

CALIFORNIA CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

Released: July 11, 2002

The California Agricultural Statistics Service today released crop production forecasts on selected crops for July 2002.

Grapes - California all *grape* production is forecast at 6.62 million tons, up 11% from last year. Specifically, the *wine grape* production is estimated at 3.30 million tons, up 8% from last season's crop. The expected *table grape* production is 770,000 tons, up 8% from 2001, while the *raisin grape* production is forecast at 2.55 million tons, up 16% from last year. Mild May temperatures helped the crop get off to an excellent start. A good bloom occurred, resulting in a large number of bunches being reported. Size, color and quality are expected to be very good.

Almonds - California's *almond* production is forecast at a record 980 million meat pounds, up 18% from last year's crop. The average nut set per tree is up 21% from 2001. Bearing acreage is estimated at 530,000, an increase of nearly 1% from 2001.

Apricots - California's *apricot* production is forecast at 85,000 tons. This is up 13% from the June 2002 forecast and up 10% from last year's crop. Due to cooler temperatures, apricot harvesting has been pushed back this year, allowing the fruit to grow larger resulting in a higher yield. The crop appears to be of excellent quality, maybe the best ever.

Peaches - The 2002 California *Freestone peach* crop is forecast at a record 415,000 tons, unchanged from the June 2002 forecast, but up 7% from the 2001 crop. Freestone peach harvest is progressing well with approximately 30 percent of the harvest completed by the end of June. The California *Clingstone peach* crop is forecast at 525,000 tons, unchanged from the June 2002 forecast, but up 10% from last year. Clingstone peach harvest began during the middle of June with excellent quality reported.

Grapefruit - The 2001-02 California *grapefruit* forecast is estimated at 12.8 million cartons, down 2% from the 2000-01 production. Harvest is in full swing in the summer producing areas of Riverside County. Sizes are reported to be large with very good quality.

Lemons - The 2001-02 California *lemon* forecast is 44.0 million cartons, down 3% from the 2000-01 production. Fruit quality and color are reported to be in good condition. Harvest continued in the southern coastal region.

Oranges - The 2001-02 California *Navel orange* forecast is 64.0 million cartons, down 11% from the 2000-01 production. The Navel orange harvest has ended for the season. Fruit size was reported to be better than in previous seasons, with larger sizes in abundance. The *Valencia orange* forecast is 44.0 million cartons, up 5% from last season. Valencia fruit quality is generally good, with no major problems reported so far.

Other Crops - *Barley* production is forecast at 118,800 tons, down 15% from the previous year. *Oat* production is forecast at 33,600 tons, up 133% from 2001. *Winter wheat* production is expected to be 744,000 tons, down 7% from 2001. *Durum wheat* production is 270,000 tons, 6% above 2001.

The next production report will be issued August 12, 2002.

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