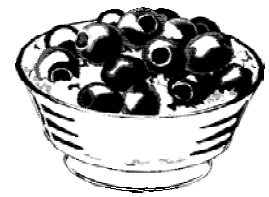


1999 California Olive Probability Survey Results



Released: August 12, 1999
5:30 A.M. PDT



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

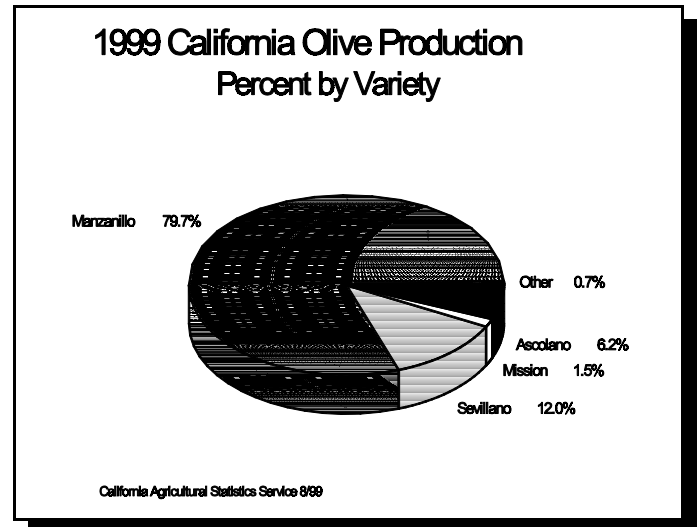
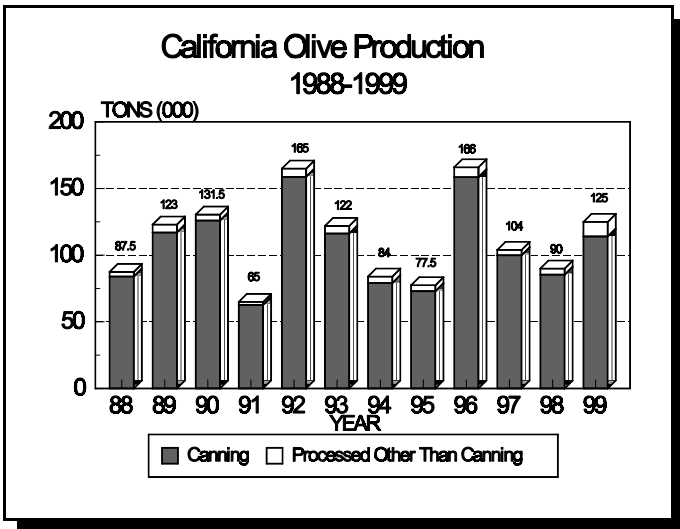
1999 CALIFORNIA OLIVE FORECAST

The 1999 olive crop is forecast at 125,000 tons, up 39 percent from the 1998 production of 90,000 tons. Bearing acres are estimated at 35,300. Due to good weather conditions during the bloom and pollination periods, most growers expect a large crop with good quality. Damage from the freeze has been minimal. Thus far, fruit size appears to be normal in most orchards. The Manzanillo variety has about 80 percent of the total production. Growers expect the Manzanillo variety yield to increase about 39 percent from last year's yield. Growers expect the yield of Sevillano and Ascolano varieties, which account for about 18 percent of production, to increase by 7 percent and 24 percent, respectively. Growers estimate 91 percent of their olives will be used for canning purposes. This results in a canning olive production of about 114,000 tons.

VARIETAL FORECAST

Growers were asked to estimate production by variety. The following table lists a varietal level forecast based on survey data.

Variety	1998 Tonnage	1999 Estimated Tonnage	Percent Change
Sevillano	12,500	15,000	+20
Ascolano	9,000	8,000	-11
Manzanillo	65,000	99,100	+52
Mission	3,000	2,000	-33
Other	500	900	+80
TOTAL	90,000	125,000	+39



SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The California Agricultural Statistics Service (CASS) designed the probability survey, developed a sampling scheme, and analyzed the data. The California Olive Committee (COC) provided CASS with grower names and last year's tonnage.

SURVEY SAMPLE

A total of 369 growers was sampled for the survey. Reports from 244 were used by CASS to establish this forecast. The sample is designed to give a State estimate of all varieties; estimates by variety should be construed to be less precise. In addition, at the request of the COC, growers were asked to estimate the percentage of their olive crops that will be used for canning purposes.

JIM TIPPETT
State Statistician

DWAINE NELSON
Deputy State Statistician

GARY NELSON - DENNIS KOONG
Agricultural Statisticians -- Estimates Group

Comments or questions should be directed to:

California Agricultural Statistics Service (CASS)
P.O. Box 1258
Sacramento, CA 95812
(916) 498-5177
(916) 498-5186 (FAX)