

# 2005 California Prune (Dried Plum) Acreage Report



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USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service,  
California Field Office

## RESULTS

California's 2005 prune (dried plum) acreage is estimated at 74,500 acres, down 7 percent from 2003. Of the total acres, 67,000 were bearing and 7,500 were non-bearing. French prunes remained the dominant variety in California, accounting for 97 percent of the State's total acreage.

### Prune (Dried Plum) Bearing and Non-Bearing Acreage <sup>1/</sup>

Year	Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
1998	83,000	26,000	109,000
1999	83,000	22,000	105,000
2000	86,000	15,000	101,000
2001	86,000	11,000	97,000
2002	74,000	9,000	83,000
2003	72,000	8,000	80,000
2004	70,000	N/A	N/A
2005	67,000	7,500	74,500

<sup>1/</sup> Reported data with an allowance for incompleteness.

Sutter County remained the leader for prune acreage in California, with more than twice the bearing acreage of any other county. Sutter accounts for 29 percent of California's total prune acreage. Butte, Yuba, and Tehama counties were number two, three, and four, respectively, for total prune acreage. These four counties combined account for 68 percent of the State's total prune acreage.

## OBJECTIVES

The California Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts an acreage survey of California prune growers. The purpose of this survey is to provide annual prune acreage with information on new plantings and removals. It is a continuation of a long series of industry-funded prune acreage surveys

Users are cautioned that this report consists of two parts:

- ▶ Estimated prune acreage -- bearing, non-bearing, and total. Estimated prune acreage appears in the table above.
- ▶ Detailed data by variety, year planted, and county -- as voluntarily reported by prune growers and maintained in the NASS data base. Detailed data are on pages 2 and 3.

With perfect information, the estimated prune acreage and the detailed data would be the same. However, differences exist for the following reasons:

- ▶ A voluntary survey of approximately 900 prune growers is unlikely to ever attain 100 percent completeness.

- ▶ It is extremely difficult for USDA, NASS to detect growers that are planting prunes for the first time.
- ▶ The detailed data reflects tree removals from more than 5,500 acres during the past two years. Of this number, some acreage was harvested in 2005 prior to being pulled out, and that acreage has already been removed from the detailed data.

## PROCEDURES

The major source of the prune detailed data was a questionnaire mailed to all prune growers included on the NASS data base. The mailing was made in late September 2005 to approximately 900 prune growers. The questionnaire contained previously reported crop, variety, and acreage information preprinted. Producers were asked to update the information with new plantings, removals, and any other corrections; new growers were mailed a blank questionnaire. Growers were given six weeks to respond by mail. A telephone follow-up was then undertaken. Field personnel visited large growers who did not respond by mail or telephone.

To arrive at the estimated prune acreage, the NASS prune acreage data base was compared with pesticide application data maintained by County Agricultural Commissioners and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The USDA, NASS, California Field Office sincerely appreciates the many farm operators, owners, and management firms providing the information. Special thanks is due the California Dried Plum Board for providing funding and support of this special acreage update survey.

Appreciation is due the following office staff for the hundreds of hours spent collecting and processing survey information: Kelly Albello, Carol Cole, Peggy Gibson, Pearl Gonzalez, Ann Jehn, Jeff Olson, Lupe Oropeza, Cordia Weems, and Sheryl Zazzi.

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**2005 PRUNE (DRIED PLUM) ACREAGE BY COUNTY, BY YEAR PLANTED a/**

County	1993 and Earlier	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Acres Standing in 2005 b/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
Amador	11	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	13
Butte	6,352	1,198	622	228	221	107	160	367	176	342	260	266	60	8,889	1,471	10,360
Colusa	983	96	58	35	136	61	47	0	65	0	0	0	0	1,416	65	1,481
Fresno	1,486	293	514	435	50	23	4	7	148	4	0	11	0	2,804	170	2,975
Glenn	4,242	835	726	414	175	150	66	40	113	142	67	0	0	6,607	362	6,969
Kern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	17	17
Kings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	14	14
Madera	592	439	246	41	0	0	0	10	6	0	0	0	0	1,318	16	1,333
Mendocino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merced	1,378	135	64	307	0	0	6	12	0	0	38	0	0	1,890	50	1,939
Napa	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	9
Placer	318	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	318	0	318
Santa Clara	120	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	129	0	129
Santa Cruz	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	15
Shasta	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	53	4	57
Solano	959	163	39	78	5	21	27	5	4	0	0	17	0	1,291	27	1,318
Sonoma	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	0	43
Stanislaus	11	0	8	8	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	36
Sutter	14,423	1,891	780	702	525	356	299	409	323	629	512	96	179	18,975	2,148	21,124
Tehama	5,973	453	625	344	126	173	149	79	166	81	43	50	62	7,843	481	8,323
Tulare	2,340	696	545	119	160	153	179	102	70	35	129	39	33	4,192	408	4,600
Yolo	1,216	78	40	45	39	2	30	10	32	99	26	0	4	1,450	171	1,621
Yuba	6,565	213	385	636	356	164	326	277	182	150	180	73	66	8,645	928	9,572
<b>State Total</b>	<b>47,085</b>	<b>6,491</b>	<b>4,652</b>	<b>3,392</b>	<b>1,809</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>1,288</b>	<b>1,323</b>	<b>1,284</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>1,255</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>65,934</b>	<b>6,331</b>	<b>72,265</b>

a/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

b/ Non-bearing includes plantings for 2000-2005.

**PRUNE (DRIED PLUM) ACREAGE AS OF 2005 -- FRENCH VARIETIES AND AGE GROUPS -- STATE SUMMARY ACREAGE PLANTED DURING YEARS SHOWN AND STANDING IN 2005 a/**

Variety	1993 and Earlier	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Acres Standing in 2005 b/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
French	46,127	6,311	4,505	3,257	1,687	1,136	1,231	1,239	1,013	1,174	1,119	504	382	64,254	5,431	69,685
French Early Grans	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69	0	69
French Improved	366	149	22	12	15	17	32	25	6	0	0	0	0	612	31	643
<b>State Total</b>	<b>46,561</b>	<b>6,460</b>	<b>4,527</b>	<b>3,269</b>	<b>1,702</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>1,019</b>	<b>1,174</b>	<b>1,119</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>64,935</b>	<b>5,461</b>	<b>70,396</b>

a/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

b/ Non-bearing includes plantings for 2000-2005.

**2005 FRENCH PRUNE (DRIED PLUM) ACREAGE BY COUNTY a/**

County	1993 and Earlier	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Acres Standing in 2005 b/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
Amador	11	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	13
Butte	6,226	1,198	615	189	221	107	160	367	163	251	216	266	50	8,716	1,311	10,027
Colusa	983	96	58	35	111	61	47	0	65	0	0	0	0	1,391	65	1,456
Fresno	1,474	293	484	435	20	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,727	0	2,727
Glenn	4,224	835	711	414	170	150	66	40	113	113	48	0	0	6,569	314	6,883
Kings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2
Madera	592	439	246	41	0	0	0	10	6	0	0	0	0	1,318	16	1,333
Mendocino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merced	1,378	135	64	307	0	6	0	12	0	0	38	0	0	1,890	50	1,939
Napa	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	9
Placer	318	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	318	0	318
Santa Clara	120	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	129	0	129
Santa Cruz	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	15
Shasta	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	53	4	57
Solano	959	163	39	78	5	21	27	5	4	0	0	17	0	1,291	27	1,318
Sonoma	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	0	43
Stanislaus	11	0	8	8	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	36
Sutter	14,298	1,891	780	679	512	356	299	409	278	605	496	96	166	18,814	2,051	20,866
Tehama	5,922	453	625	344	126	173	149	79	166	56	43	50	62	7,792	456	8,248
Tulare	2,262	676	473	78	126	90	172	55	31	0	72	0	33	3,878	191	4,069
Yolo	1,216	78	40	45	39	2	16	5	32	40	26	0	4	1,436	107	1,543
Yuba	6,451	203	385	615	356	164	326	277	162	110	180	73	66	8,499	868	9,367
<b>State Total</b>	<b>46,561</b>	<b>6,460</b>	<b>4,527</b>	<b>3,269</b>	<b>1,702</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>1,019</b>	<b>1,174</b>	<b>1,119</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>64,935</b>	<b>5,461</b>	<b>70,396</b>

a/ Varieties include French, French Improved, and French Early Grans. Totals may not add due to rounding.

b/ Non-bearing includes plantings for 2000-2005.

**2005 OTHER PRUNE (DRIED PLUM) ACREAGE BY COUNTY a/**

County	1993 and Earlier	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Acres Standing in 2005 b/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
Butte	127	0	8	39	0	0	0	0	13	92	45	0	10	173	160	333
Colusa	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	25
Fresno	12	0	30	0	30	1	4	7	148	4	0	11	0	77	170	247
Glenn	18	0	15	0	5	0	0	0	0	29	19	0	0	38	48	86
Kern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	17	17
Kings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	12	12
Mendocino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Clara	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Solano	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sonoma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sutter	125	0	0	23	13	0	0	0	44	24	16	0	13	161	97	258
Tehama	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	51	25	76
Tulare	78	20	72	41	34	63	7	47	39	35	57	39	0	314	217	531
Yolo	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	5	0	59	0	0	0	14	64	78
Yuba	114	11	0	21	0	0	0	0	20	40	0	0	0	146	60	206
<b>State Total</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>1,869</b>

a/ Totals may not add due to rounding. Includes acreage of Burton, Friedman, German, Imperial, Italian/Fellenberg, Miro, Moyer, Punian, Ross, Sergeant/Robe De Sergeant, Sierra Sweet, Sugar, Victor LG, 29-C, and 707 varieties.

b/ Non-bearing includes plantings for 2000-2005.