

# CALIFORNIA'S CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

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## RECORD GRAPE CRUSH

California's 2000 grape crush totaled a record 3,949,152 tons, up 24 percent from the 1999 crush of 3,185,463 tons and up 1.5 percent from the 1997 crush of 3,891,403 tons.

*Chardonnay* accounted for the largest percentage of crush volume, at 16 percent, with *Thompson Seedless*, a raisin grape variety, at 12 percent of the total crush. The remaining top ten were all wine varieties. Red wine varieties accounted for the largest share of all grapes crushed, at 1,814,990 tons, up 28 percent from 1999. The 2000 white wine variety crush totaled 1,502,090 tons, up 26 percent from 1999. Raisin type varieties crushed totaled 512,461 tons, up 22 percent from 1999, while tons crushed of table type varieties totaled 119,610, down 20 percent from last year's crush.

California grape growers received prices in 2000 that were, on average, slightly below the 1999 prices. The 2000 average price of all varieties was \$502.06, down 4 percent from 1999. Average prices by type for the 2000 crop were as follows: red wine grapes, \$626.24, down 3 percent from 1999; white wine grapes, \$496.67, down 4 percent; raisin grapes, \$124.88, down 38 percent; and table grapes, \$119.30, down 36 percent from 1999. These price levels have not been adjusted for inflation.

Statewide, the top five varieties receiving the highest average price were all wine grape varieties. *Scheurebe* received the highest average price of \$4,504.12 per ton. *Pinot St. George* received the second highest average price of \$3,200.00 per ton followed by *Freise* with \$2,554.63 per ton, *Petite Verdot* with \$2,054.50 per ton, and *Vernaccia* with \$2,030.90 per ton. The prices of other notable varieties for 2000 were as follows: *Chardonnay*, \$928.04; *Cabernet Sauvignon*, \$1,102.71; *Zinfandel*, \$465.73.

Of the 17 grape price districts, District 4 (Napa County) received the highest average price of \$2,467.56 per ton, up 15 percent from 1999.

Beginning with the 1999 season, the Grape Crush Report includes the total number of tons crushed that will be marketed as grape concentrate. In determining grape tonnage crushed for concentrate production, each processor was required to report the estimated equivalent tons of grapes crushed that are expected to be marketed as grape concentrate. For the 2000 season, this total was 744,825 tons, approximately 19 percent of the 2000 grape crush total.

California leads the nation in the production of all grape varieties, with the 2000 value of production at \$2.80 billion.

This preliminary report includes all grape tonnage crushed during the 2000 season, as well as purchased tonnage and pricing information with final prices prior to January 10, 2001. The Final Grape Crush Report will be available March 9, 2001.