

CROP REPORT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY



OFFICE OF
AGRICULTURAL
COMMISSIONER

AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT - LOS ANGELES COUNTY - 1940

Agricultural crop value in Los Angeles county advanced to \$52,060,000 in 1940. This sum represents a gain of 15% from the previous year and a larger total than for any year since 1937.

Both navel and Valencia oranges made a better price showing than in 1939, while value of lemons remained about the same. The f.o.b value of the citrus group came to \$21,378,600, nearly \$3,000,000 more than the year before. Valencia oranges with 28,300 acres in bearing, remain by far the most valuable crop grown in the county and accounted for \$10,629,500 of the total.

Most of the other tree fruits were worth less in 1940 than the preceding year. Despite higher prices lower yields pulled the walnut valuation down to \$806,000, a drop of \$250,000 from the 1939 figure. Peach and pear prices were depressed because the market was burdened with heavy supplies from other areas. Avocados, due to larger bearing acreage and improved prices, sold for more money than the previous year. The trend in this county is toward lower acreages of tree crops with the exception of Valencia oranges, lemons, avocados, and almonds. Greatest acreage reductions are noted in walnuts and Bartlett pears.

In the field crop classification, which includes the cereals, alfalfa, sugar beets and dry beans, values were generally lower compared with the previous year. Large acreage increases for beans and alfalfa failed to offset lower prices. Valuation for the entire group was nearly \$6,000,000, a decrease of \$400,000 from 1939.

Money returned by truck crops showed improvement during the past year. Celery, the county's most valuable vegetable crop, produced excellent yields and enjoyed a strong demand when volume was heavy. Value jumped from \$2,062,500 to \$3,120,000 for the year just closed. Green beans and carrots were among other major truck crops that moved ahead appreciably in value, both of them returning more than \$1,000,000.

Value of cut flowers, a \$3,200,000 crop, remained about stationary during the past two years. Nursery stock, however, gained 20% from 1939, bringing the total to \$6,000,000.

Basis for arriving at valuation was on delivery price at the wholesale market on all crops except citrus and avocados. For these two the report is made on total f.o.b. price and represents the return to Los Angeles county before deducting the cost of picking, hauling and packing. Federal diversion and benefit payments made by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration have been included in the totals for oranges and walnuts. Other conserving practices and soil building and diversion payments are listed separately in the report. The report does not cover livestock and dairy valuations.

In arriving at totals, price, acreage, and yield averages have been checked with the state crop statisticians office and prices were compared with Federal-State Market News Service quotations. The farm advisor's office, several hundred farmers, growers' associations, land companies, prorate agencies and dealers were interviewed before final determination of figures used. Efforts of the many persons and agencies who furnished crop information are greatly appreciated.

HAROLD J. RYAN, Agricultural Commissioner

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COMMODITY	BEARING ACREAGE	YIELD	UNIT	VALUE
CITRUS FRUIT*				
Oranges, Navel & Misc.	14,379	3,260,900	Box	\$ 5,028,500
Oranges, Valencia	28,368	5,673,500	"	10,629,500
Lemons	11,426	2,667,400	"	5,463,400
Grapefruit	1,185	183,000	"	243,100
Limes	81	607,500	Pounds	14,100
Total	55,439			\$21,378,600
OTHER FRUITS & NUTS				
Almonds	755	192,500	Pounds	28,900
Apples	579	63,700	Boxes(45#)	44,600
Apricots	1,052	168,300	Lugs(25#)	42,100
Avocados**	3,124	328,500	Flat(13#)	358,900
Figs	551	367,000	Flat single layer(6#)	82,600
Grapes	4,765	14,295	Tons	285,900
Olives	1,526	425	Tons	25,500
Peaches-cling	344	103,200	Boxes(20#)	25,800
Peaches-free	1,028	257,000	"	115,600
Pears	825	142,725	Standard boxes(50#)	178,400
Persimmons	267	76,100	L.A.lug(25#)	35,700
Plums	317	35,200	4 bskt crate(27#)	28,500
Walnuts	22,904	83,600	Cwt.	806,000
Misc. Fruits	220			12,100
Total	38,257			\$2,070,600
BUSHBERRIES & STRAWBERRIES				
Blackberries	100	75,000	Crates(12-1/2 pts)	48,000
Loganberries	30	16,500	" " "	10,800
Raspberries	240	187,200	" " "	149,800
Strawberries	1,000	800,000	" (12 pts)	680,000
Youngberries and boysenberries	825	907,500	" (12-1/2 pts)	408,400
Total	2,195			\$1,297,000
FIELD CROPS				
Alfalfa hay	48,300	306,200	Tons	3,751,000
Barley,oats, grain	14,000	140,000	Sacks(100#)	126,000
Beans-dry	19,980	216,830	Cwt.	607,000
Bean straw		5,500	Tons	27,500
Beets-sugar	3,800	40,500	"	198,400
Grain hay	40,000	60,000	"	660,000
Pop corn	900	11,700	Cwt.	54,000
Wheat	39,000	259,350	"	337,200
Miscellaneous***	3,500			125,000
Total	169,480			\$5,886,100

* Figures for crop year November 1, 1939, to October 31, 1940.

** Figures for crop year October 1, 1939 to September 30, 1940.

*** Includes silage corn, sorghum corn, alfalfa seed, etc.

COMMODITY	ACREAGE	YIELD	UNIT	VALUE
TRUCK CROPS				
Asparagus	1,650	264,000	Pyramid crates(30#)	\$ 396,000
Beans-snap	2,200	638,000	Bushel hamper(30#)	765,600
Beans-lima	1,400	350,000	" " (32#)	336,000
Cabbage*	3,500	28,000	Tons	336,000
Carrots	3,750	1,080,000	Crates(6 doz)	1,080,000
Cauliflower*	3,750	1,406,250	Pony crates(12 hds)	604,700
Celery-white**	500	400,000	Half crates	760,000
Celery-green**	2,400	2,400,000	Half crates	2,400,000
Corn-green	5,500	632,500	Crates(6 doz)	632,500
Cucumbers-pickles	460	2,580	Tons	50,300
Cucumbers-table	800	340,000	L.A. lugs(30#)	170,000
Endive (Chicory)	650	276,250	Crates(4 doz)	99,500
Lettuce	1,350	228,150	" (5 ")	193,900
Melons***	1,200	312,000	" (60#)	187,200
Onions-dry	700	385,000	Sacks(50#)	288,800
Peas	800	68,000	Bushel hamper(28#)	112,200
Peppers-chili-dried	1,300	910	Tons	200,200
Potatoes-sweet	725	101,500	Crates(50#)	142,100
Potatoes-white	1,450	342,200	Sacks(100#)	359,300
Rhubarb	450	472,500	Flat 20#	89,800
Spinach-market	1,400	350,000	Crates(40#)	262,500
Squash-winter	700	5,250	Tons	115,500
Tomatoes-canning	6,200)	16,500	"	211,400
Tomatoes-market)	915,000	L.A.lug(32#)	658,800
Watermelons	240	2,280	Tons	22,800
Total	43,075			\$10,475,100
MARKET GARDENS				
Beets-table	850	208,250	Crates(4 doz)	110,400
Broccoli	525	120,225	Pony crates(42#)	113,000
Egg plant	100	25,000	Crates(60#)	27,500
Mustard-greens	150	75,000	Crates(40#)	27,750
Onions-green	330	85,800	"	141,600
Parsnips	250	162,500	Lugs(26#)	65,000
Parsley	280	224,000	Crates(6 doz)	100,800
Peppers-bell	200	30,000	" (50#)	45,000
Radishes	480	192,000	" (6 doz)	111,400
Romaine	500	136,500	" (55#)	82,000
Rutabaga	150	33,750	Sacks(100#)	28,700
Squash-Italian	360	158,400	Lugs(30#)	139,400
Squash-summer	460	165,600	Lugs(30#)	134,200
Turnips	700	252,000	Crates(3 doz)	113,400
Miscellaneous	950			216,300
Total	6,285			\$1,456,450

* Figures for crop year October 1, 1939 to September 30, 1940

** Figures for crop year November 1, 1939 to October 31, 1940

*** Melons include cantaloupes, honeydews, casabes and Japanese melons.

COMMODITY	ACREAGE	YIELD	UNIT	VALUE
<u>NURSERY STOCK & CUT FLOWERS</u>				
Cut flowers	1,900			\$3,200,000
Nursery stock				6,000,000
Total	1,900			\$9,200,000

TOTAL ALL PLANT CROPS \$51,763,850

Payments made by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration through the Los Angeles County Agricultural Conservation Association have not been included in the values given in this report. They report totals for 1940 as follows:

* Soil building and diversion payments	\$200,000
Parity payments - wheat growers	8,118
Sugar act payments - sugar beet growers	87,200
Range conserving practices	1,108
Total	\$296,426
* Estimate	

GRAND TOTAL ALL PLANT CROPS \$52,060,276

APIARY PRODUCTS

Honey	2,000,000	Pounds	\$100,000
Beeswax	50,000	"	10,000
Total			\$110,000