



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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## CALIFORNIA CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

**SACRAMENTO** -- The USDA, NASS, California Field Office today released the crop production forecast for June. The latest survey, which was conducted during the last week of May and the first week of June, includes the following commodities:

**Apricots** - The 2007 California apricot crop forecast is 90.0 thousand tons, up 131 percent from the 2006 crop. After a much reduced crop a year ago, the production of California apricots bounced back this year. Overall, bloom was reported to be good with little rain damage. Fruit set and quality were reported to be good. Harvest began during April and continued during May. Primary varieties harvested during May included Poppy, Early Cot, Castlebrite, Katy, Primacot, Judy's Delight, and Red Velvet.

**Cherries** - The 2007 California sweet cherry crop forecast is a record high 92.0 thousand tons, up 119 percent from the 2006 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 29.0 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 3.17 tons per acre. The favorable spring weather with no extended rain has been excellent for California's sweet cherry crop. Cherries began blooming in the month of March as a result of above normal temperatures in some areas. Harvesting began in early May with the Brooks and Tulare varieties.

**Peaches** - The 2007 California Freestone peach crop forecast is 390 thousand tons, unchanged from the May forecast, and up 10 percent from the 2006 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 36.0 thousand, resulting in a yield of 10.8 tons per acre. California experienced an adequate number of chilling hours over the winter, thus benefiting the Freestone crop. The bloom period was fairly quick, with above average temperatures and no rain. The crop was reported to be of excellent quality, with good sizes. Harvest continued during May with Super Rich, Snow Angel, and Spring Snow the major varieties picked. The 2007 California Clingstone peach crop forecast is 450 thousand tons, unchanged from the May forecast and up 25 percent from the 2006 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 26.3 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 17.1 tons per acre. The Clingstone crop also benefited from an adequate number of chilling hours last winter. Overall, the bloom was reported to be good on all varieties. Thinning was progressing slowly due to labor shortages and heavy fruit sets. Fruit size appeared to be small at this point, but the fruit appeared very clean. Growers were applying worm sprays. Harvest was expected to begin in Kingsburg the week of June 10, about a week earlier than last year.

**Pears, Bartlett** - The 2007 California Bartlett pear crop forecast is 210 thousand tons, up 6 percent from the 2006 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 12.0 thousand, resulting in a yield of 17.5 tons per acre. California's Bartlett pear crop has had favorable weather conditions that were described as perfect during the blooming period. Farmers in all pear tree growing districts reported that trees are full of evenly ripening fruit. Harvest is expected to start around the middle of July.

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**Prunes (Dried Plums)** - The 2007 California prune crop forecast is 95.0 thousand dried tons, down 47 percent from the 2006 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 65.0 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 1.46 tons per acre. The 2007 prune crop experienced an extremely warm period during bloom. The bloom was also one of the shortest in memory. As a result of poor pollination, a small set occurred statewide. Several growers reported loss of fruit due to the dry weather conditions that hampered bee pollination activities. Production was also hindered as a result of stressed orchards recovering from the previous year's high production. Many growers in Yuba and Sutter County described evidence of extremely low yields.

**Wheat** - California's 2007 Durum wheat harvested acreage is estimated at 90.0 thousand acres. The yield is forecast to be 2.85 tons per acre, resulting in total production of 257 thousand tons. Durum wheat was progressing normally this season, with no quality or disease issues reported. Weather had been favorable for Durum wheat and growers were hoping to see yields at levels equal to or better than normal. California's Wheat other than Durum harvested acreage is estimated at 300 thousand acres for 2007. The forecast yield is 2.22 tons per acre, bringing the total production to 666 thousand tons. The wheat growing season in California has been very dry. Significant amounts of the dry land wheat were lost to drought. Warm weather, however, encouraged good growth and strong development of the irrigated crop. Disease pressure has been low this year, due in large part to the dry weather conditions. The stripe rust that was observed appeared late enough into the growing season that growers were hopeful yields would remain unaffected by the fungus.

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 July 12, 2007.

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