

California Crop Production Report

Released: July 11, 2003

Today the California Agricultural Statistics Service released crop production forecasts on selected crops for July 2003.

Grapes - California all *grape* production is forecast at 6.29 million tons, down 6% from last year. Specifically, the *wine grape* production is estimated at 3.05 million tons, down 3% from last season's crop. The expected *table grape* production is 740 thousand tons, up slightly from 2002, while the *raisin grape* production is forecast at 2.50 million tons, down 12% from last year. Mild May temperatures helped the crop get off to a good start. Production outlook of the crop varies depending on variety and location. Overall, quality and color are expected to be very good.

Almonds - California's *almond* production is forecast at 1.00 billion meat pounds, down 8% from last year's record crop. The average nut set per tree is down 14% from 2002. Bearing acreage is estimated at 530,000, unchanged from 2002.

Apricots - California's *apricot* production is forecast at 85,000 tons. This is unchanged from both the June 2003 forecast and last year's crop. Cooler weather hampered fruit growth and maturity of early apricots. However, late rains increased the size of later apricots compared to last year. Warmer weather early in the harvest period helped apricots gain color. Cooler temperatures throughout harvesting helped to slow fruit maturation. Harvesting will be finished by the middle of July.

Peaches - The 2003 California *Freestone peach* crop is forecast at 385,000 tons, unchanged from the June 2003 forecast, but down 3% from the 2002 crop. Freestone peach harvest is progressing well with approximately 35% of the harvest completed by the end of June. The California *Clingstone peach* crop is forecast at 575,000 tons, up 2% from last year. The July forecast excludes tonnage that will not be harvested because of a green-drop program initiated by the peach industry. Clingstone peach harvest began in the Kingsburg area on June 19th.

Grapefruit - The 2002-03 California *grapefruit* forecast is estimated at 11.2 million cartons, unchanged from the April forecast, but down 7% from the 2001-02 production. The Star Ruby and Marsh Ruby grapefruit harvests were ongoing in the coastal areas of the State. Shape is normal and uniform. Texture is smooth in all but the largest sizes. Flavor and eating quality are excellent.

Lemons - The 2002-03 California *lemon* forecast is 48.0 million cartons, up 4% from April, and up 26% from the 2001-02 production. Quality and color of fruit remain good. Harvest remains active in the Southern Coastal regions while storage levels remain high.

Oranges - The 2002-03 California *Navel orange* forecast is 80.0 million cartons, up 18% from the 2001-02 production. Harvesting of the 2002-03 Navel crop has all but ended, though a few shippers were still moving late varieties at the end of June. Overall crop quality was good, though smaller fruit sizes were noted. Puff, staining, rind breakdown, and internal drying were among the defects observed recently. The *Valencia orange* forecast is 42.0 million cartons, up 2% from last season. Valencia orange harvesting continues, but had been slow due to low demand and a lack of adequately sized fruit. Overall crop quality has thus far been good, but smaller fruit sizes have been reported in many areas. In addition, some instances of re-greening have been noted, and the Southern California crop has suffered wind scarring.

Other Crops - *Barley* production is forecast at 94,656 tons, down 23% from the previous year. *Oat* production is forecast at 38,400 tons, up 11% from 2002. *Winter wheat* production is expected to be 780,000 tons, up 16% from 2002. *Durum wheat* production is 327,750 tons, 21% above 2002.

The next production report will be issued on August 12, 2003.

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