

CALIFORNIA'S PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS REPORT

Released: March 31, 2003

These estimates, of acreage planted and to be planted, are based on a survey of more than 2,000 California farmers, conducted the first two weeks of March. The impact of weather and/or market conditions since then is not reflected in this report.

Cotton - California farmers were intending to plant 540,000 acres to *Upland cotton* in 2003, up 13% from the acreage seeded in 2002. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 170,000 acres to *American Pima cotton* in 2003, down 19% from last year.

Corn - California farmers were expected to plant 520,000 acres of corn for all purposes in 2003, 5% less than last year.

Oats - Farmers in California had planted or were expected to plant 250,000 acres of oats, down 4% from 2002.

Wheat - Acreage seeded to *Winter wheat* is estimated at 610,000 acres, up 15% from last year. Another 100,000 acres have been seeded to *Durum wheat*, up 5% from 2002.

Rice - California farmers intended to seed rice on 530,000 acres, a 1% decrease from the 2002 seeded acreage. The expressed intentions were to seed 500,000 acres to *medium grain* varieties, unchanged from a year ago. *Long grain* rice acreage is forecast at 5,000 acres, down 29% from last season. *Short grain* rice planted acreage is forecast at 25,000 acres, 4% below 2002. For the first time, short grain and all rice forecasts include the intended plantings of sweet rice.

Barley - California farmers had planted or intended to plant 130,000 acres to barley, unchanged from the previous year.

Sugar Beets - California producers had planted or intended to plant 50,500 acres of sugar beets, up 1% from the seeded acreage in 2002.

Dry Edible Beans - Seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 80,000 acres in California, down 13% from last year.

Sweet Potatoes - California farmers were expected to plant 10,100 acres of sweet potatoes in 2003, 3% less than last year.

All Hay - California producers intended to harvest hay from 1.46 million acres, 11% less than last year.

Released by:

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