

2006 California Almond Forecast



Released: May 10, 2006
12:00 P.M. PDT



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service,
California Field Office

RESULTS

The initial forecast for the 2006 California almond production is 1.02 billion pounds. This is 11 percent above last year's revised production of 915 million pounds. Estimated bearing acreage for 2006 is 580 thousand. This forecast is based on a telephone survey conducted April 24 - May 3 from a sample of almond growers. Of the 470 growers sampled, 368 reported. Acreage from these reports accounted for 24 percent of the total bearing acreage.

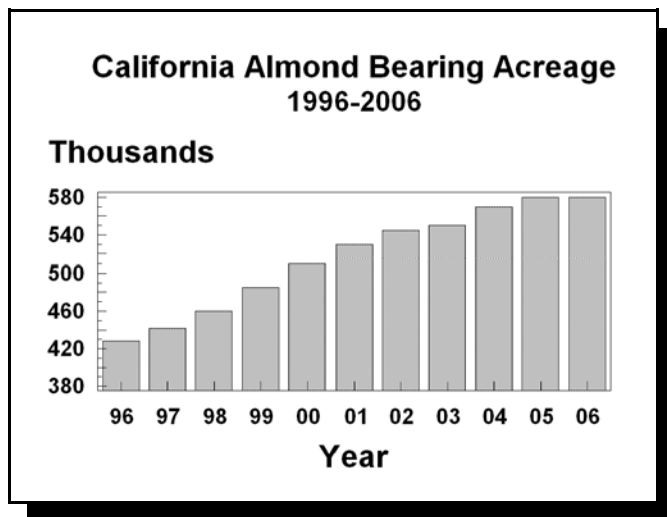
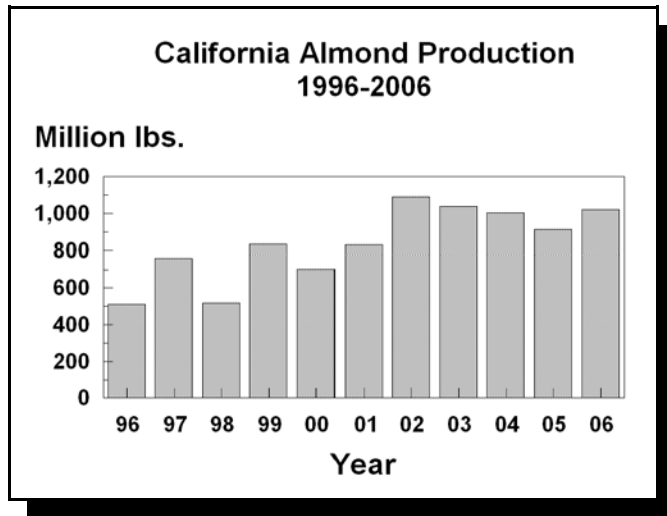
The California 2006 almond set looks strong, despite several factors that could have led to a lighter set. There was a low accumulation of chilling hours that resulted in an early bloom, a frost hit some early varieties, and wet, cool conditions continued throughout the spring. However, California has the potential for a good almond crop. In general, the set is good in the Central Valley. The southern most producing counties are uniformly heavy in set. The northern most producing counties have a bit lighter set, which is likely due to frost effects. The popular Nonpareil variety has set well and is looking very good.

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 of operation, so all growers will be represented. Each selected grower is asked to indicate their almond yield per acre 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 telephone interviews.



California Almond Acreage, Production and Value, 1995-2006

Year	Bearing	Non-Bearing	Production	Yield Per Acre	Price Per Pound ^{1/}	Value of Production ^{1/}
	<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 ^{2/}	545,000	65,000	1,090	2,000	1.11	1,200,687
2003	550,000	60,000	1,040	1,890	1.57	1,600,144
2004	570,000	70,000	1,005	1,760	2.21	2,189,005
2005 ^{3/}	580,000	100,000	915	1,580	3.08	2,768,612
2006 ^{4/}	580,000	N/A	1,020	1,760	N/A	N/A

^{1/} Price and value are based on the edible portion of the crop only. Inedible production for 2005 is estimated to be 16.1 million pounds.

^{2/} Revised 2002 "Non-Bearing" acres.

^{3/} Revised production, yield and value.

^{4/} Preliminary

VIC TOLOMEO
Director

JACK RUTZ and SARAH HOFFMAN
Deputy Directors

DOUG FLOHR - JENNIE PETERSON
Statisticians, Estimates Group

Comments or questions should be directed to:
USDA, NASS, California Field Office
P.O. Box 1258, Sacramento, CA 95812
(916) 498-5161 -- FAX: (916) 498-5186