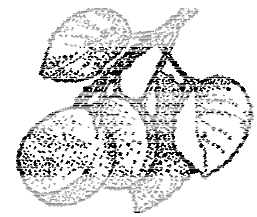


# California Prune Forecast, 2002



Released: June 6, 2002



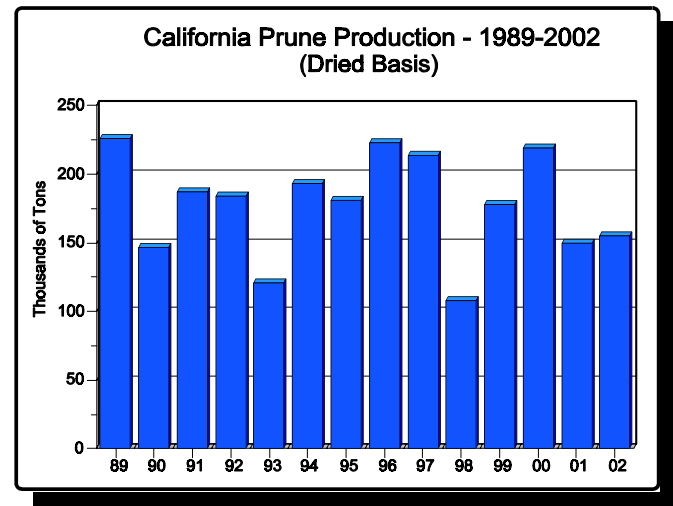
CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

The 2002 California prune crop is forecast to be 155 thousand tons, up 3 percent from the 150 thousand tons in 2001. Total 2002 bearing acreage is estimated at 76,000. The French prune variety accounts for more than 96 percent of all prune acreage grown in California. The production forecast is based on a survey of prune growers conducted by the California Agricultural Statistics Service (CASS) from May 1-31, 2002. The acreage estimate is based on a survey of prune growers conducted by CASS from January through May 2002.

CASS designed the survey using a stratified random sampling scheme based on total prune acreage for each operator and analyzed the data. The sample is designed to give a State estimate of all growers.

Questionnaires were mailed to growers on May 1, 2002 with return requested by May 17. Non-respondents were telephoned. Responses were received from 137 growers representing 40 percent of the total bearing acreage.

The 2002 prune crop experienced favorable weather conditions during early bloom. However, near the end of bloom, warm and dry conditions had an effect on the crop. Frost damage was also reported in some areas of California.



## PRUNE PRODUCTION AND ACREAGE 1989-02

Year	Bearing Acreage	Yield Per Acre	Production
	Acres	Tons	
1989	77,400	2.92	226,000
1990	80,100	1.84	147,000
1991	80,200	2.33	187,000
1992	80,400	2.29	184,000
1993	83,000	1.46	121,000
1994	84,000	2.30	193,000
1995	83,500	2.17	181,000
1996	85,000	2.62	223,000
1997	82,000	2.61	214,000
1998	83,000	1.30	108,000
1999	83,000	2.14	178,000
2000	86,000	2.55	219,000
2001	86,000	1.74	150,000
2002 (Forecast)	76,000	2.04	155,000