



LOS ANGELES COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

CROP REPORT - 1968



LOS ANGELES COUNTY - 1968 CROP SUMMARY

(Exclusive of Livestock Production)

Faced by record nursery stock production, total gross receipts from plant crop production in Los Angeles County reached a total of \$71,295,000 in 1968 - down only slightly from the \$72,285,000 recorded a year ago. When this figure is combined with 1968 livestock production of \$86,171,000, Los Angeles County should again be included among the nation's twelve leading agricultural counties.

Ten crops returned one million dollars or more during the year. They were - nursery stock (\$31,340,000), alfalfa hay (\$6,901,000), cut flowers (\$5,500,000), strawberries (\$3,507,000), lemons (\$2,535,000), green onions (\$2,402,000), sweet corn (\$1,890,000), Chinese food vegetables (\$1,637,000), cooking greens (\$1,317,000), Navel oranges (\$1,050,000). Although Los Angeles County's "top ten" crop commodities accounted for about three-quarters of our gross plant crop income in 1968, some 65 other food crops are produced on a commercial scale.

It should be emphasized that these totals do not represent cash income to the producer. Prices received have, in fact, generally remained about the same while costs of production continue to rise steadily. Higher labor, taxes and equipment costs are the major factors in this financial squeeze.

Lower citrus crop yields in 1968 reflected the affect of adverse weather during the spring bloom period and reduced returns to \$4,294,000. Valencia orange production was particularly low as the result of the light set. These substantially lower yields were offset somewhat by higher prices in the case of navel oranges and lemons.

While periods of cool, rainy weather during the bloom period also lowered avocado yields to 25% of normal, most other fruit and nuts produced normal crops and as a group returned \$5,545,000. The recovery of peach and pear production for the disastrous 1967 crop year contributed to this higher total. A slight increase in strawberry acreage did not fully offset the effects of an early price break, a plant shortage of more desirable varieties and some unfavorable weather.

Field crops as a group returned \$11,349,000 during 1968. Except for alfalfa hay, production of other field crops was good and returns generally the same as the preceding year. While alfalfa hay yields were normal, total gross receipts were down because of a decline in acreage and in average price received per ton. The amount of rangeland acreage available increased as the result of favorable rainfall patterns. Lower prices also somewhat offset increases in sugar beet acreage and yields.

Harvest of vegetables in Los Angeles County realized a total of \$13,075,000 despite some reduction in acreage. Crops showing a decline in harvested acreage include - carrots, cauliflower, corn and tomatoes. Sweet corn and squash returns were also cut because of weather and pest problems. On the plus side, good yields and prices raised returns for radishes, cooking greens, Chinese food vegetables and green onions.

The value of nursery stock and cut flower production - \$36,840,000 - increased substantially in recovering from the previous year when ornamental plant production slacked as the result of a marked slowdown in construction. Demand during the year was also higher due to greater highway landscaping needs and growth in sales to out-of-state markets. Los Angeles County consequently will remain the nation's number one producer of horticultural specialty crops. While ornamental trees and shrubs led this recovery, increases were noted in production of bedding plants, ground covers, cut greens, Xmas trees, sodded turf, and cut carnations.

Some 24,300 colonies of bees produced \$192,000 in apiary products for our beekeepers in 1968 - about \$60,000 less than 1967. This reduction resulted chiefly from a poor nectar flow from native plants due to an unfavorable spring rainfall pattern.

U. S. Department of Agriculture payments amounted to \$299,500 and are not included in the total returns reported. Valuation figures are based on delivery price at the market or on FOB price for commodities shipped out of state. All prices have been compared with Federal-State Market News quotations.

Assistance received from the many individuals and agencies consulted is acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

RALPH W. LICHTY
Agricultural Commissioner

March 28, 1969

SUMMARY

1964-1968, Inclusive

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Citrus Fruits	\$ 9,700,000	\$ 7,280,000	\$ 6,974,000	\$ 5,326,000	\$ 4,294,000
Other Fruits	1,699,000	1,800,000	2,326,000	1,842,000	2,038,000
Berries	4,250,000	3,110,000	3,970,000	4,132,000	3,507,000
Field Crops	11,639,500	11,566,600	12,562,600	13,216,000	11,349,000
Vegetables	16,115,700	15,924,800	15,512,200	14,068,200	13,075,000
Nursery Stock	30,075,000	30,459,000	29,902,000	28,032,000	31,340,000
Cut Flowers	<u>6,896,000</u>	<u>6,282,000</u>	<u>5,389,000</u>	<u>5,417,600</u>	<u>5,500,000</u>
Total Plant Crops*	\$80,375,200	\$76,422,400	\$76,635,800	\$72,033,800	\$71,103,000
Apiary Products	<u>306,000</u>	<u>341,600</u>	<u>284,200</u>	<u>251,200</u>	<u>192,000</u>
Total Plant Crops* & Apiary Products	\$80,681,200	\$76,764,000	\$76,920,000	\$72,285,000	\$71,295,000

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

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

FRUIT & NUT CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE 1968

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
CITRUS FRUITS							
Oranges	1968	955	4.7	4,488	Ton	\$234.00	\$1,050,000
Navel & Misc.	1967	960	7.4	7,104	"	120.00	852,000
Oranges	1968	1,456	2.2	3,203	"	192.00	615,000
Valencia	1967	1,484	9.0	13,356	"	98.40	1,314,000
Lemons	1968	1,734	8.6	14,912	"	170.00	2,535,000
	1967	1,739	14.2	24,600	"	123.00	3,026,000
Grapefruit	1968	83	8.3	6,889	"	136.00	94,000
	1967	83	13.3	1,104	"	121.00	134,000
Total	1968	4,228					\$4,294,000
	1967	4,266					5,326,000
OTHER FRUITS & NUTS							
Almonds	1968	1,391	.279	388	"	640.00	248,000
	1967	1,386	.205	284	"	704.00	200,000
Apples	1968	24	4.0	96	"	131.25	13,000
	1967	25	1.2	30	"	160.00	4,800
Avocados	1968	1,241	.65	807	"	461.00	372,000
	1967	1,244	2.67	3,321	"	260.00	864,000
Cherries	1968	21	2.00	42.0	"	500.00	21,000
	1967	20	.83	16.6	"	395.00	6,600
Figs	1968	25	3.0	75.0	"	667.00	50,000
	1967	23	2.4	55.0	"	600.00	33,000
Grapes	1968	47	1.5	70.5	"	99.00	7,000
	1967	47	2.3	108.0	"	94.00	10,200
Olives	1968	38	1.0	38	"	302.00	11,500
	1967	500	2.0	1,000	"	250.00	250,000
Peaches	1968	320	5.4	1,728	"	250.00	432,000
Freestone	1967	325	2.6	845	"	240.00	203,000
Pears	1968	272	14.2	3,862	"	155.00	599,000
Bartlett	1967	265	1.33	353	"	289.00	102,000
Walnuts	1968	350	1.10	385	"	550.00	212,000
	1967	350	.57	200	"	600.00	120,000
Misc. Fruits & Nuts	1968	48					72,000
	1967	48					48,400
Total	1968	3,777					\$2,038,000
	1967	4,233					1,842,000

FRUIT & NUT CROPS (Cont.)

Crop	Year	Bearing Acreage	Production			Value	
			Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
<u>BERRIES</u>							
Strawberries	1968	525	16.7	8,768	Ton	\$400.00	\$ 3,507,000
	1967	520	17.2	8,944	"	462.00	4,132,000
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Total Fruit & Nut Crops	1968	8,530					\$ 9,839,000
	1967	9,019					11,300,000

FIELD CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE 1968

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production			Value	
			Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Total
Barley	1968	12,200	1.10	13,420	Ton	\$ 50.00	\$ 671,000
	1967	12,600	1.06	13,400	"	51.00	683,000
Carranza	1968	330	.40	132	"	240.00	31,700
	1967	600	.40	240	"	250.00	60,000
Lima	1968	475	.55	261	"	320.00	83,500
	1967	525	.60	315	"	359.00	113,000
Hay, alfalfa	1968	33,050	7.2	237,960	"	29.00	6,901,000
	1967	35,510	7.1	252,000	"	34.00	8,568,000
Hay, grain	1968	7,000	2.50	17,500	"	30.00	525,000
	1967	8,000	2.25	18,000	"	30.00	540,000
Pasture - Irrigated	1968	4,500				210.00	945,000
	1967	5,000				200.00	1,000,000
Range Land	1968	220,000					550,000
	1967	200,000					500,000

FIELD CROPS (Cont.)

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
Silage - Sorghum	1968	400	9.0	3,600	Ton	\$ 7.50	\$ 27,000
	1967	500	11.0	5,500	"	7.60	42,000
Sorghum grain	1968	70	1.6	112	"	47.00	5,300
	1967	270	3.6	970	"	22.60	22,000
Sugar beets*	1968	1,834	30.0	55,020	"	14.50	798,000
	1967	1,660	29.4	48,800	"	15.50	756,000
Wheat	1968	17,380	.41	7,126	"	52.00	371,000
	1967	18,750	.55	10,300	"	54.00	556,000
Misc. Field Crops**	1968						270,000
	1967						291,000
Total	1968	297,239					\$11,178,000
	1967	283,415					13,131,000

Acreage, production
& value of
Seed Crops

Alfalfa	1968	1,465***	334	489,310	lb.	.35	\$ 171,000
	1967	1,500***	167	250,500	"	.34	85,000

*Does not include estimated \$91,930 Sugar Act payments for 1968; or \$125,300 for 1967.

**Amount shown for 1968 includes \$230,000 paid for sheep and cattle grazing on alfalfa and barley stubble; 1967 amount includes \$250,000 for such grazing. Oats & straw also included in misc. figure.

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

VEGETABLE CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE 1968

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
Beets, table	1968	100	11.3	1,130	Ton	\$ 76.00	\$ 86,000
	1967	100	11.2	1,120	"	78.00	87,500
Cabbage	1968	500	11.25	5,650	"	90.00	509,000
	1967	500	16.0	8,000	"	75.00	600,000
Carrots	1968	250	30.0	7,500	"	72.00	540,000
	1967	650	20.0	13,000	"	80.00	1,040,000
Cauliflower	1968	75	14.0	1,050	"	69.00	72,000
	1967	150	15.0	2,250	"	72.00	162,000
Celery	1968	45	45.0	2,025	"	93.00	188,000
	1967	125	42.0	52,250	"	100.00	525,000
Chinese Food Veg.	1968	130	-	-		-	1,637,000
	1967	100	-	-		-	1,500,000
Corn, sweet	1968	2,700	5.00	13,500	"	140.00	1,890,000
	1967	2,850	5.25	15,000	"	140.00	2,100,000
Lettuce, leaf	1968	100	10.0	1,000	"	120.00	120,000
	1967	150	12.2	1,830	"	78.00	143,000
Melons -Cantaloupe	1968	155	11.0	1,705	"	96.00	164,000
	1967	200	11.0	2,200	"	90.00	200,000
-Watermelon	1968	135	8.0	1,080	"	45.00	49,000
	1967	210	12.4	2,600	"	33.00	86,000
Mushrooms	1968			800	"	1,000.00	800,000
	1967			891	"	1,010.00	900,000
Mustard & other greens	1968	900(R)	12.3	11,070	"	119.00	1,317,000
	1967	880(R)	11.1	9,768	"	107.00	1,045,000
Onions, dry	1968	350	23.7	8,295	"	70.00	581,000
	1967	300	22.5	6,750	"	92.00	621,000
Onions, green	1968	800	21.0	16,800	"	143.00	2,402,000
	1967	700	21.0	14,700	"	129.00	1,896,000
Pumpkin	1968	175	10.0	1,750	"	40.00	70,000
	1967	180	10.0	1,800	"	50.00	90,000
Radishes	1968	1,050	7.98	8,380	"	118.00	989,000
	1967	1,100	8.0	8,800	"	100.00	880,000

VEGETABLE CROPS (Cont.)

Crop	Year	Harvested Acreage	Production		Unit	Value	
			Per Acre	Total		Per Unit	Total
Rhubarb	1968	70	12.0	840	Ton	\$ 195.00	\$ 164,000
	1967	70	10.0	700	"	186.00	130,000
Squash, Summer	1968	90	5.0	450	"	260.00	117,000
	1967	125	5.3	660	"	200.00	132,000
Squash, Winter	1968	115	7.5	863	"	42.00	36,000
	1967	140	7.0	980	"	90.00	88,000
Tomatoes Mkt.	1968	310	12.0	3,720	"	130.00	484,000
	1967	450	13.5	6,075	"	115.00	699,000
Turnips	1968	300	12.0	3,600	"	100.00	360,000
	1967	400	12.0	4,800	"	87.50	420,000
Misc. Vegetables	1968	300					500,000
	1967	300					724,400(R)
Total	1968	8,650					\$13,075,000
	1967	9,750					14,068,200

(R) Revised listing

NURSERY PRODUCTS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE 1968

Item	Year	Production Area		Quantity Sold By Producers	Unit	Value	
		House Acres	Field Acres			Per Unit	Total
<u>Nursery Crops</u>							
Bedding Plants	1968		70	1,033,000	Flats	\$2.56	\$ 2,644,000
	1967		72	960,500	"	2.26	2,171,000
Cacti-Succulents	1968		12				300,000
	1967		20				416,000
Geranium cuttings	1968		159	12,000,000	Cuttings	.06	720,000
	1967		215	18,233,000	"	.058	1,058,000
Ground cover	1968		96	763,000	Flats	2.28	1,740,000
	1967		100	686,000	"	2.20	1,500,000
Lawn & sod	1968		110				472,000
	1967		110				396,000
Ornamental trees & shrubs	1968		1,330				19,600,000
	1967		1,326				16,973,000
Miscellaneous (Bulbs, Roots, Dichondra seed & Decid. Fruit Trees)	1968		46				89,000(R)
	1967		46				135,000(R)
Vegetable plants	1968	7		991,000	Flats	.95	941,000
	1967	10		1,072,000	"	.882	952,000
Indoor plants foliage	1968	12					2,346,000
	1967	12					2,040,000
Indoor potted flowering	1968	42					1,928,000
	1967	42					1,785,000
Orchid plants	1968	9					560,000
	1967	11					606,000
Total	1968	70	1,823				\$31,340,000
	1967	75	1,889				28,032,000

(R) Revised listing

CUT FLOWERS & DECORATIVES 1968

Item	Year	Production Area		Quantity Sold	Unit	Value	
		House Acres	Field Acres	By Producers		Per Unit	Total
Carnations	1968	50		28,750,000	Blooms	\$.0525	\$1,509,000
	1967	50		28,682,000	"	.050	1,435,000
Christmas trees	1968		100				175,000
	1967		80				150,000
Chrysanthemums -Stand. & Disbuds	1968	15		600,000	"	.22	132,000
	1967	21		2,940,000	"	.22	647,000
-Pompon	1968	45	85	305,000	Bundle	2.60	793,000
	1967	45	105	349,000	"	2.50	872,000
Orchids, cut all varieties	1968	25					1,052,000
	1967	25					1,029,000
Miscellaneous (Glads., Roses, Cut Greens & other cut flowers)	1968		340(R)				1,839,000
	1967		263(R)				1,284,600
Total	1968	135	525				\$ 5,500,000
	1967	141	448				5,417,600

(R) Revised listing

TOTAL ALL PLANT CROPS \$71,103,000

APIARY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Value	
		Total		Per Unit	Total
Honey	1968	972,000	Lbs.	\$.14	\$ 136,000
	1967	1,680,000	"	.12	201,700
Beeswax	1968	16,200	"	.70	11,300
	1967	28,000	"	.60	16,800
Pollination	1968	10,000	Colonies	4.50	45,000
	1967	6,500	"	5.00	32,500
Total	1968				\$ 192,000
	1967				251,000

GRAND TOTAL PLANT CROPS AND APIARY PRODUCTS \$71,295,000