



2010 California Dried Plum (Prune) Forecast

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office · P.O. Box 1258 · Sacramento, CA 95812 · (916) 498-5161 · (916) 498-5186 Fax · www.nass.usda.gov/ca

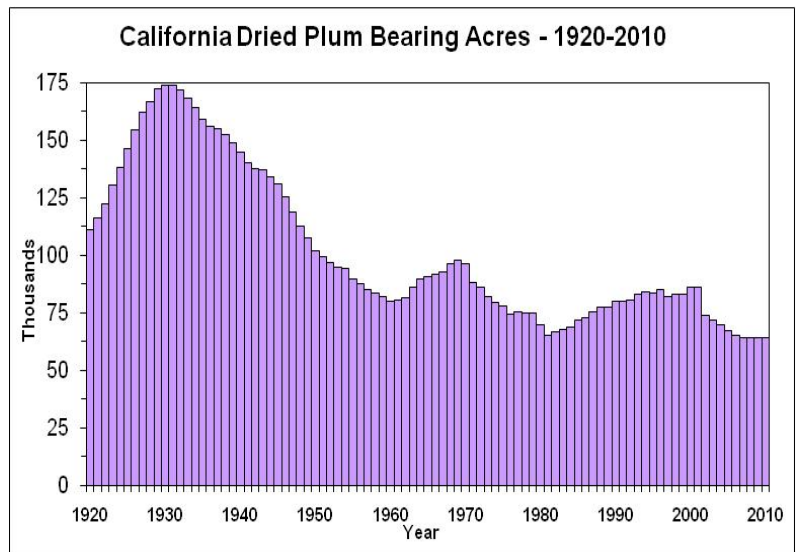
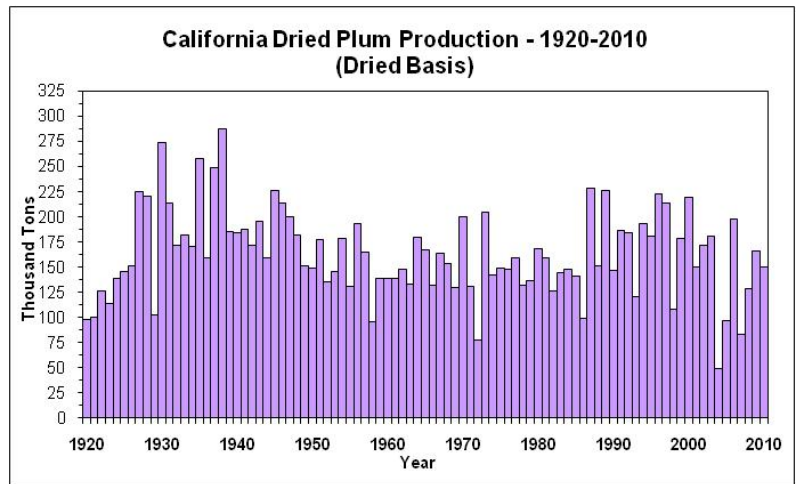
Released: June 1, 2010, 12:00 p.m. PDT

The 2010 California dried plum (prune) crop is forecast to be 150 thousand tons, down 10 percent from the 166 thousand tons produced in 2009. Total 2010 bearing acreage is estimated at 64,000. The French prune variety accounts for 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, 2010.

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, 2010 with return requested by May 7th. Non-respondents were telephoned. Responses were received from 203 growers representing 51 percent of the total bearing acreage.

Cooler weather and lighter fruit sets in 2010 contributed to a lower yield compared to 2009. Growers were not thinning as much and some were skipping thinning altogether. Pest pressures are more of a concern this year because of increased rain and cooler temperatures.



California Dried Plum (Prune) Acreage, Production, and Value, 1995-2010

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>
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	64,000	7,500	83,000	81,000	1.30	1,450.00	117,450
2008	64,000	N/A	129,000	129,000	2.01	1,500.00	193,500
2009	64,000	N/A	166,000	166,000	2.59	1,200.00	199,200
2010 a/	64,000	N/A	150,000	N/A	2.34	N/A	N/A

a/ Forecast

Source: USDA, NASS, California Field Office

VIC TOLOMEO
Director

SARAH HOFFMAN & KELLY KRUG
Deputy Directors

DOUG FLOHR & SARAH DEVANDRY
Estimates Group Statisticians

**USDA-NASS, California Field Office publications
are available free-of-charge on the Internet at:
www.nass.usda.gov/ca**