

Special Peach Forecast

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CALIFORNIA CLINGSTONE CROP UP SLIGHTLY

California Clingstone peach production for the 1977 season is forecast at 1,500.0 million pounds (750,000 tons), up slightly from last year. Production figures quoted above include peaches used or to be used for pickles, fresh shipment and on-farm use, in addition to those for canning. This forecast also includes any unsold fruit which may not be harvested.

The estimate is based on objective measurement data collected in the field, May 18 through June 23. Due to thinning, spraying, irrigation and other reasons about 75 percent of the randomly selected orchards are used in summarization in this forecast. The Crop Production report, released on August 11, will include the remaining objective measurement information.

The average set per tree, adjusted for undersize fruit is 1,368. This compares with 1,450 a year ago, and is again one of the largest sets recorded in the Objective Measurement Survey. Reference date size is slightly above average and projects to good harvest size. Fruit is sizing rapidly and the median harvest date is about the same as in recent years.
