

CLINGSTONE PEACHES

CALIFORNIA



Economics, Statistics, &
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CALIFORNIA CLINGSTONE CROP HITS 20-YEAR LOW

Production of Clingstone peaches in California is expected to total 1.15 billion pounds (522 thousand metric tons). This is 24 percent less than last season's large crop, 23 percent under the 1976 level, and the smallest crop since 1958. The estimate includes peaches for all uses, although the bulk of the Clingstone crop is canned, averaging 86 percent of the total each of the last three seasons.

The average set per tree, adjusted for undersize fruit, is 1,155 compared with 1,368 in 1977 and 1,450 for 1976. The reference date size of 36.3 millimeters indicates an in-box harvest size of 70.6 millimeters. The 1977 harvest size was 68.3 millimeters and 68.0 for 1976.

The larger anticipated fruit sizes this season will be more than offset by the reduced set and much lower bearing acreage in the State. In addition, damage from wind scarring and disease is expected to take its toll.

This production estimate is based on actual tree and fruit counts, measurements, and observations taken May 19 through June 19 in 73 percent of the orchards randomly selected as a representative sample for the State. Data collected from those orchards is in this report and information on the other blocks in the total sample will appear in the August 10 Crop Production report.

