

California Crop Production Report

Released: October 10, 2003

California Agricultural Statistics Service today released the latest crop production forecasts for October. The latest survey, conducted during the first week of October 2003, includes the following commodities:

Cotton - American Pima cotton is forecast at 380,000 bales, an increase of 3% from the September 1 forecast, but a decrease of 37% from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated to be 139,000, resulting in a yield of 1,312 pounds per acre. The crop is expected to be quite variable, with good yields possible in early-planted fields but poor yields possible in many late-planted fields. Open bolls were showing in a number of fields by early September. There were initial expectations of lygus being a serious problem this year, but to this point the pests have been kept under control. Whiteflies and aphids have been reported, but at manageable levels to this point. *Upland* cotton is forecast at 1.60 million bales, up 7% from the September 1 forecast and up 10% from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated to be 555,000, resulting in a yield of 1,384 pounds per acre. The upland cotton crop has been aided by from beneficial weather this summer and early fall, after cool weather earlier this year that caused many problems. Defoliation had begun in a number of upland fields by late September, and harvesting was just underway during the first week of October in a few fields in the southern San Joaquin Valley. So far, there have been no major pest problems reported, although whitefly populations have been increasing over the last two months.

Grapes - Production of all grape varieties for the 2003 season is forecast at 5.99 million tons, down 5% from the August forecast, and down 11% from last season. *Wine*-type variety grape production for California is forecast at 3.00 million tons, down 2% from the August forecast, and down 5% from 2002. The *table*-type grape production is expected to total 690,000 tons, down 7% from both the August forecast and last year. The California *raisin*-type variety grape forecast is 2.30 million tons, down 8% from the August forecast, and down 19% from 2002. Mild May temperatures helped the grape crop get off to a good start. However, above normal temperatures in July and August were accompanied by mid-August rains, which resulted in reduced yields in some varieties. Production and quality outlook of the crop varies depending on variety and location.

Oranges - The 2003-04 California orange crop is forecast at 118 million cartons, down 5% from last season. California's Navel orange forecast is 78.0 million cartons, down 5% from the previous season. Significantly lighter fruit sets have been observed in many areas, but fruit sizes appear larger overall than last year. The developing crop has exhibited good shape and texture, and high summer temperatures are expected to benefit the fruit's sugar content. Harvesting is expected to begin in early November. California's Valencia orange forecast is 40.0 million cartons, down 5% from last season.

Others - The *grapefruit* forecast is 11.0 million cartons, down 2%; *lemon* forecast is 46.0 million cartons, down 4%; *tangerine* forecast is 5.00 million cartons, unchanged from last year; *pecan* production forecast is 3.70 million pounds, down 3%. The *corn* for grain production is 618,800 tons, down 13%; *alfalfa hay* is 7.63 million tons, down 6%; *other hay* production is 1.50 million tons, unchanged from last year; and the *rice* crop is 39.1 million cwt., with a yield of 7,900 pounds per acre from 495,000 harvested acres.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. Late summer and fall harvests may change these estimates considerably. The next production forecast will be issued November 12, 2003.

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