

2005 California Raisin Grape Objective Measurement Survey Results



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USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service,
California Field Office

RAISIN TYPE GRAPE PRODUCTION DOWN FROM THE JULY FORECAST

The California raisin type variety grape forecast is 2.30 million tons, up 13 percent from last year, but down 6 percent from the July forecast. Based on the objective measurement survey, bunches per vine totaled 40.9 compared to 30.7 recorded in 2001. Acreage of bearing age is 242,000.

The raisin crop looked promising early in the season based on bunch counts, which were reported to be up statewide for most varieties. Bud break occurred in March for raisin type grapes, 1-2 weeks early across the State, due to an early heat wave. The hot weather was followed by an unusually cool and wet spring that brought on powdery mildew. To combat the mildew, sulfur was applied by many growers. Mite activity increased as temperatures once again soared, which resulted in drying leaves and some sulfured grapes being burned.

As a result of the mildew and weather problems, production and overall quality of the raisin crop is expected to be down from the July forecast. Thompson Seedless variety grapes are currently being picked for fresh use in the San Joaquin Valley. Good size and quality are being reported.

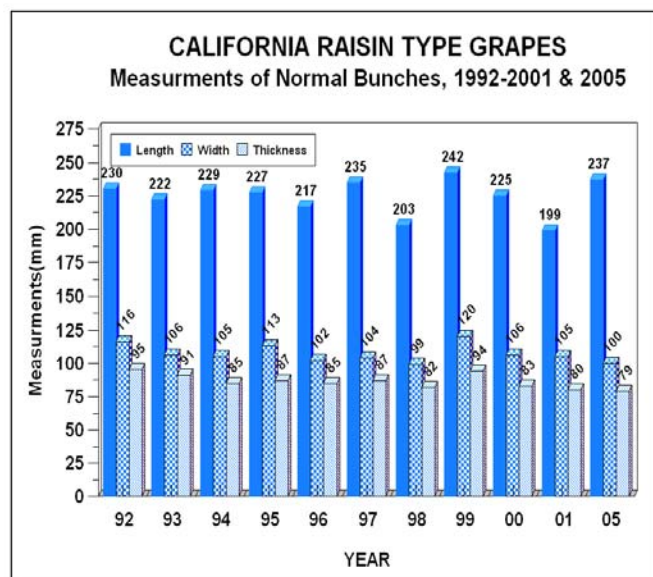
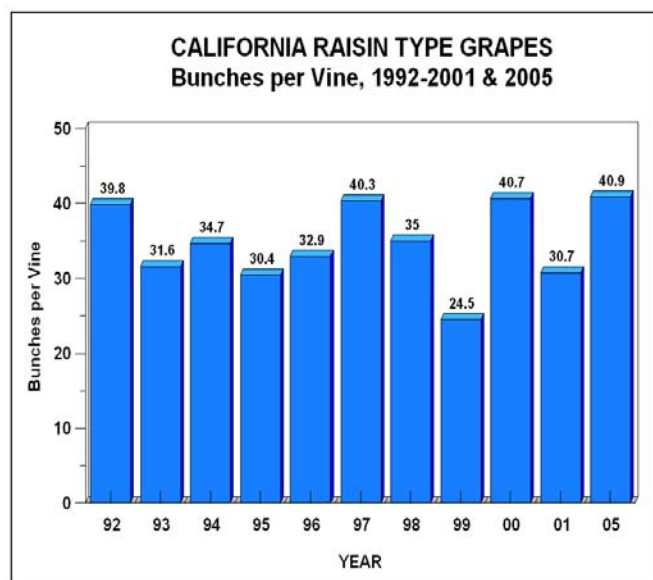
The forecast is based on the results of the Raisin Grape Objective Measurement (O.M.) Survey conducted in July. The Raisin Administrative Committee provided funding for the 2005 Raisin O.M. Survey.

SURVEY HISTORY

The collection of objective measurement data on the California grape crop began in 1956. Grape bunches were counted, measured, and weighed in sample vineyards of raisin, table, and wine type varieties. No Grape O.M. Survey was conducted from 1982 through 1984 due to State budget cuts. The Raisin Administrative Committee (RAC) funded the O.M. survey of raisin type variety grapes from 1985 to 2001, again this year.

FIELD SAMPLING ACTIVITIES

Data was collected the first three weeks of July. A total of 319 raisin type variety vineyards was sampled for the 2005 data.



California Raisin Grape Objective Measurement Survey Results and Official Estimates, 1992-2005

Year	Vines Sampled	Average Bunches Per Vine	Normal Bunches Measured	Average Normal Bunch			Official Estimate		
				Length	Width	Thickness	Bearing 1/	Yield Per Acre 1/	Production
				<i>mm</i>			<i>Acres</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
1992	317	39.8	1,443	230	116	95	267,000	10.50	2,670
1993	248	31.6	952	222	106	91	266,000	9.57	2,354
1994	330	34.7	1,342	229	105	85	270,000	8.85	2,389
1995	294	30.4	1,054	227	113	87	268,000	9.27	2,252
1996	362	32.9	1,396	217	102	85	270,000	8.12	2,192
1997	376	40.3	1,763	235	104	87	270,000	10.70	2,883
1998	313	35.0	1,245	203	99	82	275,000	7.55	2,077
1999	303	24.5	863	242	120	94	279,000	7.61	2,122
2000	294	40.7	1,341	225	106	83	280,000	10.40	2,921
2001	294	30.7	1,036	199	105	80	276,000	9.43	2,215
2002	---	---	---	---	---	---	273,000	11.40	2,804
2003	---	---	---	---	---	---	255,000	8.71	2,220
2004	---	---	---	---	---	---	244,000	8.32	2,030
2005	319	40.9	1,430	237	100	79	242,000	9.50	2,300

1/ The following acreage was enrolled in the Raisin Industry Diversion (RID) Program in the year specified: 1991, – 20,000 acres; 1992 – 12,500 acres; 1993 – 20,000 acres; 1995 – 25,000 acres; 2001 – 41,000 acres; 2002 – 27,000 acres. These acres were deducted from bearing acreage for yield calculations.

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