



# 2008 California Olive Probability Survey Report

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office · P.O. Box 1258 · Sacramento, CA 95812 · (916) 498-5161 · (916) 498-5186 Fax · www.nass.usda.gov/ca

Released: August 12, 2008 - 5:30 a.m. PDT

## CALIFORNIA OLIVE FORECAST FOR 2008

The 2008 California olive crop forecast is 65,000 tons, down 49 percent from last year's crop of 132,500 tons. Bearing acreage is estimated at 31,000 for a yield of 2.10 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 4.27 tons. Of the total production, an estimated 53,000 tons will be utilized for canning, and the remaining 12,000 tons are expected to be harvested for oil or specialty products.

The 2008 California olive crop is turning out light. Lack of rains during the spring months caused some areas to be water stressed. There were also less than ideal weather conditions during the blooming period. The erratic temperature swings from hot to cold and high winds during bloom left many trees with a spotty set. The bloom period stretched out over approximately five weeks. The April freeze damaged crops, which became evident with new growth. Some growers were evaluating whether the spotty crop will make harvest costs prohibitive.

The Manzanillo and Sevillano olive varieties are expected to produce 78.4 and 10.8 percent of the total olive crop, respectively. The remaining 10.8 percent are expected to come from all other varieties.

## SURVEY SAMPLE

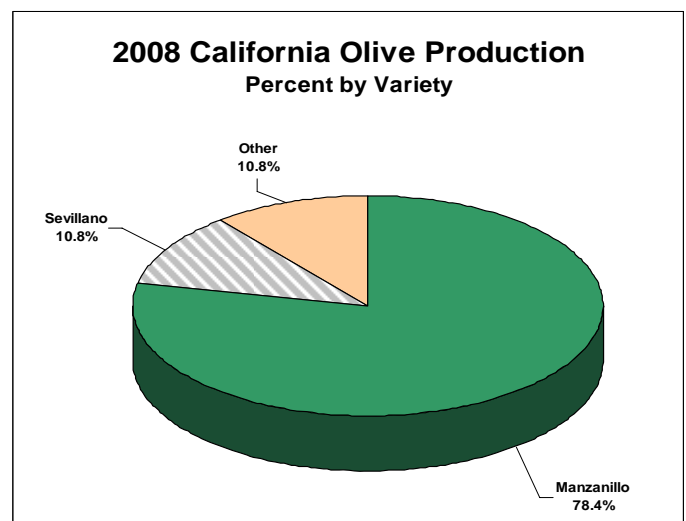
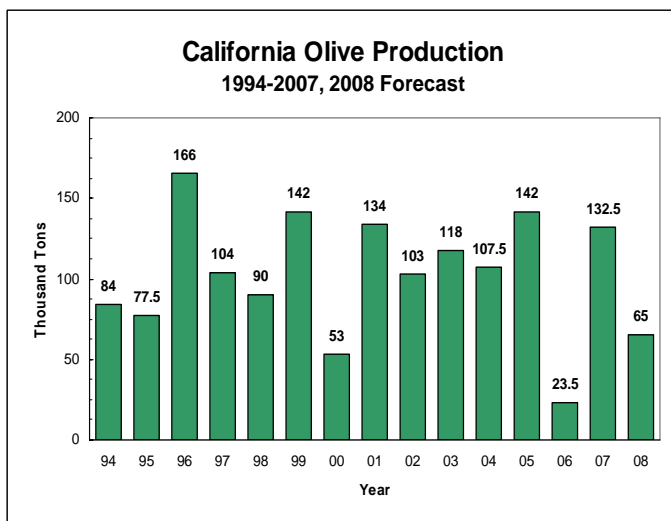
A total of 314 growers were sampled for the survey. Reports from 237 were used to establish this forecast. The sample is designed to provide a State estimate of all varieties; estimates by variety are less precise.

## VARIETAL FORECAST

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

Variety	2007 Production	2008 Forecast	<u>2008</u> <u>2007</u>
	Tons		Percent
Manzanillo	112,000	51,000	46
Sevillano	14,000	7,000	50
Other 1/	6,500	7,000	108
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>132,500</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>49</b>

1/ Includes acreage and production for varieties that were or will be used for oil and other specialty products.



## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The USDA, NASS, California Field Office designed the probability survey, developed a sampling procedure, and analyzed the data. The olive industry provided grower names and last year's tonnage.

VIC TOLOMEO, Director  
JACK RUTZ – SARAH HOFFMAN, Deputy Directors  
DOUG FLOHR – COURTNEY CHARLES  
Statisticians – Estimates Group