

# 2003 California Walnut Acreage Report



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CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

## RESULTS

California's 2003 walnut acreage is estimated by the California Agricultural Statistics Service (CASS) at 240,000 acres, up 1 percent from 2002. Of the total acreage, 213,000 were bearing and 27,000 were non-bearing.

### WALNUT BEARING AND NON-BEARING ACREAGE <sup>1/</sup>

Year	Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
1998	198,000	29,000	227,000
1999	197,000	30,000	227,000
2000	200,000	31,000	231,000
2001	204,000	29,000	233,000
2002	210,000	27,000	237,000
2003	213,000	27,000	240,000

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

Of the walnut acreage in our database, Chandler continues to be the leading variety for the fourth year in a row with 61,286 total acres planted, followed by Hartley with 46,408 total acres planted. Howard surpassed Chandler as the variety with the largest percentage of non-bearing acres with 33 percent.

San Joaquin County continues to show the largest acreage planted with 15 percent of the total, followed by Tulare County with 12 percent, and Butte County with 11 percent.

## OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this survey is to provide annual walnut acreage with information on new plantings and removals. It is a continuation of a long series of industry-funded walnut acreage surveys.

Users are cautioned that this report consists of two parts:

- ▶ Estimated walnut acreage -- bearing, non-bearing, and total.
- ▶ Detailed data by variety, year planted, and county -- as voluntarily reported by walnut growers and maintained in CASS' data base.

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

- ▶ A voluntary census of more than 5,000 walnut 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 walnuts for the first time.
- ▶ The detailed data reflects tree removals from more than 7,500 acres during the past twelve months. Of this number, significant 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 walnut detailed data was a questionnaire mailed to all walnut growers included in CASS' data base. The mailing was made in late December 2003 to approximately 5,000 walnut 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 personally visited large growers who did not respond by mail or telephone.

To arrive at the estimated walnut acreage, the CASS walnut 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 Walnut Marketing 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 WALNUT 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		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
Alameda	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	9
Amador	409	1	1	1	15	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	440	2	441
Butte	13,786	529	792	1,082	567	579	620	152	1,155	1,164	380	729	1,248	19,158	3,625	22,783
Calaveras	624	0	0	4	0	23	9	13	5	1	5	51	0	661	74	735
Colusa	3,472	48	69	125	108	0	48	44	76	163	14	196	253	3,989	626	4,615
Contra Costa	517	25	13	2	3	6	36	34	5	3	23	7	23	636	60	696
El Dorado	176	0	25	0	0	1	0	24	0	0	1	1	0	225	2	226
Fresno	1,924	128	69	91	328	248	361	251	84	4	182	105	81	3,481	375	3,856
Glenn	4,466	128	328	826	593	705	659	411	491	680	1,403	957	954	8,543	4,057	12,600
Kern	1,010	12	0	1	1	17	0	0	85	113	1	1	0	1,099	141	1,240
Kings	3,913	150	275	668	307	466	360	477	615	142	145	110	238	7,049	818	7,866
Lake	4,129	26	4	30	35	10	6	18	16	7	7	1	17	4,259	45	4,304
Los Angeles	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Madera	815	17	74	4	6	33	102	0	2	0	2	0	0	1,052	3	1,055
Marin	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	11	2	13
Mendocino	45	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	50
Merced	3,621	231	270	202	287	136	238	261	489	210	86	191	165	5,693	693	6,386
Monterey	254	0	0	0	1	0	106	0	64	0	1	0	0	414	11	425
Napa	179	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	181	0	181
Placer	1,046	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	15	6	14	32	0	1,075	51	1,127
Riverside	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	0	35
Sacramento	193	0	0	2	2	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	224	0	224
San Benito	1,289	10	34	12	53	33	39	13	15	36	4	14	6	1,487	70	1,557
San Bernardino	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
San Diego	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	17
San Joaquin	21,624	782	876	1,330	1,175	1,016	1,130	774	1,084	702	339	520	466	29,457	2,358	31,815
San Luis Obispo	2,494	111	16	1	7	71	0	0	1	17	5	0	1	2,699	24	2,723
San Mateo	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Santa Barbara	584	0	0	0	4	3	3	3	3	0	0	25	9	598	34	633
Santa Clara	379	12	1	46	22	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	465	0	465
Santa Cruz	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Shasta	490	0	24	0	11	0	33	158	175	5	98	0	0	890	104	994
Siskiyou	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Solano	4,061	176	116	107	390	208	270	270	205	140	123	19	182	5,720	549	6,269
Sonoma	174	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	176	0	176
Stanislaus	13,022	625	776	807	1,033	784	769	1,173	1,087	820	282	425	288	19,880	2,011	21,891
Sutter	11,977	488	723	585	798	756	631	686	683	463	454	241	453	17,168	1,771	18,939
Tehama	9,271	197	163	306	489	812	849	390	273	1,220	229	235	515	12,721	2,227	14,948
Tulare	16,343	668	698	1,008	939	859	935	863	1,595	343	357	293	527	23,505	1,922	25,427
Ventura	118	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	118	0	118
Yolo	6,068	168	197	424	398	341	360	407	283	237	107	59	79	8,562	565	9,127
Yuba	6,432	75	182	64	194	131	295	133	481	247	62	216	281	7,951	842	8,793
State Total	134,979	4,608	5,744	7,727	7,766	7,280	7,865	6,554	8,989	6,724	4,321	4,425	5,784	189,704	23,062	212,765

a/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

**WALNUT 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		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
Amigo	171	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	175	0	175
Ashley	6,680	58	54	1	0	27	2	55	2	55	2	3	0	6,876	62	6,938
Blackmer/ Mautner/Vaughn	929	2	0	0	4	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,005	0	1,005
Chandler	18,461	3,102	4,304	6,099	5,594	5,000	4,747	3,454	3,771	2,189	1,296	1,508	1,761	54,532	6,754	61,286
Chico	3,084	8	4	22	21	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	90	3,142	90	3,232
Cisco	17	5	20	18	7	18	7	3	8	2	3	3	8	95	23	118
Eureka	3,910	28	23	16	18	47	20	14	24	9	8	17	6	4,062	78	4,140
Franquette	9,033	41	65	85	78	42	43	76	44	41	39	31	20	9,345	294	9,639
Franquette Scharsch	69	4	12	2	1	16	1	7	1	10	1	2	0	104	22	126
Gustine	305	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	307	0	307
Hartley	41,609	777	344	278	354	295	582	320	279	673	229	355	316	44,237	2,171	46,408
Howard	493	35	39	13	297	316	889	760	1,454	2,093	1,701	1,454	2,274	4,296	7,522	11,817
Lompoc	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	0	59
Marchetti	361	0	0	0	13	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	393	0	393
Mayette	497	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	501	3	504
Midland	262	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	262	0	262
Nuggett	489	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	491	0	491
Payne	8,398	32	101	87	139	20	98	52	104	80	21	4	6	8,927	215	9,142
Pedro	554	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	554	1	555
Pioneer	51	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	87	0	87
Poe	410	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	410	10	420
Serr	18,285	89	127	373	317	541	300	192	452	216	146	38	18	20,225	870	21,095
Sunland	1,487	17	23	4	160	32	4	0	1	4	25	25	0	1,727	55	1,782
Tehama	4,701	0	1	1	4	0	8	0	2	86	8	0	0	4,715	96	4,812
Trinta	844	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	844	0	844
Tulare	216	57	209	257	453	448	848	1,400	2,425	1,071	781	744	1,036	6,310	3,631	9,941
Vina	12,114	311	409	423	236	381	273	194	409	166	61	184	130	14,341	951	15,292
Waterloo	715	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	12	0	6	0	735	18	752
All Others	776	40	7	49	15	26	35	7	10	18	0	53	110	947	197	1,144
<b>StateTotal</b>	<b>134,979</b>	<b>4,608</b>	<b>5,744</b>	<b>7,727</b>	<b>7,766</b>	<b>7,280</b>	<b>7,865</b>	<b>6,554</b>	<b>8,989</b>	<b>6,724</b>	<b>4,321</b>	<b>4,425</b>	<b>5,784</b>	<b>189,704</b>	<b>23,062</b>	<b>212,765</b>

a/ Totals may not add due to rounding. Shaded/bold area represents non-bearing years and includes plantings of the following: Chandler, Chico, Howard, Tulare (2000-2003); Amigo, Ashley, Cisco, Gustine, Lompoc, Marchetti, Nuggett, Payne, Pedro, Serr, Sunland, Tehama, Trinta, Vina (1999-2003); Franquette, Franquette Scharsch, Mayette, Poe (1997-2003); all other varieties not specified (1998-2003).

**California Walnut Acreage, Production and Value, 1994-2003**

Year	Bearing	Non-Bearing	Production	Yield Per Acre	Grower Return Per Ton	Total Value
	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
1994	189,000	25,600	232,000	1.23	1,030.00	238,960
1995	193,000	23,300	234,000	1.21	1,400.00	327,600
1996	192,000	23,200	208,000	1.08	1,580.00	328,640
1997	193,000	20,900	269,000	1.39	1,430.00	384,670
1998	198,000	29,000	227,000	1.15	1,050.00	238,350
1999	197,000	30,000	283,000	1.44	886.00	250,738
2000	200,000	31,000	239,000	1.20	1,240.00	296,360
2001	204,000	29,000	305,000	1.50	1,120.00	341,600
2002	210,000	27,000	282,000	1.34	1,080.00	304,560
2003	213,000	27,000	325,000	1.53	a/	a/

a/ Price and value estimates for 2003 will be published July 7, 2004.

Source: California Agricultural Statistics Service

California fruit and nut bearing acreage statistics have recently been reviewed for the period 1998-2002. Revisions were made for some crops, including walnuts, after a thorough review of all available data, including the 2002 Census of Agriculture. Final estimates for 1998-2002 were published for all fruit and nut crops on May 21, 2004.