

California Prospective Plantings Report

Released: March 31, 2004

The following is an estimate of crop plantings for 2004. 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 560,000 acres to *Upland cotton* in 2004, up 2% from the acreage seeded in 2003. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 200,000 acres to *American Pima cotton* in 2004, up 33% from last year.

Corn - California farmers were expected to plant 550,000 acres of corn for all purposes in 2004, 6% more than last year.

Oats - Farmers in California had planted or were expected to plant 280,000 acres of oats, up 8% from 2003.

Wheat - Acreage seeded to *Winter wheat* is estimated at 550,000 acres, down 19% from last year. Another 110,000 acres have been seeded to *Durum wheat*, down 15% from 2003.

Rice - California farmers intended to seed rice on 556,000 acres, a 9% increase from the 2003 seeded acreage. The expressed intentions were to seed 510,000 acres to *medium grain* varieties, up 11% from a year ago. *Long grain* rice acreage is forecast at 6,000 acres, down 14% from last season. *Short grain* rice planted acreage is forecast at 40,000 acres, 5% below 2003. Short grain and all rice forecasts include the intended plantings of sweet rice.

Barley - California farmers had planted or intended to plant 110,000 acres to barley, up 10% from the previous year.

Sugar Beets - California producers had planted or intended to plant 50,500 acres of sugar beets, down 1% from the seeded acreage in 2003.

Dry Edible Beans - Seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 73,000 acres in California, down 5% from last year.

Sweet Potatoes - California farmers were expected to plant 11,000 acres of sweet potatoes in 2004, 6% more than last year.

All Hay - California producers intended to harvest hay from 1.48 million acres, 6% less than last year.

Sorghum - Farmers in California were intending to plant 19,000 acres to sorghum in 2004, up 6% from the 2003 acreage.

The next production forecast will be issued April 8, 2004

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