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# CROP REPORT

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY



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REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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OFFICE OF  
AGRICULTURAL  
COMMISSIONER

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CROP REPORT FOR 1956  
(Exclusive of Livestock Production)

Plant crops brought Los Angeles County farmers \$86,755,500 in 1956 from 198,600 harvested acres, \$1,235,700 more than the return from 205,000 crop acres in 1955.

Favorable weather for most crops and better control of destructive pests were chiefly responsible for the good harvest. Losses from spotted alfalfa aphid, citrus red scale, corn earworm, and pear blight were reduced. More effective chemical control of weeds increased grain and hay yields. Loss of farm land to subdivision continued at about the same rate as before.

Citrus with 4,270 fewer acres than last year returned \$16,918,000 compared with \$17,308,000 in 1955. Valencia sizes were larger, the crop was bigger, and the price was better bringing an increase in value to \$6,600,000, about \$1,500,000 above 1955. Lemons dropped from \$7,800,000 to \$6,550,000 mostly due to a decrease in production caused by a severe hot spell in September 1955.

Despite higher prices avocado crop returns dropped to \$438,900 compared to \$927,500 the previous year because of a very light set of fruit on Fuerte trees.

Vegetable production from 20,910 crop acres had a total value of \$20,039,800, an increase of \$1,124,200 over 1955. 14 vegetables returned over \$500,000 each including celery worth \$5,544,000. Increased production of strawberries despite lower prices, brought \$2,970,000 compared to \$2,585,000 in 1955.

In the Antelope Valley favorable spring weather resulted in a good set of fruit on peach and pear trees. Prices were lower but increased production brought higher returns for both crops. Alfalfa hay production increased by 23,500 tons due to effective control of spotted alfalfa aphid.

Field crops returned \$11,887,000 slightly less than 1955 chiefly due to lower alfalfa hay prices. Wheat and barley totaled \$1,752,300 an increase of \$229,700.

Nursery stock, in continuous demand from new home builders, advanced in value to \$24,500,000, an increase of \$500,000 over the year before. Retail and wholesale nursery locations in the county total nearly 2,700.

The 1954 Federal Census of Agriculture report recently released lists Los Angeles County as third in the nation in value of farm products including livestock production.

MILLION DOLLAR CROPS

Nursery stock	\$24,500,000	Alfalfa hay	\$5,752,000	Carrots	\$1,350,000
Cut flowers	8,000,000	Celery	5,544,000	Sweet corn	1,125,000
Valencia oranges	6,600,000	Navel oranges	3,500,000	Irrig.pastures	1,100,000
Lemons	6,550,000	Strawberries	2,970,000	Green onions	1,089,000

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 statisticians 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  
March 18, 1957

PLANT CROP REPORT - LOS ANGELES COUNTY - 1956

CROP	BEARING ACRES	YIELD	UNIT	VALUE
<u>CITRUS FRUITS*</u>				
Oranges-Navel & Misc.	5,730	900,000	Boxes (pkd)	\$ 3,500,000
" Valencia	12,440	2,100,000	" "	6,600,000
Lemons	7,410	1,700,000	" "	6,550,000
Grapefruit	490	120,000	" "	264,000
Limes	30	60,000	Pounds	4,000
Total	26,100			\$16,918,000
<u>OTHER FRUITS &amp; NUTS</u>				
Almonds	2,240	280,000	Pounds	110,700
Apples	170	15,700	Boxes (4.5#)	39,200
Apricots	180	5,400	Lugs (2.5#)	9,200
Avocados**	2,610	154,000	Flats (1.3#)	438,900
Figs	180	54,000	" (6#)	40,500
Grapes	1,160	2,000	Tons	150,000
Olives	1,030	950	"	115,500
Peaches	730	225,000	Lugs (20#)	337,500
Pears	380	124,800	Boxes (50#)	444,900
Walnuts	4,890	5,000	cwt.	65,000
Misc. Fruits & Nuts	150			26,000
Total	13,720			\$ 1,777,400
<u>BERRIES</u>				
Bushberries	80	64,000	Tray (12 bskt)	192,000
Strawberries	600	1,800,000	"	2,970,000
Total	680			\$ 3,970,000
<u>FIELD CROPS</u>				
Alfalfa hay	42,700	236,700	Tons	5,752,000
" seed, certified	2,040	752,860	Pounds	263,500
" " , common***	(6,190)	2,340,000	"	561,600
" stubble****	(25,000)			205,000
Beans, dry-blackeye	3,300	50,000	Cwt	400,000
" " -garbanzo	2,200	35,000	"	315,000
" " -standard lima	1,800	22,900	"	240,000
Beets, sugar*****	50	1,000	Tons	9,500
Corn, field	2,600	118,600	Cwt	373,500
" , milo	1,400	43,400	"	123,700
" , silage	300	4,500	Tons	27,000
Cotton	190	247	Bales	48,400
Grain, barley	28,000	396,000	Cwt	953,600
" , oats	850	10,500	"	35,500
" , wheat*****	27,800	228,200	"	798,700
Grain hay	12,700	20,300	Tons	570,000
" straw*****	(4,000)	4,000	"	80,000
Irrigated pastures	10,000			1,100,000
Miscellaneous	200			30,000
Total	136,130			\$11,887,000

\* Crop year ending October 31, 1956

\*\* " " " September 30, 1956

\*\*\* Acreage not included in total acreage of field crops, included in 42,700 acres of alfalfa hay or 28,000 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	370	55,500	Crates(32#)	\$ 249,800
Beans, snap	600	105,000	" (70#)	735,000
" , green lima	200	20,000	" (80#)	90,000
Beets, table	350	140,000	" (3 doz.)	175,000
Broccoli	100	12,500	" (42#)	31,300
Cabbage	1,700	510,000	" (80#)	637,500
Carrots	1,000	900,000	Sacks (50#)	1,350,000
Cauliflower	900	495,000	Crates(12 head)	569,300
Celery	2,100	2,520,000	" (sturdee)	5,544,000
Chinese Food veg.	300			600,000
Corn, sweet	1,800	450,000	" (5 doz)	1,125,000
Cucumbers, table	400	240,000	Lugs (30#)	264,000
Endive	150	60,000	Crates(3 doz)	90,000
Greens, mustard & Misc.	600	240,000	Crates	360,000
Lettuce	500	350,000	" (3 " )	560,000
Melons, cantaloupes & Misc.	550	165,000	"	305,300
" , water	120	1,440	Tons	36,000
Onions, dry	550	478,000	Sacks (50#)	932,100
" , green	1,100	495,000	Crates(8 doz)	1,089,000
Parsnips	250	200,000	Lugs (26#)	420,000
Peppers, green	120	24,000	Crates(50#)	108,000
Potatoes, sweet	100	35,000	Lugs (32#)	84,000
" , white	400	108,000	Cwt	237,600
Pumpkins	150	1,500	Tons	37,500
Radishes	1,100	385,000	Crates(6 doz)	520,000
Rhubarb	150	180,000	Flats (20#)	306,000
Romaine	600	480,000	Crates(3 doz)	644,000
Spinach	900	360,000	" (4 doz)	576,000
Squash, Italian	400	160,000	Lugs (30#)	264,000
" , Summer	250	100,000	" "	175,000
" , Winter	1,000	10,000	Tons	250,000
Tomatoes, canning	400	6,400	"	150,400
" , market	400	320,000	Lugs (32#)	464,000
Turnips	800	400,000	Crates(2½ doz)	560,000
Misc.vegetables	500			500,000
Total	20,910			\$20,039,800

NURSERY STOCK AND CUT FLOWERS

Cut flowers	1,100			8,000,000
Nursery Stock				24,500,000
Total				\$32,500,000

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PAYMENTS

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Payments		
Conservation Programs		\$ 65,000
Sugar Act Payments to Beet Growers		2,160
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation		
Wheat Crop Insurance Payments		4,300
Soil Bank		
Acreage Reserve Payments		<u>8,640</u>
Total		\$ 80,100
GRAND TOTAL ALL PLANT CROPS		\$86,364,300
<u>APIARY PRODUCTS</u>		
Honey	2,475,000 pounds	347,000
Beeswax	41,300 "	24,000
Pollination Services	4,000 colonies	<u>20,200</u>
		\$ 391,200
TOTAL PLANT CROPS AND APIARY PRODUCTS		\$86,755,500

S U M M A R Y  
1952-1956 Inclusive

	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
Citrus Fruits	\$28,678,000	\$26,574,000	\$19,679,000	\$17,308,000	\$16,918,000
Other Fruits & Nuts	3,215,000	1,863,300	2,242,000	2,436,900	1,777,400
Berries	1,845,000	1,912,400	1,540,000	2,678,800	3,162,000
Field Crops	18,804,800	13,633,300	12,722,900	12,198,200	11,887,000
Vegetables	22,146,600	20,179,100	17,949,800	18,915,600	20,039,800
Nursery Stock & Cut Flowers	31,000,000	28,500,000	30,500,000	31,500,000	32,500,000
U.S.D.A. Payments	<u>256,600</u>	<u>248,700</u>	<u>121,500</u>	<u>92,300</u>	<u>80,100</u>
Total Plant Crops	105,946,000	92,910,800	84,755,200	85,129,800	86,364,300
Apiary Products	<u>448,000</u>	<u>140,000</u>	<u>285,000</u>	<u>390,000</u>	<u>391,200</u>
<u>Total Plant Crops &amp; Apiary Products</u>	\$106,394,000	\$93,050,800	\$85,040,200	\$85,519,800	\$86,755,500

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March 14, 1957