California Grape Acreage Report, 2013 Summary

California's 2013 grape acreage totaled 878,000 acres. Of the total grape acreage, 820,000 were bearing while 58,000 were non-bearing. The wine-type grape acreage is estimated at 570,000 acres. Of the total acres, 528,000 were bearing and 45,000 were non-bearing. Table-type grape acreage totaled 105,000 acres with 96,000 bearing and 9,000 non-bearing. Acreage of raisin-type grapes totaled 203,000 acres, of which 200,000 were bearing and 3,000 were non-bearing.

The leading wine-type varieties continued to be Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon. Flame Seedless was the leading table-type grape variety. Thompson Seedless continued to be the leading raisin-type variety and was utilized for raisins, fresh market, concentrate, and wine.

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With perfect information, the estimated grape acreage and the detailed data would be the same. However, this will never be the case for the following reasons:

- A voluntary survey of approximately 8,500 grape growers is unlikely to ever attain 100 percent completeness.
- It is difficult to detect growers who are planting grapes for the first time.
- The detailed data reflects vine removals from about 7,000 acres during the past twelve months. Of this number, significant acreage was harvested in 2013 prior to being pulled out. As a result, harvested acreage removed in 2013 is included in the estimated acreage, but excluded from the detailed data.

PROCEDURES

The major source of the grape detailed data was a questionnaire mailed to all grape growers from our database. The mailing was made in late November 2013 to approximately 6,500 grape growers. The questionnaire contained previously reported crop, variety, and acreage information preprinted. Producers were asked to update the information with new plantings, removals, and any other corrections; new growers were mailed a blank questionnaire. Growers were given six weeks to respond by mail. A telephone follow-up was then undertaken. Field personnel personally visited large growers who did not respond by mail.

To arrive at the estimated grape acreage, the grape acreage data base was compared with data provided from the pesticide application data maintained by County Agricultural Commissioners and the Department of Pesticide Regulation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Several County Agricultural Commissioners provided a significant number of individual grower changes. We would particularly acknowledge the work of the Merced, Napa, and Sonoma county staff.

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