



2008 California Prune (Dried Plum) Forecast

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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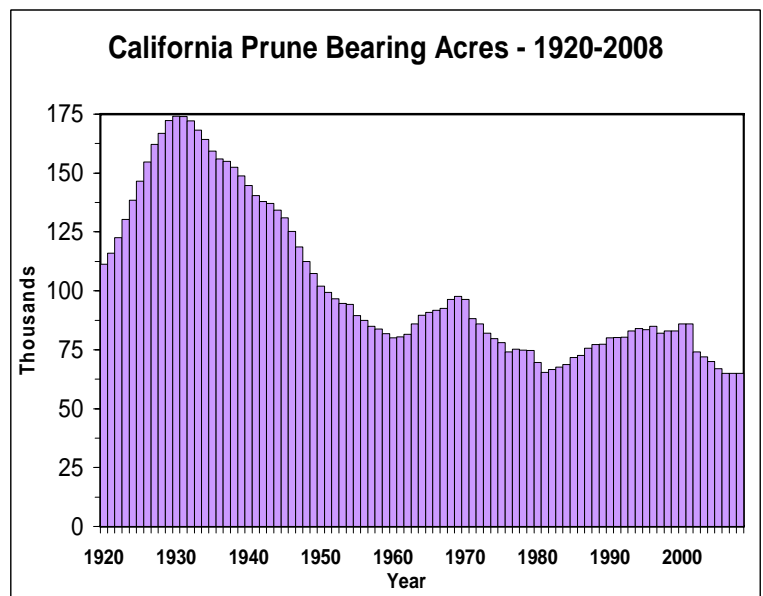
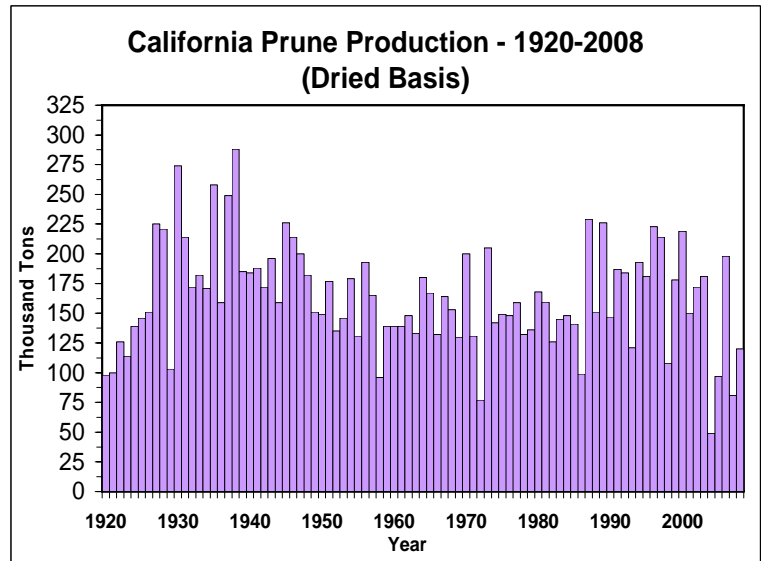
Released: June 2, 2008, 12:00 p.m. PDT

The 2008 California prune (dried plum) crop is forecast to be 120 thousand tons, up 45 percent from the 83.0 thousand tons produced in 2007. Total 2008 bearing acreage is estimated at 65,000. The French prune variety accounts for 97 percent of all prune acreage grown in California. The production forecast is based on a survey of prune growers conducted by the USDA, NASS, California Field Office from May 9-30, 2008.

The survey used a random sampling design based on total prune acreage for each operator. The sample is designed to provide a State estimate of production for all growers.

Questionnaires were mailed to growers on April 24, 2008 with return requested by May 9. Non-respondents were telephoned. Responses were received from 249 growers representing 52 percent of the total bearing acreage.

Spring weather has again damaged the California prune crop. Despite the damage, crop prospects were showing an improvement over the small 2007 crop. A cold snap during April caused several growers to lose more than 25 percent of their orchards and some growers lost their entire crop. A few growers reported difficulty in finding enough bees to help with crop pollination. Prune growers will assess the crop again after the June drop.



California Prune (Dried Plum) Acreage, Production, and Value, 1994-2008

| Year | Bearing | Non-Bearing | Total Production | Utilized Production | Yield Per Acre | Price Per Ton | Value of Utilized Production |
|---------|--------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| | <i>Acres</i> | | <i>Tons (Dried Basis)</i> | | | <i>Dollars</i> | <i>1,000 Dollars</i> |
| 1994 | 84,000 | 18,800 | 193,000 | 193,000 | 2.30 | 1,090.00 | 210,370 |
| 1995 | 83,500 | 23,200 | 181,000 | 181,000 | 2.17 | 1,040.00 | 188,240 |
| 1996 | 85,000 | 23,700 | 223,000 | 223,000 | 2.62 | 839.00 | 187,097 |
| 1997 | 82,000 | 21,300 | 214,000 | 205,000 | 2.61 | 883.00 | 181,015 |
| 1998 | 83,000 | 26,000 | 108,000 | 103,000 | 1.30 | 764.00 | 78,692 |
| 1999 | 83,000 | 22,000 | 178,000 | 165,000 | 2.14 | 861.00 | 142,065 |
| 2000 | 86,000 | 15,000 | 219,000 | 201,000 | 2.55 | 770.00 | 154,770 |
| 2001 | 86,000 | 11,000 | 150,000 | 135,000 | 1.74 | 726.00 | 98,010 |
| 2002 | 74,000 | 9,000 | 172,000 | 163,000 | 2.32 | 810.00 | 132,030 |
| 2003 | 72,000 | 8,000 | 181,000 | 168,000 | 2.51 | 772.00 | 129,696 |
| 2004 | 70,000 | N/A | 49,000 | 48,000 | 0.70 | 1,500.00 | 72,000 |
| 2005 | 67,000 | 7,500 | 97,000 | 94,000 | 1.45 | 1,470.00 | 138,180 |
| 2006 | 65,000 | 7,500 | 198,000 | 189,000 | 3.05 | 1,390.00 | 262,710 |
| 2007 | 65,000 | 7,500 | 83,000 | 81,000 | 1.28 | 1,450.00 | 117,450 |
| 2008 a/ | 65,000 | N/A | 120,000 | N/A | 1.85 | N/A | N/A |

a/ Forecast

Source: USDA, NASS, California Field Office

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