

CROP REPORT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY



OFFICE OF
AGRICULTURAL
COMMISSIONER

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CROP REPORT FOR 1955
(Exclusive of Livestock Production)

Los Angeles County farmers received \$85,519,800 for plant crops and honey from 205,000 crop acres in 1955. This constituted a gain of \$479,600 from 1954 when 224,000 crop acres were harvested.

Despite loss of farm land to residential subdivisions and industry, increased value or production of several crops offset the decreases in others.

Citrus with 4,040 less acres returned \$17,308,000 compared with \$19,679,000 a year ago. Valencia small sizes were detrimental from the marketing standpoint and value dropped to \$5,130,000 about \$400,000 from 1954. Biggest difference in the citrus group the past two years was lemons. The 1955 value of \$7,800,000 was nearly \$1,400,000 below the previous year's figure, the main cause of which was lower production and lower prices paid to growers for by-products fruit.

Avocado acreage, (2,610) held its own. In spite of lower prices than in 1954, production doubled to bring the valuation to \$927,000, nearly \$250,000 more than the year before.

For the first time in this county vegetables brought higher returns than citrus. Vegetables were valued at \$18,915,600 which was almost \$1,000,000 ahead of 1954. Celery, the county's most important vegetable crop was worth \$5,440,000. Year round succession of plantings of row crops such as green onions, spinach, and radishes make them important items in the truck crop field. One notable drop in acreage due to subdivisions was cauliflower, lessened to 950 acres from 1,200 the year before. Strawberries, although the acreage has remained about the same for the past two years, (550 acres in 1955) were worth over a million dollars more than in 1954, valued at \$2,585,000, due to higher yields and better prices.

Spring frosts seriously affected the apple crop, and to some extent, both peaches and pears in the Antelope Valley. Almonds escaped damage and the crop was the heaviest and most valuable on record, bringing \$280,400.

Field crop prices had a value of \$12,198,200, slightly less than the 1954 figure. Alfalfa accounted for more than half of this amount.

Nursery stock value advanced to \$24,000,000 from \$22,000,000, the year before, stimulated by demand from owners of new homes. There are nearly 2,600 nursery locations in the county.

Million Dollar Crops

Nursery Stock	\$24,000,000	Naval Oranges	\$4,080,000
Lemons	7,800,000	Strawberries	2,585,000
Cut Flowers	7,500,000	Carrots	1,440,000
Alfalfa Hay	6,442,000	Irrigated Pastures	1,200,000
Celery	5,440,000	Cabbage	1,170,000
Valencias	5,130,000	Green Onions	1,128,000

Valuation figures are based on delivery price at the market or FOB price on commodities shipped out of state. Price, acreage, and yield averages have been checked with state statistician's office, and prices were compared with Federal-State Market quotations. District agricultural inspectors, marketing program committees, the Farm Advisor's office, farmers, growers' associations, land companies, and produce dealers, were consulted before final figures were determined. Assistance received from the many persons and agencies interviewed is greatly appreciated.

HAROLD J. RYAN
Agricultural Commissioner
April 3, 1956

PLANT CROP REPORT - LOS ANGELES COUNTY - 1955

CROP	BEARING ACRES	YIELD	VALUE
<u>CITRUS FRUITS*</u>			
Oranges-Navel & Misc.	7,110	1,200,000 Boxes(pkd)	\$ 4,080,000
" -Valencia	14,610	1,800,000 " "	5,130,000
Lemons	8,090	2,000,000 " "	7,800,000
Grapefruit	530	140,000 " "	290,000
Limes	30	120,000 Pounds	8,000
Total	30,370		\$ 17,308,000
<u>OTHER FRUITS & NUTS</u>			
Almonds	2,240	710,000 Pounds	280,000
Apples	180	5,400 Boxes(45#)	19,400
Apricots	190	6,000 Lugs(25#)	9,000
Avocados**	2,610	530,000 Flats(13#)	927,500
Figs	180	72,000 " (6#)	64,800
Grapes	1,200	3,600 Tons	216,000
Olives	1,430	650 "	82,000
Peaches	740	103,600 Lugs (20#)	196,800
Pears	420	106,000 Boxes(50#)	424,000
Walnuts	5,450	12,000 cwt.	192,000
Misc.Fruits & Nuts	170	-	25,000
Total	14,810		\$ 2,436,900
<u>BERRIES</u>			
Bushberries	80	37,500 Tray(12 bskt)	93,800
Strawberries	550	1,100,000 " "	2,585,000
Total	630		\$ 2,678,800
<u>FIELD CROPS</u>			
Alfalfa hay	42,200	222,300 Tons	6,442,000
" seed, certified	1,990	855,700 Pounds	179,700
" " , common***	(7,110)	2,417,400 "	459,300
" stubble***	(22,000)		179,000
Beans, dry-blackeye	4,200	65,200 cwt	489,000
" " -garbanzo	1,000	4,800 "	50,800
" " -standard lima	1,200	14,300 "	150,000
Beets, sugar****	70	1,180 Tons	11,400
Corn, field	3,500	134,000 cwt	395,300
" , milo	1,300	38,200 "	93,400
" , silage	500	5,000 Tons	30,000
Cotton	50	25 Bales	3,700
Flower seed	100		50,000
Grain-barley	26,800	366,300 cwt	808,400
" -oats	300	2,500 "	7,000
" -wheat*****	26,500	204,000 "	714,200
" hay	15,500	23,700 Tons	740,000
" straw***	(8,000)	6,000 "	120,000
Irrigated pastures	11,000		1,200,000
Miscellaneous	500		75,000
Total	136,710		\$12,198,200

* Crop year ending October 31, 1955

** " " " September 30, 1955

*** Acreage not included in total acreage of field crops; included in 42,200 acres of alfalfa hay or 26,800 acres of barley

**** Returns do not include Sugar Act Payments

***** " " " " Wheat Crop Insurance payments

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CROP	ACRES	YIELD	UNIT	VALUE
<u>VEGETABLES</u>				
Asparagus	360	57,600	Crates (32#)	\$ 230,400
Beans, snap	600	90,000	" (70#)	585,000
" , green lima	200	20,000	" (80#)	100,000
Beets, table	350	157,500	" (3 doz.)	196,800
Broccoli	100	15,000	" (42#)	43,500
Cabbage	1,800	585,000	" (80#)	1,170,000
Carrots	1,000	900,000	Sacks (50#)	1,440,000
Cauliflower	950	546,000	Crates (12 head)	682,500
Celery	2,200	2,530,000	" (sturdee)	5,440,000
Chinese food veg.	300			540,000
Corn, sweet	1,600	320,000	" (5 doz)	512,000
Cucumbers, table	400	260,000	Lugs (30#)	300,000
Endive	150	60,000	Crates (3 doz)	96,000
Greens, mustard & misc.	500	200,000	"	250,000
Lettuce	500	225,000	" (3 doz)	337,500
Melons, cantaloupes, & misc.	750	195,000	"	292,500
Melons, water	170	1,700	Tons	47,600
Onions, dry	750	712,500	Sacks (50#)	712,500
" , green	1,200	480,000	Crates (8 doz.)	1,128,000
Paranips	200	160,000	Lugs (26#)	320,000
Peppers, dry	70	87	Tons	26,000
" , green	100	20,000	Crates (50#)	80,000
Potatoes, sweet	100	35,000	Lugs (32#)	87,500
Potatoes, white	350	107,000	cwt	226,500
Pumpkins	160	1,600	Tons	48,000
Radishes	1,100	412,500	Crates (6 doz.)	577,500
Rhubarb	100	100,000	Flats (20#)	175,000
Romaine	600	480,000	Crates (3 doz.)	600,000
Spinach	900	360,000	" (4 doz.)	540,000
Squash, Italian	350	140,000	Lugs (30#)	238,000
" , summer	250	112,500	" (30#)	197,000
" , winter	950	6,650	Tons	199,500
Tomatoes, canning	400	5,800	"	136,300
" , market	600	390,000	Lugs (32#)	585,000
Turnips	600	300,000	Crates (2 1/2 doz)	450,000
Misc.vegetables	500			325,000
Total	21,210			\$18,915,600

NURSERY STOCK AND CUT FLOWERS

Cut flowers	1,200			\$ 7,500,000
Nursery stock				24,000,000
Total				\$31,500,000

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PAYMENTS

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Payments	
Conservation Programs	\$ 80,500
Sugar Act Payments to Beet Growers	2,500
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation	
Wheat Crop Insurance Payments	9,300
Total	\$ 92,300

GRAND TOTAL ALL PLANT CROPS \$ 85,129,800

APIARY PRODUCTS

Honey	2,495,000 pounds	\$ 349,000
Beeswax	42,000 "	21,000
Pollination Services	4,000 colonies	20,000
Total		\$ 390,000

TOTAL PLANT CROPS AND APIARY PRODUCTS 85,519,800

S U M M A R Y
1951-1955 Inclusive

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
Citrus Fruits	\$32,031,000	\$ 28,678,000	\$ 26,574,000	\$ 19,679,000	\$ 17,308,000
Other Fruits & Nuts	2,749,500	3,215,000	1,863,300	2,242,000	2,436,900
Berries	1,361,300	1,845,000	1,912,400	1,540,000	2,678,800
Field Crops	15,996,800	18,804,800	13,633,300	12,722,900	12,198,200
Vegetables	23,109,000	22,146,600	20,179,100	17,949,800	18,915,600
Nursery Stock & Cut Flowers	31,500,000	31,000,000	28,500,000	30,500,000	31,500,000
U.S.D.A. Payments	595,400	256,600	248,700	121,500	92,300
<u>Total Plant Crops</u>	<u>107,343,000</u>	<u>105,946,000</u>	<u>92,910,800</u>	<u>84,755,200</u>	<u>85,129,800</u>
Apiary Products	227,000	448,000	140,000	285,000	390,000
<u>Total Plant Crops & Apiary Products</u>	<u>\$107,570,000</u>	<u>\$106,394,000</u>	<u>\$93,050,800</u>	<u>\$85,040,200</u>	<u>\$85,519,800</u>