

Crop Production

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California

The 2014 Winter wheat production forecast is 480 thousand tons, down 41 percent from last year due to fewer acres planted by growers. Harvested acres are estimated at 200 thousand, resulting in a yield of 2.4 tons per acre. The wheat growing season in California began with a lack of significant precipitation. This held true until April, when much needed precipitation was received. To compensate some growers began their irrigation schedules earlier than usual. Dryland wheat was impacted the most by the lack of moisture, with stunting and maturation problems reported.

The 2014 Durum wheat production forecast is 173 thousand tons, down 14 percent from 2013. Harvested acres are estimated at 55 thousand, with a yield of 3.2 tons per acre. The dry beginning to the year had little impact on the Durum wheat crop since irrigation is the norm. The Durum wheat harvest was expected to begin in Southern California by mid-May.

U.S. Winter Wheat Production Down 9 Percent from 2013

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.40 billion bushels, down 9 percent from 2013. As of May 1, the United States yield is forecast at 43.1 bushels per acre, down 4.3 bushels from last year.

Hard Red Winter production, at 746 million bushels, is up slightly from a year ago. Soft Red Winter, at 447 million bushels, is down 21 percent from 2013. White Winter, at 209 million bushels, is down 7 percent from a year ago. Of the White Winter production, 10.9 million bushels are Hard White and 198 million bushels are Soft White.

Winter Wheat Area Harvested, Yield, and Production - California: 2013, and Forecasted May 1, 2014

State	Area harvested		Yield		Production	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	-- 1,000 acres --		-- bushels --		----- 1,000 bushels -----	
California	340	200	80.0	80.0	27,200	16,000
Tons (1,000).....			2.40	2.40	816	480

Durum Wheat Area Harvested, Yield, and Production - California: 2013, and Forecasted May 1, 2014

State	Area harvested		Yield		Production	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	1,000 acres		--- bushels --		----- 1,000 bushels -----	
California	67	55	100.0	105.0	6,700	5,775
Tons (1,000)...			3.00	3.15	201	173

USDA estimated total: California (tons)

653,000 tons