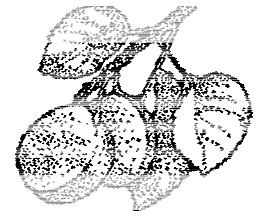


1998 California Prune Acreage Report



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RESULTS

California's 1998 prune acreage is estimated by the California Agricultural Statistics Service at 109,000 acres, of which 83,000 was bearing and 26,000 was non-bearing.

This estimate is based on a statistical sample initiated to provide an unbiased indication of State acreage and to measure the incompleteness in the prune data base maintained by this office. It is not comparable with past prune acreage surveys.

Past acreage survey results were the sum of grower acreage reported to this office without adjustment for any incompleteness. Incompleteness is bound to exist with (1) a universe of approximately 1,200 prune growers, and (2) data dependent upon voluntary cooperation.

Pages 2-3 are comparable with previous years' survey data. Of the prune acreage in our data base, the French varieties accounted for 96 percent of the total acreage. Sutter County shows the largest acreage planted with 24 percent of the total acreage, followed by Butte County with 14 percent, and Yuba County with 13 percent. Data users are cautioned that varietal data for the sample incompleteness may be substantially different from that above.

OBJECTIVES

This is a continuation of a long series of annual surveys to provide prune acreage by variety and year planted. Again, data on pages 2-3 are comparable with previous years'. However, for the first time, a probability survey was designed to estimate total bearing and non-bearing prune acreage.

PROCEDURES

For the information on pages 2-3, 1,178 prune growers in the fruit data base maintained by CASS were mailed a questionnaire with previously reported crop, variety, and acreage information preprinted. Recipients were asked to update the information for removals and new plantings.

Existing grower names were also compared with pesticide permit and application data maintained by County Agricultural Commissioners and the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). Additional growers were mailed blank questionnaires and asked to provide the specified information.

Questionnaires were mailed on December 26, 1998. Respondents were given six weeks to respond by mail. CASS personnel then conducted a telephone follow-up. Field personnel personally visited large growers who did not respond by mail or telephone.

For the sample used to measure the incompleteness in the above activity, 163 growers were selected from the 1998 DPR application file. The sample was selected based on indicated size of operation; i.e., larger growers had a much greater chance of selection than those with small acreages. Growers were contacted in early May. The sample was expanded to the State level to give acreage incompleteness for bearing and non-bearing acreage.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We sincerely thank the many farm operators, owners, and management firms providing the information. Likewise, thanks to the Prune Marketing Committee for providing funding and support of this special acreage update survey.

A special thanks is due the following office staff for the hundreds of hours spent on this project: Mitch Graham (Mathematical Statistician), Cindy Claypoole, Jean Freed, Peggy Gibson, Regina Lozano, Janell McAllister, Christy McFarland, Sarah Otter, April Sanders, and Sheryl Zazzi.

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1998 PRUNE ACREAGE BY COUNTY, BY YEAR PLANTED

County	1986 & Earlier	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	Acres Standing in 1998 a/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
AMADOR	22	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	6	0	2	0	0	24	9	33
BUTTE	9,306	135	57	230	526	464	538	840	894	381	198	257	359	11,255	2,928	14,184
COLUSA	2,528	38	95	118	92	31	39	33	41	136	39	58	2	2,941	309	3,250
FRESNO	1,207	148	0	195	262	355	277	825	442	515	441	20	16	2,445	2,258	4,703
GLENN	6,201	38	128	25	65	660	203	611	817	825	302	123	75	7,321	2,753	10,074
KERN	102	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	69	73	0	0	102	220	321
KINGS	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	22
LAKE	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	40
MADERA	653	0	38	45	149	19	42	0	389	374	12	40	58	945	872	1,818
MENDOCINO	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
MERCED	1,749	46	93	84	16	68	28	38	344	98	227	0	6	2,084	714	2,797
NAPA	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	15
PLACER	392	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	392	0	392
SACRAMENTO	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	24
SAN BENITO	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	0	49
SAN JOAQUIN	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	120
SANTA CLARA	357	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	5	365	20	386
SANTA CRUZ	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	16
SHASTA	218	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	166	0	0	218	166	383
SOLANO	1,350	12	16	14	10	36	126	26	184	44	112	7	7	1,564	379	1,943
SONOMA	266	0	1	0	8	7	1	0	1	20	0	0	0	283	21	303
STANISLAUS	59	0	0	6	0	0	5	0	0	8	8	8	0	70	23	93
SUTTER	15,853	508	407	410	509	729	881	982	1,862	898	556	345	210	19,296	4,853	24,149
TEHAMA	8,479	105	158	176	230	318	244	227	694	644	369	105	112	9,710	2,151	11,860
TULARE	4,498	72	142	197	167	93	140	455	1,176	622	141	175	107	5,309	2,677	7,985
YOLO	1,875	22	52	1	56	132	38	47	169	30	27	23	0	2,176	296	2,472
YUBA	9,007	180	126	186	397	437	370	514	298	464	318	150	149	10,703	1,892	12,595
STATE TOTAL	64,408	1,307	1,318	1,686	2,487	3,352	2,932	4,598	7,396	5,125	2,990	1,327	1,106	77,487	22,541	100,028

a/ Non-bearing includes plantings for 1993-98.

PRUNE ACREAGE AS OF 1998 -- VARIETIES AND AGE GROUPS -- STATE SUMMARY ACREAGE PLANTED DURING YEARS SHOWN AND STANDING IN 1998

Variety	1986 & Earlier	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	Acres Standing in 1998 a/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
707	19	6	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	0	47
BURTON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FRENCH	62,018	1,275	1,304	1,510	2,436	3,315	2,897	4,484	7,181	5,002	2,780	1,224	1,045	74,755	21,716	96,471
FRENCH EARLY GRANS	307	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	79	0	0	307	79	385
FRENCH IMPROVED	904	0	10	54	0	10	25	65	154	23	12	15	18	1,002	286	1,288
FRIEDMAN	310	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	315	0	315
IMPERIAL	162	0	0	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	175	0	175
MOYER	140	21	3	92	36	17	10	31	26	78	116	66	39	320	355	675
VICTOR LG	384	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	384	0	384
ALL OTHERS	165	6	0	0	8	4	0	18	35	23	3	22	4	183	105	288
STATE TOTAL	64,408	1,307	1,318	1,686	2,487	3,352	2,932	4,598	7,396	5,125	2,990	1,327	1,106	77,487	22,541	100,028

a/ Non-bearing includes plantings for 1993-98.

1998 FRENCH PRUNE ACREAGE BY COUNTY

County	1986 & Earlier	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	Acres Standing in 1998 a/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
AMADOR	22	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	6	0	2	0	0	24	9	33
BUTTE	9,061	133	57	175	526	464	535	832	894	381	159	257	359	10,951	2,881	13,832
COLUSA	2,528	38	95	118	92	31	39	33	41	136	39	8	2	2,941	260	3,201
FRESNO	1,049	135	0	195	262	355	277	825	442	515	441	20	16	2,273	2,258	4,531
GLENN	6,151	38	128	25	65	660	203	593	782	810	302	118	75	7,271	2,680	9,950
KERN	102	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	69	73	0	0	102	220	321
KINGS	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	22
LAKE	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	40
MADERA	653	0	38	45	149	19	42	0	389	374	12	40	58	945	872	1,818
MENDOCINO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MERCED	1,685	46	93	84	16	68	28	38	344	98	227	0	6	2,020	714	2,733
NAPA	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	14
PLACER	392	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	392	0	392
SACRAMENTO	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	24
SAN BENITO	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	0	35
SAN BERNARDINO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAN JOAQUIN	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	120
SAN LUIS OBISPO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SANTA CLARA	351	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	5	359	20	380
SANTA CRUZ	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	16
SHASTA	218	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	166	0	0	0	218	166	383
SOLANO	1,348	8	16	14	10	32	126	26	184	40	112	7	3	1,553	371	1,925
SONOMA	266	0	1	0	8	7	1	0	1	20	0	0	0	282	21	303
STANISLAUS	59	0	0	6	0	0	5	0	0	8	8	8	0	70	23	93
SUTTER	15,698	508	407	402	503	718	881	982	1,862	898	536	345	210	19,117	4,833	23,950
TEHAMA	8,457	105	158	176	230	318	244	227	694	644	369	105	112	9,688	2,151	11,838
TULARE	4,477	58	139	137	125	87	133	454	1,157	540	102	145	68	5,155	2,467	7,622
YOLO	1,845	22	52	1	56	132	38	41	162	30	27	21	0	2,146	281	2,426
YUBA	8,905	180	126	186	395	437	370	497	298	464	297	150	149	10,600	1,855	12,455
STATE TOTAL	63,538	1,275	1,314	1,563	2,436	3,330	2,922	4,549	7,335	5,025	2,870	1,239	1,063	76,378	22,081	98,459

a/ Includes acreage for French, French Early Grans, French Improved, and Friedman varieties.

1998 OTHER PRUNE ACREAGE BY COUNTY

County	1986 & Earlier	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	Acres Standing in 1998 a/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
BUTTE	120	0	0	55	0	0	3	8	0	0	39	0	0	177	47	225
COLUSA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	50	50
FRESNO	158	13	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	172	0	172
GLENN	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	35	15	0	5	0	50	74	124
MERCED	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	0	64
NAPA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
SAN BENITO	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	13
SAN LUIS OBISPO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SANTA CLARA	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
SANTA CRUZ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SOLANO	2	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	11	8	19
SONOMA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUTTER	154	0	0	8	6	11	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	179	20	199
TEHAMA	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	22
TULARE	22	14	3	60	43	6	6	1	19	82	39	30	39	153	210	363
YOLO	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	0	0	3	0	30	15	45
YUBA	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	21	0	0	98	37	135
STATE TOTAL	738	31	3	122	49	22	10	49	61	101	119	88	43	975	460	1,435

a/ Includes acreage of Burton, German, Imperial, Italian/Fellenberg, Miro, Moyer, Punian, Ross, Sergeant/Robe De Sergeant, Sierra Sweet, Sugar, Victor L.G, 29-C, and 707 varieties.

California Prune Bearing Acres 1986 - 1998

