

2005 California Almond Forecast

Released: May 11, 2005
12:00 P.M. PDT



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

RESULTS

The initial forecast for the 2005 California almond production is 850 million pounds. This is down 16 percent from last year's revised production of 1.01 billion pounds. Estimated bearing acreage for 2005 is 550 thousand. This forecast is based on a telephone survey conducted April 21 - May 4 from a sample of almond growers. Of the 430 growers sampled, 254 reports were usable. Acreage from the usable reports accounted for 16 percent of the total bearing acreage.

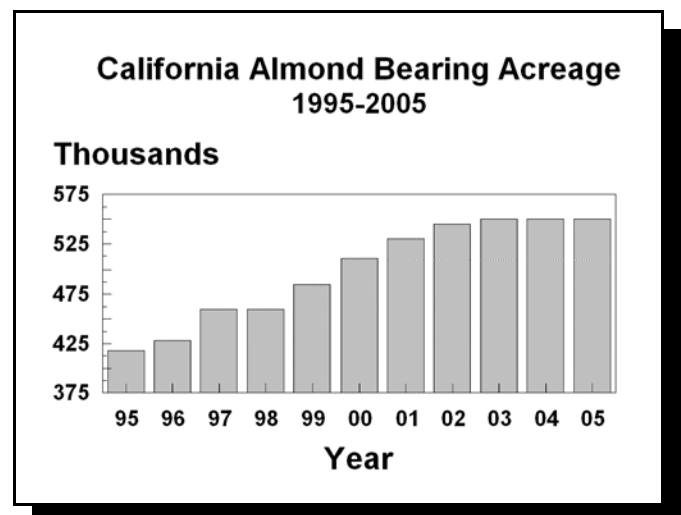
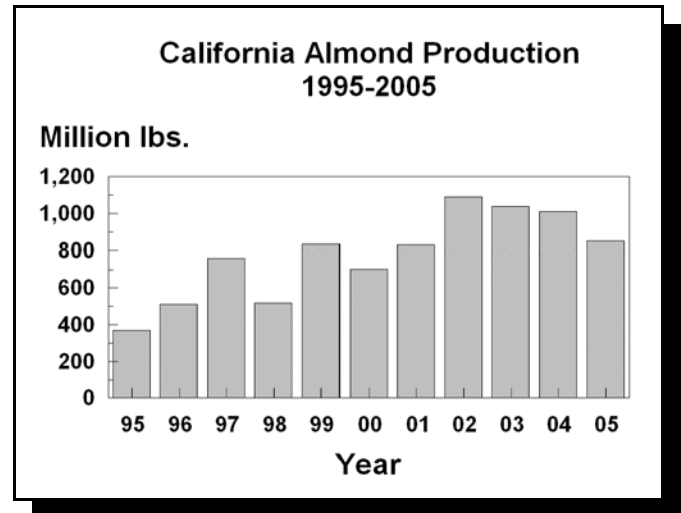
Weather during bloom was less than ideal this year due to continued instances of rain. The Nonpareil variety has displayed one of the weakest blooms in years. Bloom was rapid with an extremely poor set. Numerous orchards displayed early petal fall. In addition, rain decreased the ability of bees to successfully pollinate many orchards. The set in other varieties is also down, but not to the extent of the Nonpareil variety. Sizes are reported to be good. The kernels are solidifying slower than normal due to cooler than average temperatures during the spring. There have been some reports of Phytophthora Root Rot resulting in tree loss.

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.



California Almond Acreage, Production and Value, 1995-2005

Year	Bearing	Non-Bearing	Production	Yield Per Acre	Price Per Pound	Value of Production
	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
1995	418,000	65,700	370	890	2.48	880,896
1996	428,000	72,400	510	1,190	2.08	1,018,368
1997	442,000	63,000	759	1,720	1.56	1,160,640
1998	460,000	120,000	520	1,130	1.41	703,590
1999	485,000	115,000	833	1,720	0.86	687,742
2000	510,000	100,000	703	1,380	0.97	666,487
2001	530,000	75,000	830	1,570	0.91	740,012
2002	545,000	60,000	1,090	2,000	1.11	1,200,687
2003	550,000	60,000	1,040	1,890	1.57	1,600,144
2004 <u>a/</u>	550,000	70,000	1,010	1,840	2.04	2,030,820
2005 <u>b/</u>	550,000	N/A	850	1,550	N/A	N/A

a/ Revised production, yield and value.

b/ Preliminary

Source: California Agricultural Statistics Service

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