by 30 and 18 percent, respectively.

VARIETAL FORECAST

Growers were asked to estimate production by variety. The following table lists a varietal level forecast based on survey data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>1996 Tonnage</th>
<th>1997 Estimated Tonnage</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sevillano</td>
<td>25,500</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ascolano</td>
<td>8,900</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manzanillo</td>
<td>125,900</td>
<td>64,000</td>
<td>-49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission</td>
<td>4,300</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>166,000</td>
<td>95,000</td>
<td>-43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ California Olive Committee

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The California Agricultural Statistics Service (CASS) designed the probability survey, developed a sampling scheme, and analyzed the data. The California Olive Committee (COC) provided CASS with grower names and last year’s tonnage.

The California Olive Production 1987-97

SURVEY SAMPLE

A total of 380 growers was sampled for the survey. Reports from 296 were used by CASS to establish this forecast. The sample is designed to give a State estimate of all varieties; estimates by variety should be construed to be less precise.

SURVEY STATISTICIAN

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