

# California Farm News



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## CALIFORNIA CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

**SACRAMENTO** -- The USDA-NASS, California Field Office today released the crop production forecast for July.

**Grapes** - The California all grape forecast on 800 thousand bearing acres is 6.21 million tons, up 11 percent from last year. Specifically, the wine grape forecast on 474 thousand bearing acres is 2.95 million tons, up 5 percent from last season's crop. The expected table grape production on 84.0 thousand acres is 810 thousand tons, up 5 percent from 2004, while the raisin grape production on 242 thousand bearing acres is forecast at 2.45 million tons, up 21 percent from last year. Harvest of the raisin and table type varieties for fresh use was active through early July in the Coachella Valley. The wine crop is reported to be in good condition for most varieties. Quality of the raisin crop is expected to be down due to mildew problems which resulted from the cool, wet Spring weather.

**Almonds** - California's almond production is forecast at 880 million meat pounds, down 13 percent from last year's crop. The average nut set per tree is down 24 percent from 2004. Bearing acreage is estimated at 550 thousand, unchanged from 2004.

**Apricots** - California's apricot production is forecast at 85.0 thousand tons, unchanged from the June forecast, but down 10 percent from the 2004 crop. Bearing acres are estimated to be 14.5 thousand. Commencement of bloom was early this year as a result of the warming impact of a mild El Nino Southern Oscillation. Unsettled late spring weather caused significant damage in the southern San Joaquin Valley and resulted in cracking, and shot hole and brown rot problems. Generally the fruit sized out well. Harvest began at the end of April, though was initially slow relative to recent years, and will be finished by mid-July.

**Peaches** - The 2005 California Freestone peach crop forecast is 410 thousand tons, unchanged from both the June forecast and the 2004 crop. Bearing acres are estimated at 36.0 thousand. Freestone peach harvest is underway, and quality is reported to be very good to date. The 2005 California Clingstone peach crop forecast is 530 thousand tons, up 4 percent from the June forecast, but down 2 percent from the 2004 crop. Bearing acres are estimated at 30.4 thousand. Harvesting of Clingstone peaches began in late June. Set is expected to be lighter than a year ago, but fruit size is excellent throughout the State.

**Grapefruit** - The 2004-2005 California grapefruit forecast is estimated at 10.8 million cartons, unchanged from the April forecast and unchanged from last season. Marsh White variety grapefruit was harvested in the southern coastal areas of the State. Quality of the Marsh White variety was reported to be good, with normal shape and good color. Marsh Ruby variety grapefruit was harvested in the Coachella Valley, with reports of good to excellent quality.

**Lemons** - The 2004-2005 California lemon forecast is 38.0 million cartons, down 3 percent from the April forecast, but up 6 percent from the 2003-2004 production. Harvest remains active in the South Coastal Area. Fruit size has been generally running medium to large, and shape is normal.

**Oranges** - The 2004-05 California Navel orange forecast is 86.0 million cartons, up 12 percent from the 2003-2004 production. Harvesting of the 2004-05 crop is essentially complete, as growers have been making the transition to the Valencia crop. No major concerns have been reported as the last of the Navels make their way to the packing sheds. The Valencia orange forecast is 32.0 million cartons, up 13 percent from last season's crop. Valencia harvesting continued at a slow but steady pace with good fruit quality. Katydid damage and sunburn were among the few quality problems noted in recent weeks.

**Other Crops** - Barley production is forecast at 90.5 thousand tons, down 13 percent from the previous year. Oat production is forecast at 24.0 thousand tons, down 29 percent from 2004. Winter wheat production is expected to be 562 thousand tons, down 31 percent from 2004. Durum wheat production is 230 thousand tons, 15 percent below 2004.

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 August 12, 2005.