

2012 California Dried Plum (Prune) Forecast



California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Agricultural Statistics Service

Cooperating with the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, California Field Office

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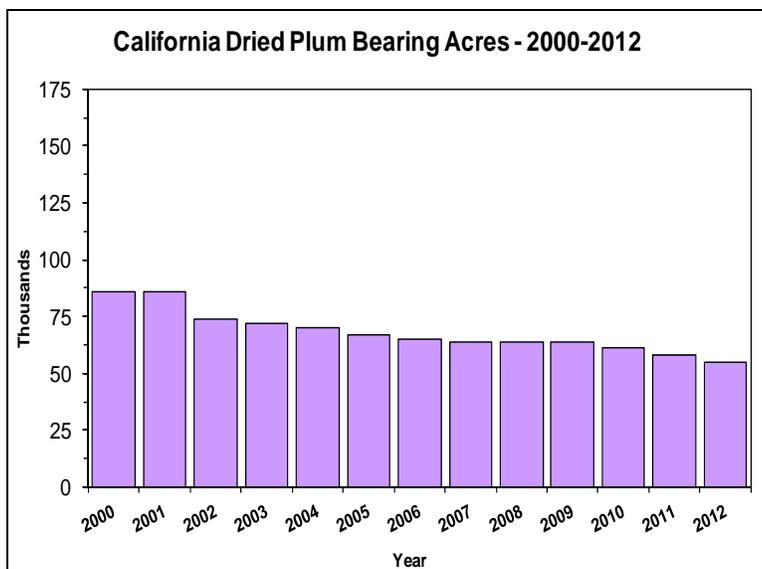
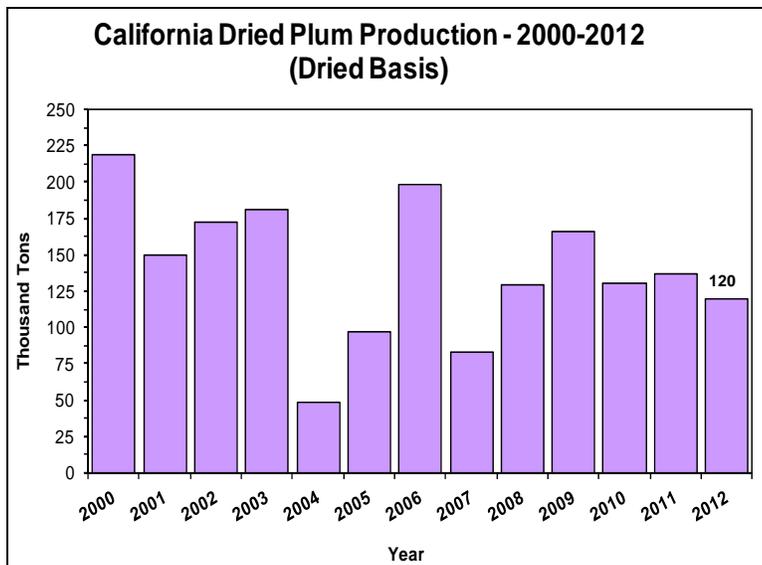
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The 2012 California dried plum (prune) crop is forecast to be 120 thousand tons, down 12 percent from the 137 thousand tons produced in 2011. Total 2012 bearing acreage is estimated at 55,000. Dried plum trees were pulled after the 2011 harvest, reducing acreage by 5 percent for the 2012 season. The French prune variety accounts for approximately 97 percent of all dried plum acreage grown in California. The production forecast is based on a survey of dried plum growers conducted by the USDA, NASS, California Field Office from May 10 - 21, 2012.

The survey used a random sampling design based on total dried plum 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 23, 2012 with return requested by May 7th. Non-respondents were telephoned. Responses were received from 175 growers representing 49 percent of the total bearing acreage.

The 2012 dried plum bloom was earlier than the year before, with no pollination problems reported. Trees were currently experiencing their normal fruit drop. Some hail was reported in areas, although no widespread damage was reported.



California Dried Plum (Prune) Acreage, Production, and Value, 1995-2012

Year	Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total Production	Utilized Production	Yield Per Acre	Price Per Ton	Value of Utilized Production
	Acres		Tons (Dried Basis)			Dollars	1,000 Dollars
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	7,000	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	64,000	7,500	83,000	81,000	1.30	1,450.00	117,450
2008	64,000	3/	129,000	129,000	2.01	1,500.00	193,500
2009	64,000	3/	166,000	166,000	2.59	1,230.00	204,180
2010	61,000	3/	130,000	130,000	2.13	1,350.00	175,500
2011 1/	58,000	3/	137,000	137,000	2.36	1,200.00	164,400
2012 2/	55,000	3/	120,000	4/	2.18	4/	4/

1/ Revised.

2/ Forecast.

3/ Non-Bearing discontinued in 2008.

4/ Preliminary Utilized Production, Price and Value will be available January 2013.

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