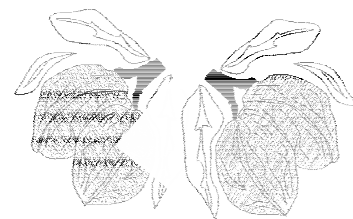


1996 California Walnut Acreage Survey



Released: May 9, 1997
12:00 P.M. PDT



RESULTS

The 1996 California acreage survey results indicate **197,676** total acres of walnuts. Of this total, **168,298** were bearing and **29,378** were non-bearing. The Hartley variety accounted for **28** percent of the total acreage. Survey results show an increase in plantings of the Chandler variety which accounted for **63** percent of non-bearing acreage. **San Joaquin County** shows the largest acreage planted to walnuts with **16** percent of the total acreage, followed by **Tulare County** with **12** percent and **Stanislaus County** with **11** percent.

The Walnut Acreage Survey is part of a larger combined fruit acreage survey. In previous years, all growers with almond, walnut or prune acreage were surveyed on a bi-annual basis with half the counties in the State surveyed each year. For this year's survey, grape growers in all counties were included in this combined survey. More than 26,000 parcel records were mailed to over 12,000 growers. This is the first year grapes were included in the survey, and it resulted in the addition of nearly 15,000 parcels and 5,000 growers. Overall, the response was excellent with 90 percent of the parcels completed. This completion rate is below last year's 99 percent rate, as follow-up enumeration of unreturned parcels was concentrated to larger acreage. Though this resulted in a lower overall completion rate, nearly all targeted acreage was accounted for. Of those completed, 55 percent were returned by mail, 43 percent by telephone, and 2 percent by personal interview. In addition, about 840 new parcels were obtained. These parcels are the result of list building efforts using County Agricultural Commissioners' acreage updates and acreage reported through the California Department of Pesticide Regulations. Efforts to obtain information from other lists and from non-respondents of this survey continue.

When interpreting data, please keep in mind that the Walnut Acreage Survey is designed to function on a two-year cycle. Because only half the counties are surveyed each year and the time lag in receiving information on new plantings and new growers, we expect the actual plantings, particularly for the non-bearing years, to be higher than what this report shows. These will be reflected in future acreage surveys.

The attached summary tables show results of the acreage survey. These data are for dissemination to the walnut industry and other interested parties. Only State and county totals have been published; individual reports remain confidential.

OBJECTIVES

The California Agricultural Statistics Service (CASS) conducted an acreage survey to provide the current acreage, variety, and year of plant data.

PROCEDURES

Acreage survey preparation was a cooperative effort between the grape, almond, walnut, and prune industries. The Walnut Acreage Survey is designed to operate on a two-year rotational basis with approximately half the walnut growers contacted each year. This year twenty-one counties were surveyed (see table back page).

CASS maintains a fruit data base, which serves as the main source for questionnaire mailing. Growers on this data base were sent a questionnaire with previously reported crop, variety, trees, acreage, and planting information preprinted. Recipients were asked to update the information. The CASS' data base also was compared to the California Department of Pesticide Regulations (DPR) pesticide use permit list and some industry lists. Growers not included in CASS's data base were sent a blank questionnaire and asked to provide specific information on their respective almond, walnut, and/or prune acreage.

Acreage questionnaires were mailed on January 2, 1997. Respondents were given about six weeks to return a response via mail. CASS personnel then conducted telephone follow-ups on non-respondents. Field personnel made personal visits to large growers and those CASS could not contact by mail or telephone. Survey data received on or before April 29, 1997 was edited and included in the final summary. Final analysis and summary work was completed on May 2, 1997.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A special thanks goes to the many walnut farm operators and owners who provided information on their operations. The support was outstanding and we appreciate the time spent completing questionnaires. Likewise, thanks to the Walnut Marketing Board for providing funding and support of this special acreage update survey.

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1996 WALNUT ACREAGE BY COUNTY, BY YEAR PLANTED

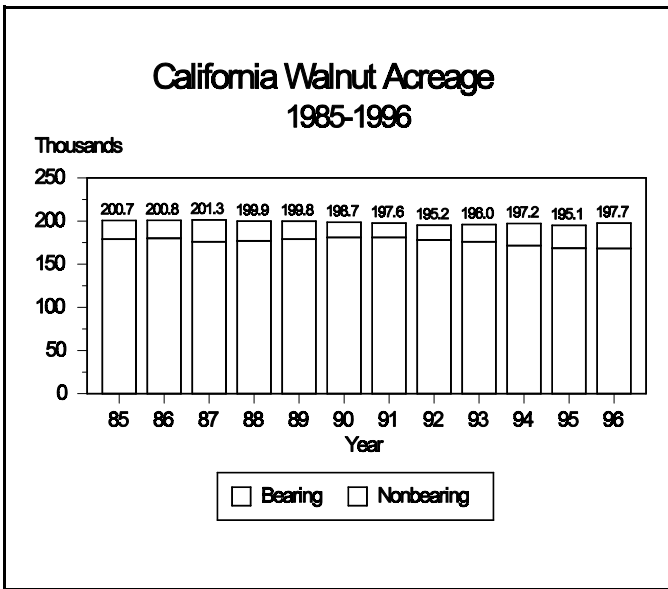
County	1984 & Earlier	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	Acres Standing in 1996 a/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
ALAMEDA	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	90	1	91
AMADOR	477	0	2	0	0	0	27	9	1	8	1	18	6	479	70	549
BUTTE	13,567	1,010	343	306	389	820	389	550	268	469	780	217	136	16,533	2,711	19,244
CALAVERAS	651	15	128	4	0	45	3	0	0	0	5	0	12	846	17	863
COLUSA	4,137	106	46	44	134	22	68	19	40	126	68	49	41	4,508	392	4,900
CONTRA COSTA	823	20	39	74	68	42	8	15	24	16	5	6	8	1,066	82	1,148
EL DORADO	256	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	257	1	258
FRESNO	2,399	16	69	25	87	149	59	70	109	52	68	102	170	2,778	597	3,375
GLENN	5,221	146	69	65	5	148	203	124	124	549	404	374	374	5,795	2,011	7,806
KERN	1,348	32	0	0	18	0	15	16	12	0	0	0	0	1,411	30	1,441
KINGS	4,376	124	59	86	70	135	180	126	179	252	480	194	322	4,995	1,588	6,583
LAKE	6,064	29	43	47	9	116	12	12	25	3	27	38	16	6,309	132	6,441
MADERA	744	65	0	17	10	0	49	0	17	88	5	7	33	845	190	1,035
MARIN	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	13
MENDOCINO	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	75	2	77
MERCED	4,425	82	94	36	18	119	91	188	257	266	180	271	95	4,852	1,270	6,122
MONTEREY	164	5	6	38	62	33	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	308	20	328
NAPA	186	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	30	186	32	218
NEVADA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
PLACER	1,434	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,434	0	1,434
RIVERSIDE	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	0	39
SACRAMENTO	114	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	114	2	116
SAN BENITO	2,328	34	55	42	18	85	23	32	10	62	18	44	24	2,578	197	2,775
SAN BERNARDINO	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
SAN DIEGO	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	23
SAN JOAQUIN	23,280	807	569	623	453	411	701	673	570	830	942	768	489	26,427	4,689	31,116
SAN LUIS OBISPO	2,541	74	21	87	101	3	50	114	64	6	5	7	1	2,827	247	3,074
SANTA BARBARA	702	0	0	21	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	5	3	723	33	756
SANTA CLARA	474	22	11	13	16	7	5	5	12	1	17	2	2	547	40	587
SANTA CRUZ	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
SHASTA	1,254	0	4	0	1	14	22	1	0	1	0	0	0	1,273	24	1,297
SOLANO	2,623	188	48	403	109	528	98	105	176	68	105	265	91	3,899	908	4,807
SONOMA	231	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	238	19	257
STANISLAUS	15,389	543	482	531	506	464	607	254	658	658	745	658	330	18,120	3,705	21,825
SUTTER	10,205	625	414	368	310	247	505	461	428	654	458	361	545	12,545	3,036	15,581
TEHAMA	9,367	389	405	349	135	99	278	358	127	104	183	112	219	10,860	1,265	12,125
TULARE	18,649	175	405	230	553	215	427	490	683	550	777	890	645	20,491	4,198	24,689
TUOLUMNE	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
VENTURA	235	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	235	0	235
YOLO	6,677	182	170	143	237	503	228	240	79	149	304	232	112	7,961	1,295	9,256
YUBA	5,643	145	155	128	222	185	184	141	94	143	32	21	91	6,610	574	7,184
STATE TOTAL	146,232	4,835	3,638	3,680	3,537	4,391	4,257	4,023	3,957	5,058	5,612	4,641	3,815	168,298	29,378	197,676

a/ Non-bearing includes plantings of the following: Chico, Marchetti (1992-96); Amigo, Ashley, Chandler, Gustine, Howard, Lompoc, Midland, Payne, Pedro, Serr, Sunland, Tehama, Trinta, Vina, Westside, and 4946 (1991-96); Blackmer, Concord, Franquette, Grove, Mayette, Placentia, and Poe (1989-96); all others (1990-96).

WALNUT ACREAGE AS OF 1996 -- VARIETIES AND AGE GROUPS -- STATE SUMMARY
ACREAGE PLANTED DURING YEARS SHOWN AND STANDING IN 1996

Variety	1984 & Earlier	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	Acres Standing in 1996 a/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
AMIGO	332	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	333	0	333
ASHLEY	8,705	38	29	89	1	19	5	21	57	16	1	4	31	8,886	130	9,016
BLACKMER/ MAUTNER /VAUGHN	1,252	4	0	4	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	10	8	1,260	24	1,284
CHANDLER	6,028	1,734	1,130	1,414	1,608	1,884	2,162	2,446	2,577	3,836	4,204	2,998	2,591	15,960	18,652	34,612
CHICO	3,008	221	82	16	99	35	39	202	12	2	24	23	1	3,461	303	3,764
CISCO	1	0	0	0	0	2	10	5	4	20	19	3	5	3	66	69
CONCORD	55	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	1	56
EUREKA	6,584	38	51	38	23	10	33	48	39	35	19	26	12	6,744	212	6,956
FRANQUETTE	13,511	75	86	71	85	109	90	101	23	59	91	78	52	13,828	603	14,431
FRANQUETTE SCHARSCH	29	0	15	7	6	75	2	0	4	11	3	2	18	57	115	172
GROVE	115	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	115	0	115
GUSTINE	537	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	537	2	539
HARTLEY	45,623	1,823	1,538	1,325	1,103	1,253	1,008	576	608	304	195	303	287	52,665	3,281	55,946
HOWARD	211	9	47	16	1	155	0	0	41	82	29	90	20	439	262	701
LOMPOC	96	0	42	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	138	20	158
MARCHETTI	540	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	13	0	544	13	557
MAYETTE	925	3	0	0	0	0	2	1	7	0	0	0	0	928	10	938
MIDLAND	257	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	257	7	264
NUGGETT	831	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	1	831	41	872
PAYNE	14,167	171	63	128	60	149	154	87	54	120	164	91	37	14,738	707	15,445
PEDRO	511	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	511	0	511
PIONEER	47	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	48	36	84
PLACENTIA	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	0	51
POE	562	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	563	0	563
ROOTSTOCK/ SEEDLINGS	29	0	4	4	24	11	3	1	0	2	69	18	64	72	157	229
SERR	22,165	122	75	117	78	86	140	104	138	97	279	234	275	22,643	1,267	23,910
SUNLAND	926	64	118	16	127	67	120	137	16	23	4	0	0	1,318	300	1,618
TEHAMA	5,607	32	7	0	1	26	55	12	0	12	1	10	31	5,673	121	5,794
TRINTA	1,178	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,178	0	1,178
TULARE	0	0	0	0	0	34	13	6	12	152	149	245	125	34	702	736
VINA	10,612	448	335	353	313	405	376	232	355	273	314	263	94	12,466	1,907	14,373
WATERLOO	844	20	0	18	6	0	0	22	0	3	0	17	0	888	42	930
WESTSIDE	122	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	129	0	129
WOODLAND	137	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	139	5	144
4946	70	15	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	110	8	118
59-124	34	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	0	54
OTHER	530	16	7	64	0	25	16	22	8	8	46	136	148	642	384	1,026
CROP TOTAL	146,232	4,835	3,638	3,680	3,537	4,391	4,257	4,023	3,957	5,058	5,612	4,641	3,815	168,298	29,378	197,676

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COUNTIES SURVEYED IN 1997	
Alameda	Monterey
Amador	Napa
Calaveras	Riverside
Colusa	San Benito
El Dorado	San Diego
Fresno	San Mateo
Kern	Santa Cruz
Kings	Sutter
Lake	Tulare
Madera	Ventura
Merced	