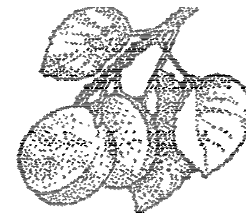


# 2003 California Prune (Dried Plum) Acreage Report



Released: May 25, 2004  
12:00 P.M. PDT



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

## RESULTS

California's 2003 prune (dried plum) acreage is estimated by the California Agricultural Statistics Service (CASS) at 80,000 acres, down 4 percent from 2002. Of the total acres, 72,000 were bearing and 8,000 were non-bearing. Estimated bearing acreage was down 3 percent and non-bearing decreased by 11 percent. French prunes remained the dominant variety in California, accounting for 97 percent of the State's total acreage.

Prune (Dried Plum) Bearing and Non-Bearing Acreage <sup>1/</sup>

Year	Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
1998	83,000	26,000	109,000
1999	83,000	22,000	105,000
2000	86,000	15,000	101,000
2001	86,000	11,000	97,000
2002	74,000	9,000	83,000
2003	72,000	8,000	80,000

<sup>1/</sup> Reported data with an allowance for incompleteness.

Sutter County remained the leader for prune acreage in California, with more than twice the bearing acreage of any other county. Sutter accounts for 28 percent of California's total prune acreage. Yuba, Butte, and Tehama counties were number two, three, and four, respectively, for total prune acreage. These four counties combined account for 66 percent of the State's total prune acreage.

## OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the acreage survey is to provide annual prune acreage with information on new plantings and removals. Industry-funded prune acreage surveys have been conducted for many years.

Users are cautioned that this report consists of two parts:

- ▶ Estimated prune acreage -- bearing, non-bearing, and total. Estimated prune acreage appears in the table above.
- ▶ Detailed data by variety, year planted, and county -- as voluntarily reported by prune growers and maintained in CASS' data base. Detailed data appear on pages 2 and 3.

With perfect information, the estimated prune acreage and the detailed data would be the same. However, this will never be the case for the following reasons:

- ▶ A voluntary census of 1,200 prune growers is unlikely to ever attain 100 percent completeness.
- ▶ It is extremely difficult for a small staff in Sacramento to detect growers that are planting prunes for the first time.

- ▶ The detailed data reflects tree removals from more than 4,000 acres during the past twelve months. Of this number, some acreage was harvested in 2003 prior to being pulled out, and that acreage has already been removed from the detailed data.

## PROCEDURES

The major source of the prune detailed data was a questionnaire mailed to all prune growers included on CASS' data base. The mailing was made in late December 2003 to approximately 1,200 prune growers. The questionnaire contained previously reported crop, variety, and acreage information preprinted. Producers were asked to update the information with new plantings, removals, and any other corrections; new growers were mailed a blank questionnaire. Growers were given six weeks to respond by mail. A telephone follow-up was then undertaken. Field personnel visited large growers who did not respond by mail or telephone.

To arrive at the estimated prune acreage, the CASS prune acreage data base was compared with data provided from the pesticide application data maintained by County Agricultural Commissioners and the Department of Pesticide Regulation.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

Appreciation is due the following office staff for the hundreds of hours spent phoning and processing survey information: Jeff Olson (Agricultural Statistician), Pam Benner, Regina Claypoole, Carol Cole, Pearl Gonzalez, Ann Jehn, Janell McAllister, Susan Novak, Lupe Oropeza, Jeremiah Rhine, Cordia Weems and Sheryl Zazzi.

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**2003 PRUNE (DRIED PLUM) ACREAGE BY COUNTY, BY YEAR PLANTED a/**

County	1991 and Earlier	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Acres Standing in 2003 b/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
Alameda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amador	9	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0
Butte	5,836	714	746	1,102	586	232	171	101	161	340	177	146	205	9,386	1,130	10,516
Colusa	1,588	38	33	51	124	109	156	105	92	0	135	0	0	2,100	332	2,432
Fresno	1,347	76	536	294	514	435	37	23	4	7	148	41	0	3,238	223	3,461
Glenn	3,994	371	634	875	734	414	184	144	66	38	113	35	36	7,205	432	7,637
Humboldt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kern	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	64	12	76
Madera	633	29	0	451	246	41	0	0	0	10	6	0	0	1,399	16	1,415
Mendocino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merced	1,358	0	76	135	64	352	0	6	0	12	0	0	38	1,986	56	2,041
Napa	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	8
Placer	318	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	318	0	318
Riverside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Joaquin	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	17
San Luis Obispo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Clara	132	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	141	0	141
Santa Cruz	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	15
Shasta	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	53	4	57
Solano	868	116	8	168	38	78	5	21	2	5	5	0	6	1,281	40	1,321
Sonoma	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	0	43
Stanislaus	17	3	7	0	8	8	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	49	2	51
Sutter	13,861	922	1,227	1,871	756	676	517	352	304	407	285	325	113	19,829	1,786	21,616
Tehama	6,357	276	210	544	676	372	136	183	115	79	66	78	43	8,570	565	9,135
Tulare	2,537	158	408	794	623	215	168	162	185	102	61	35	83	4,901	628	5,529
Yolo	1,394	38	63	81	40	45	39	2	22	18	32	99	37	1,700	210	1,910
Yuba	6,949	411	537	308	423	481	203	177	328	279	203	203	120	9,311	1,311	10,622
State Total	47,395	3,150	4,486	6,674	4,832	3,458	1,631	1,277	1,281	1,301	1,230	974	683	71,626	6,745	78,371

a/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

b/ Non-bearing includes plantings for 1998-2003.

**PRUNE (DRIED PLUM) ACREAGE AS OF 2003 -- VARIETIES AND AGE GROUPS -- STATE SUMMARY ACREAGE PLANTED DURING YEARS SHOWN AND STANDING IN 2003 a/**

Variety	1991 and Earlier	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Acres Standing in 2003 b/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
French	45,876	3,130	4,443	6,492	4,608	3,227	1,508	1,187	1,217	1,209	956	678	592	69,282	5,839	75,121
French Early Grans	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69	0	69
French Improved	465	5	0	149	22	12	15	17	32	25	6	0	0	667	79	746
State Total	46,409	3,135	4,443	6,640	4,630	3,238	1,523	1,204	1,249	1,234	962	678	592	70,017	5,918	75,935

a/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

b/ Non-bearing includes plantings for 1998-2003.

**2003 FRENCH PRUNE (DRIED PLUM) ACREAGE BY COUNTY a/**

County	1991 and Earlier	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Acres Standing in 2003 b/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
Alameda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amador	9	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	13
Butte	5,548	711	746	1,102	579	193	171	101	160	340	168	59	161	9,048	988	10,036
Colusa	1,588	38	33	51	124	109	131	105	92	0	135	0	0	2,075	332	2,407
Fresno	1,310	76	536	294	484	435	25	22	0	0	0	37	0	3,159	59	3,217
Glenn	3,994	371	616	875	719	414	179	144	66	38	113	25	17	7,167	402	7,569
Humboldt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kern	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	0	64
Madera	633	29	0	451	246	41	0	0	0	10	6	0	0	1,399	16	1,415
Mendocino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merced	1,358	0	76	135	64	352	0	6	0	12	0	0	38	1,986	56	2,041
Napa	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	7
Placer	318	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	318	0	318
San Joaquin	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	17
San Luis Obispo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Clara	127	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	137	0	137
Santa Cruz	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	15
Shasta	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	53	4	57
Solano	868	116	8	168	38	78	5	21	2	5	5	0	6	1,281	40	1,321
Sonoma	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	0	43
Stanislaus	17	3	0	0	8	8	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	42	2	44
Sutter	13,722	922	1,227	1,871	756	653	504	352	304	407	241	301	98	19,654	1,702	21,356
Tehama	6,306	276	210	544	676	372	136	183	115	79	66	54	43	8,519	541	9,060
Tulare	2,252	145	407	774	473	78	114	90	172	55	31	0	72	4,243	420	4,663
Yolo	1,388	38	62	79	40	45	39	2	8	5	32	40	37	1,690	123	1,813
Yuba	6,774	411	521	297	423	460	203	177	328	279	167	162	120	9,089	1,233	10,322
<b>State Total</b>	<b>46,409</b>	<b>3,135</b>	<b>4,443</b>	<b>6,640</b>	<b>4,630</b>	<b>3,238</b>	<b>1,523</b>	<b>1,204</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>1,234</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>70,017</b>	<b>5,918</b>	<b>75,935</b>

a/ Varieties include French, French Improved, and French Early Grans. Totals may not add due to rounding.

b/ Non-bearing includes plantings for 1998-2003.

**2003 OTHER PRUNE (DRIED PLUM) ACREAGE BY COUNTY a/**

County	1991 and Earlier	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Acres Standing in 2003 b/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
Butte	289	3	0	0	8	39	0	0	1	0	9	87	45	338	142	480
Colusa	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	25
Fresno	38	0	0	0	30	0	12	1	4	7	148	4	0	80	164	244
Glenn	0	0	18	0	15	0	5	0	0	0	0	11	19	38	30	68
Humboldt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	12	0	12
Mendocino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Riverside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Luis Obispo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Clara	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Santa Cruz	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Solano	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sonoma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stanislaus	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	7
Sutter	139	0	0	0	0	23	13	0	0	0	44	24	16	175	85	259
Tehama	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	51	24	75
Tulare	285	12	1	20	150	137	54	72	13	47	30	35	11	658	208	866
Yolo	6	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	14	13	1	59	0	10	86	96
Yuba	175	0	16	11	0	21	0	0	0	0	36	41	0	222	77	299
<b>State Total</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>1,609</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>2,436</b>

a/ Totals may not add due to rounding. Includes acreage of Burton, German, Imperial, Italian/Fellenberg, Miro, Moyer, Punian, Ross, Sergeant/Robe De Sergeant, Sierra Sweet, Sugar, Victor LG, 29-C, and 707 varieties.

b/ Non-bearing includes plantings for 1998-2003.