

1999 California Almond Forecast



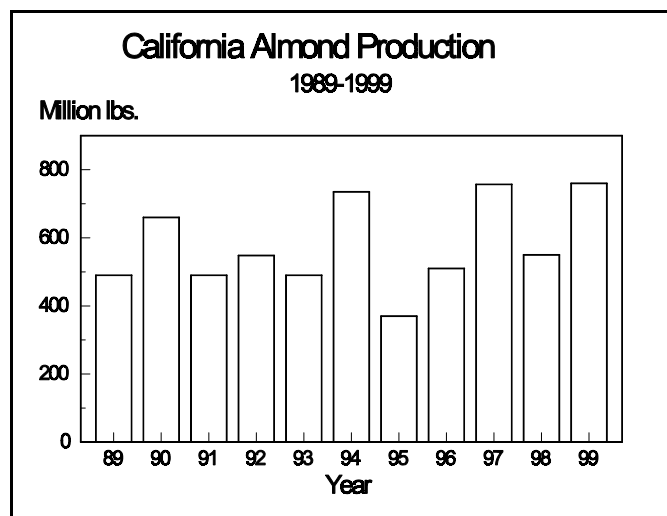
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CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

RESULTS

The initial forecast for 1999 California almond production is a record 760 million pounds. This is up 46 percent from last year's crop of 520 million pounds. Estimated bearing acreage for 1999 is 475 thousand. The forecast is based on calls made to a sample of almond growers from April 26-30. Responses were received from 259 growers of which 224 reports were usable. The acreage from the usable reports accounted for 17 percent of the total bearing acreage. The 1999 season began with growers anticipating a record crop. Pollination and tree development were described as very good to excellent. Although freezing temperatures in early April caused locally variable production losses, average yields are expected to be up 39 percent from last year. Cool temperatures have caused crop development to be about one week behind normal.



PROCEDURES

Results of the subjective survey are based on **opinions** obtained from growers. The sample of growers changes from year to year and is grouped by size, so all growers will be represented. Each selected grower is asked to indicate their almond yield from last year and expected yield for the current year.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A special thanks goes to the many almond farm operators and owners who provided information on their operations. The support was outstanding and we appreciate the time they spent completing questionnaires.

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