

CROP REPORT

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1963



AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CROP REPORT FOR 1963
(Exclusive of Livestock Production)

Plant crop production in Los Angeles County for 1963 totaled \$83,712,500, an increase of \$4,468,900 over the previous year and the highest reached since 1959 when plant crops returned \$86,217,800. Acres harvested declined from 130,390 in 1962 to 128,600 in 1963. Increased production this year on this somewhat reduced acreage indicates that in the case of many crops higher yields per acre continue to be realized.

Important crops returning one million dollars or more included alfalfa hay, nursery stock, cut flowers, lemons, navel oranges, strawberries, valencia oranges, carrots, green onions, celery, and sweet corn.

Citrus: (1963 - 9,460 acres, \$10,200,000; 1962 - 10,384 acres, \$9,550,000) Navel and valencia orange production was good and prices high in 1963 despite some loss and downgrading of fruit due to a winter freeze. Lower lemon yields were offset by higher prices with a smaller percentage of the crop going to by-products.

Other fruits and nuts: (1963 - 6,920 acres, \$6,573,600; 1962 - 6,932 acres, \$5,613,500) Although Antelope Valley pear production was down 25% over the previous year, the highest returns on record were posted for this crop due in large part to the good appearance and quality of fruit from this area. Almonds produced a fine crop, coming back sharply from the low, freeze-affected 1962 crop. Strawberries returned a record \$4,450,000, as the effect of favorable growing conditions, steady demand, and high prices were felt.

Field crops: (1963 - 96,350 acres, \$14,209,500; 1962 - 96,905 acres, \$11,050,800) Increased acreage in Antelope Valley, high yields, and good prices pushed alfalfa hay returns to \$9,450,000, an all time record. The average yield is now approaching 7 tons per acre. Sugar beet production increased sharply, helped by favorable weather, improved cultural techniques, and fewer insect and disease problems. In general, other dry-farmed grain and hay crops were near normal as timely spring rains offset the effect of below average seasonal rainfall.

Vegetables: (1963 - 13,440 acres, \$15,317,200; 1962, 13,660 acres, \$14,163,800) High carrot yields, averaging 25 tons per acre on increased acreage, coupled with excellent prices pushed carrot values close to the two million dollar mark. Better yields and good prices also led sweet corn to increased returns of \$1,400,000.

Nursery stock and cut flowers: (1963 - \$37,075,000; 1962 - \$38,232,000) Los Angeles County appears to have retained its position as the nation's number one producer of horticultural specialty crops. The trend continues toward intensified use of available acreage and glasshouse space for specialized flower crops. Dichondra seed returns were high as a strong demand more than doubled wholesale prices.

Apiary products: (1963 - \$337,200; 1962 - \$633,500) The honey crop decreased sharply as the effect of light seasonal rainfall was felt on the wild nectar sources. Only 1,853,000 pounds of honey and 27,800 pounds of beeswax were produced.

Value figures reflect the gross valuation of plant crops as they are sold within the county and are based on delivery price at market or FOB price on commodities shipped out of state. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture payments to farmers of \$545,000 are not included. Price, acreage and yield averages have been checked with the State statistician's office and prices compared with Federal-State Market quotations. District agricultural inspectors, marketing program committees, the Farm Advisor's office, farmers, grower's associations, and produce dealers are consulted before the determination of final figures. Assistance received from the many persons and agencies interviewed is acknowledged and appreciated.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

FRUIT & NUT CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE 1963

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
<u>CITRUS FRUITS</u>							
Oranges	1963	1,872	7.1	13,300	Ton	\$203.00	\$ 2,700,000
Navel & Misc.	1962	2,067	6.2	12,800	"	195.30	2,500,000
Oranges	1963	3,787	6.1	23,100	"	134.20	3,100,000
Valencia	1962	4,115	5.3	21,850	"	135.00	2,950,000
Lemons	1963	3,600	8.1	29,100	"	143.00	4,160,000
	1962	3,998	9.0	36,100	"	108.00	3,900,000
Grapefruit	1963	201	8.8	1,770	"	135.60	240,000
	1962	204	10.3	2,100	"	95.24	200,000
Total	1963	9,460					\$10,200,000
	1962	10,384					9,550,000
<u>OTHER FRUITS & NUTS</u>							
Almonds	1963	1,587	2.4	355	"	640.00	228,000
	1962	1,587	.03	42.5	"	770.60	32,800
Apples	1963	63	1.03	65.2	"	69.00	4,500
	1962	55	3.9	216	"	110.85	24,000
Apricots	1963	17	1.5	25	"	140.00	3,500
	1962	17	1.5	25	"	120.00	3,000
Avocados	1963	2,078	1.5	3,120	"	241.00	752,000
	1962	2,097	1.7	3,564	"	200.00	713,000
Cherries	1963	18	.86	15.5	"	340.00	5,300
	1962	20	.58	11.5	"	320.00	3,700
Figs	1963	66	.51	33.6	"	500.00	16,800
	1962	64	.54	34.6	"	534.70	18,500
Grapes	1963	124	2.5	310	"	95.00	29,500
	1962	124	2.7	330	"	100.00	33,000
Olives	1963	568	1.4	800	"	75.00	60,000
	1962	568	.07	40	"	85.00	3,400
Peaches	1963	439	3.8	1,670	"	173.90	290,000
Freestone	1962	423	4.2	1,724	"	183.80	316,000
Pears	1963	277	10.1	2,810	"	200.00	562,000
Bartlett	1962	278	13.6	3,780	"	129.15	488,200
Walnuts	1963	1,012	.29	300	"	440.00	132,000
	1962	1,092	.39	430	"	500.00	215,000
Misc. Fruits & Nuts	1963	71					40,000
	1962	67					42,000
Total	1963	6,320					\$ 2,123,600
	1962	6,382					1,893,500

FRUIT & NUT CROPS (Cont.)

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Production			Value	
			Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
<u>BERRIES</u>							
Strawberries	1963	600	16.5	9,900	Ton	449.50	\$ 4,450,000
	1962	550	15.4	8,470	"	439.20	3,720,000
TOTAL FRUIT & NUT CROPS							
	1963	16,380					\$16,773,600
	1962	17,316					15,163,500

FIELD CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE 1963

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production			Value	
			Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Barley	1963	24,000	.81	19,500	Ton	48.70	\$ 950,000
	1962	26,000	.81	21,000	"	47.00	987,000
Beans, dry edible							
Blackeye	1963	550	.54	300	"	190.00	57,000
	1962	300	.37	110	"	171.80	18,900
Garbanzo	1963	200	.33	66	"	240.00	15,800
	1962	350	.80	280	"	230.00	64,400
Lima	1963	720	.63	455	"	220.00	100,000
	1962	1,200	.47	560	"	210.00	117,600
Cotton Lint	1963	190	724 lb.	250	Bale	.30 lb.	42,000
	1962	210	750 lb.	315	"	.35 lb.	55,100
Cotton Seed	1963			109	Ton	47.00	5,100
	1962			136	"	53.00	7,200
Hay, alfalfa	1963	40,400	6.9	278,000	"	34.00	9,450,000
	1962	35,800	6.4	230,000	"	27.10	6,233,000
Hay, grain	1963	8,300	2.27	18,900	"	33.50	632,000
	1962	7,700	1.95	15,000	"	27.05	406,000
Oats	1963	200	1.5	300	"	50.00	15,000
	1962	260	1.12	290	"	53.45	15,500

FIELD CROPS (Cont.)

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production			Value	
			Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Pasture & range Irrigated	1963	4,500				\$175.00	\$ 790,000
	1962	5,200				150.00	780,000
Other	1963	200,000					540,000**
	1962	300,000					750,000**
Safflower	1963	100	0.5	50	Ton	72.00	3,600
	1962	635	0.5	325	"	90.00	29,300
Silage Sorghum	1963	800	30	24,000	"	6.50	156,000
	1962	600	35	21,000	"	5.00	105,000
Sorghum grain	1963	140	2.3	320	"	47.00	15,000
	1962	400	1.90	760	"	46.05	35,000
Straw	1963			2,000	"	25.00	50,000
	1962			6,000	"	15.00	90,000
Sugar beets***	1963	2,150	28.3	60,940	"	14.10	859,000
	1962	2,150	14.7	31,500	"	15.50	488,300
Wheat	1963	14,100	.39	5,550	"	70.25	390,000
	1962	16,100	.48	7,690	"	73.43	564,700
Total	1963	296,350					\$14,070,500
	1962	396,905					10,747,000

Acreage, production
& value of
Seed Crops

Alfalfa	1963	1,800***	275	495,000	Lb.	.28	\$ 139,000
	1962	2,650***	385	1,019,300	"	.297	303,800

*Amount shown for 1963 includes \$250,000 paid for sheep and cattle grazing on alfalfa and barley stubble; 1962 amount includes about \$300,000 for such grazing.

**Does not include estimated \$140,000 Sugar Act payments for 1963; includes estimated \$72,000 Sugar Act payments for 1962.

***Included in harvested acreage shown for alfalfa hay.

VEGETABLE CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE 1963

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
Asparagus	1963	35	1.6	56	Ton	\$280.30	\$ 15,700
	1962	35	1.6	56	"	264.29	14,800
Beans, snap	1963	175	5.9	1,040	"	243.00	253,000
	1962	150	5.6	840	"	250.00	210,000
Beets, table	1963	300	11.8	3,544	"	66.65	236,000
	1962	300	12.4	3,712	"	66.81	248,000
Cabbage	1963	900	13.7	12,348	"	56.30	695,000
	1962	925	14.0	12,960	"	68.75	891,000
Carrots	1963	975	25.0	24,375	"	80.00	1,950,000
	1962	900	20.0	18,000	"	77.22	1,390,000
Cauliflower	1963	400	12.5	5,000	"	66.00	330,000
	1962	425	12.4	5,265	"	66.65	351,000
Celery	1963	400	34.5	13,800	"	83.30	1,150,000
	1962	400	30.0	12,000	"	121.65	1,460,000
Chinese Food Veg.	1963	150					1,480,000
	1962	200					1,157,000
Corn, sweet	1963	2,350	5.6	13,200	"	106.05	1,400,000
	1962	2,250	5.2	11,638	"	93.65	1,090,000
Cucumbers	1963	100	7.2	720	"	109.45	78,800
	1962	160	6.3	1,005	"	93.75	94,200
Lettuce, leaf	1963	600	13.5	8,100	"	83.35	675,000
	1962	700	12.7	8,925	"	83.30	743,800
Melons Cantaloupe	1963	230	9.7	2,233	"	59.10	132,000
	1962	250	8.7	2,175	"	51.85	112,800
Casaba & others	1963	130	12.6	1,640	"	34.60	56,700
	1962	50	7.2	360	"	48.61	17,500
Watermelon	1963	310	13.7	4,250	"	32.25	137,000
	1962	60	12.5	750	"	32.80	24,600
Mushrooms	1963			580	"	1,000.00	580,000
	1962			650	"	900.00	585,000
Mustard & other greens	1963	1,000	10.1	10,100	"	71.30	720,000
	1962	900	9.0	8,100	"	62.20	504,000

VEGETABLE CROPS (Cont.)

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
Onions, dry	1963	400	20.6	8,250	Ton.	\$ 80.00	660,000
	1962	290	21.7	6,300	"	48.00	302,800
Onions, green	1963	730	16	11,630	"	91.60	1,070,000
	1962	750	16	12,000	"	90.00	1,080,000
Peppers	1963	60	6.2	375	"	200.00	75,000
	1962	50	5.6	280	"	180.70	50,600
Potatoes	1963	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1962	440	13.2	5,830	"	43.40	253,000
Pumpkins	1963	200	9.0	1,800	"	35.00	63,000
	1962	200	8.0	1,600	"	30.00	48,000
Radishes	1963	1,200	7.5	9,000	"	92.00	828,000
	1962	1,300	7.9	10,235	"	88.90	910,000
Rhubarb	1963	150	5.4	810	"	150.00	122,000
	1962	150	5.5	825	"	140.00	115,500
Romaine	1963	200	13.5	2,700	"	93.35	252,000
	1962	200	12.7	2,550	"	83.30	212,500
Spinach	1963	300	9.0	2,700	"	157.75	426,000
	1962	300	9.0	2,700	"	133.30	360,000
Squash Italian & summer	1963	300	4.8	1,440	"	158.35	228,000
	1962	350	5.4	1,890	"	145.50	275,000
Winter	1963	370	9.0	3,330	"	50.00	166,000
	1962	450	9.0	4,050	"	55.00	222,700
Tomatoes	1963	275	12.1	3,332	"	131.45	438,000
	1962	250	13.2	3,300	"	127.25	420,000
Turnips	1963	700	10.7	7,490	"	86.80	650,000
	1962	725	9.5	6,887	"	97.20	670,000
Miscellaneous	1963	500	—	—	—	—	450,000
	1962	500	—	—	—	—	350,000
TOTAL	1963	13,440	—	—	—	—	\$15,317,200
	1962	13,660	—	—	—	—	14,163,800

NURSERY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Production Area		Quantity Sold by Producers	Unit	Value	
		House Acres	Field Acres			Per Unit	Total
<u>Nursery Crops</u>							
Deciduous fruit & nut trees	1963		15	180,000	Plant	\$.75	\$ 135,000
	1962		18	225,000	"	.75	170,000
Vegetable plants - greenhouse grown	1963	12		1,430,000	Flats	.80	1,143,000
	1962	13		1,500,000	"	.82	1,225,000
Ornamental trees & shrubs	1963		1,100				19,850,000
	1962		1,150				22,020,000
Bedding plants & ground cover	1963		80	1,260,000	Flats	2.10	2,646,000
	1962		73	1,290,000	"	2.31	2,975,000
Indoor decorative plants	1963	55					3,450,000
	1962	35					2,375,000
Cactus & succulents	1963		40				800,000
	1962		36				720,000
Bulbs, cuttings, roots, dichondra seed, etc.	1963		528				2,136,000
	1962		535				1,635,000
Total	1963	67	1,763				\$30,160,000
	1962	48	1,812				31,120,000
<u>Cut Flowers & Decoratives</u>							
Carnations	1963	60		45,000,000	Bloom	.052	2,340,000
	1962	70		56,000,000	"	.045	2,520,000
Chrysanthemums Standard & disbuds	1963	40		6,000,000	"	.23	1,380,000
	1962	34		5,248,000	"	.25	1,312,000
Pompeii	1963	33	80	350,000	Bunch	1.80	630,000
	1962		120	360,000	"	1.50	540,000
Gladiolus	1963		5	18,000	Doz.	1.25	23,000
	1962		8	28,000	"	1.20	33,000
Roses	1963	7		4,480,000	Bloom	.064	286,000
	1962	6		4,255,000	"	.065	275,000
Miscellaneous (such as orchids, daisies, stocks & about 20 other varieties)	1963		375				2,256,000
	1962		412				2,432,000
TOTAL	1963	140	460				\$ 6,915,000
	1962	110	540				7,112,000

GRAND TOTAL ALL PLANT CROPS

\$83,375,300

APIARY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Production		Value	
		Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Honey	1963	1,853,000	Lb.	\$.15	\$ 278,000
	1962	3,430,000	"	.15	514,500
Beeswax	1963	27,800	"	.44	12,200
	1962	57,200	"	.44	25,200
Pollination	1963	10,450	Colony	4.50	47,000
	1962	21,500	"	4.35	93,800
Total	1963				\$ 337,200
	1962				633,500
TOTAL PLANT CROPS AND APIARY PRODUCTS					\$83,712,500

S U M M A R Y
1959-1963, Inclusive

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>
Citrus Fruits	\$13,028,000	\$10,300,000	\$ 9,125,000	\$ 9,550,000	\$10,200,000
Other Fruits & Nuts	2,304,100	2,215,400	1,756,600	1,893,500	2,123,600
Berries	3,236,000	3,471,000	3,625,000	3,720,000	4,450,000
Field Crops	11,349,300	9,761,600	7,901,100	11,050,800	14,209,500
Vegetables	18,297,000	15,451,300	13,581,200	14,163,800	15,317,200
Nursery Stock	30,458,000	30,549,000	30,515,000	31,120,000	30,160,000
Cut Flowers	<u>7,478,800</u>	<u>7,261,000</u>	<u>6,800,000</u>	<u>7,112,000</u>	<u>6,915,000</u>
Total Plant Crops*	\$86,151,200	\$79,009,300	\$73,303,900	\$78,610,100	\$83,375,300
Apiary Products	<u>66,600</u>	<u>220,800</u>	<u>181,200</u>	<u>633,500</u>	<u>337,200</u>
Total Plant Crops & Apiary Products	\$86,217,800	\$79,230,100	\$73,485,100	\$79,243,600	\$83,712,500

*U.S. Department of Agriculture Payments deleted from these totals in order to conform to new statewide tabulation system for county crop reports.