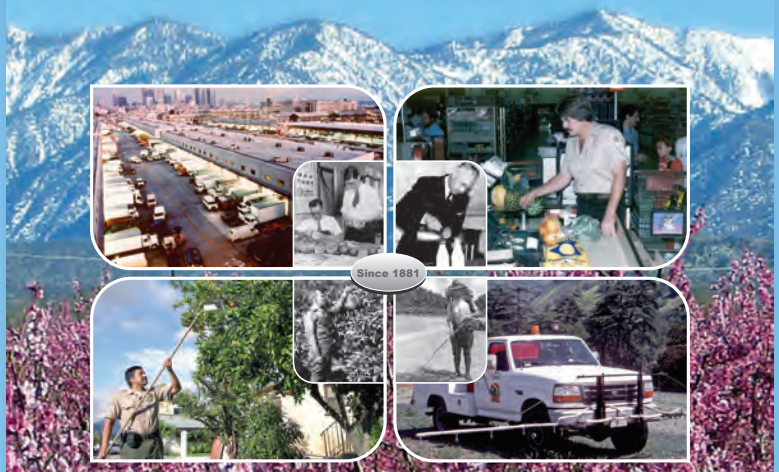
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Department of Agricultural Commissioner/
Weights & Measures

Protecting Consumers and the Environment



ENFORCING & ENSURING:

Produce Quality Standards

Marketplace Integrity

Pest Exclusion/Detection

Weed/Fire Hazard Abatement

AND MORE

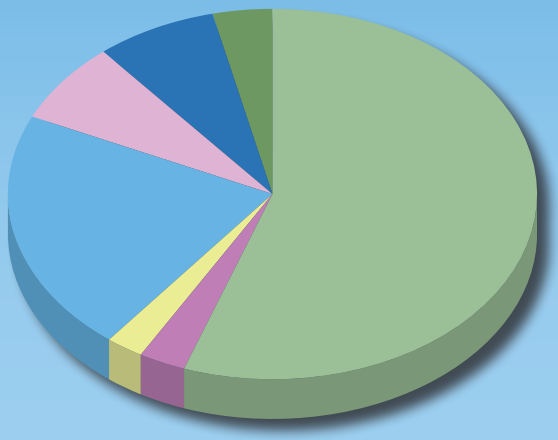
2019

Los Angeles County

Crop & Livestock Report

The seeds of tomorrow
are deep rooted in the past.

Old Spanish Proverb



2019 SUMMARY CHART		
	55.4%	NURSERY PRODUCTS
	2.9%	FLOWERS & FOLIAGE
	2.3%	FRUIT & NUT CROPS
	21.3%	VEGETABLE CROPS
	7.1%	FIELD CROPS
	7.4%	DAIRY & LIVESTOCK
	3.6%	APIARY PRODUCTS
	<.1%	FOREST PRODUCTS

SUMMARY

Commodity	2017	2018	2019
Nursery Products	$84,210,000	$92,804,000	**$98,440,000**
Flowers & Foliage	$7,500,000	$8,448,000	**$5,089,000**
Fruit & Nut Crops	$3,920,000	$4,847,000	**$4,102,000**
Vegetable Crops	$25,672,000	$35,799,000	**$37,770,300**
Field Crops	$12,820,000	$16,811,000	**$12,600,000**
Dairy & Livestock	$10,000,000	$8,558,000	**$13,130,000**
Apiary Products	$2,790,000	$3,583,000	**$6,479,000**
Forest Products	$4,970	$3,250	**$2,000**
TOTAL	**$146,916,970**	**$170,853,250**	**$177,612,300**

MILLION DOLLAR COMMODITIES

01	Woody Ornamentals	$72,478,000	06	Orchard Fruits	$2,756,000
02	Root Vegetables	$28,686,000	07	Indoor Plants, Foliage	$2,734,000
03	Dairy & Livestock	$13,130,000	08	Indoor Plants, Flowering	$2,150,000
04	Bedding Plants	$8,633,000	09	Ground Covers	$1,847,000
05	Honey	$5,845,000			

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy: they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom. - Marcel Proust

Special thanks go to Gary Mork, Agricultural Inspector for 48 years, who captured the "perfect photograph of blossom, mountain, and sky;" he knew when and where to capture the perfect agricultural moments; happy retirement Gary; Cindy Werner, whose artful eye has designed and edited crop reports since 1987 and finally designed her PINK crop report; Elvira Lugo, who has calculated all of the statistics correctly under Cindy Werner's critical eye; and for Christine Belden, patient overseer of the entire process. We also thank the staff of the Environmental Protection Bureau and that of the Pest Exclusion and Produce Quality Bureau, for photographs and gathering and compiling information for this report.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Department of
Agricultural Commissioner/
Weights and Measures

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Kurt E. Floren
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

Richard K. Iizuka
Chief Deputy

Karen Ross, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture

and

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles

Kathryn Barger, Chair – Fifth District
Hilda L. Solis – First District
Mark Ridley-Thomas – Second District
Sheila Kuehl – Third District
Janice Hahn – Fourth District

2019 CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORT

The total gross value of agricultural crops and commodities produced in Los Angeles County during 2019 was $177,612,300. Agricultural products, overall, realized a slight increase in sales by 4%. Nursery plant production continues to be the leading commodity at $98,440,000, an increase of 6% from last year.

Field crops dropped significantly below 2018 sales, primarily due to a number of growers ceasing production of those types of crops. As development continues to spread throughout the County, land for growing of agricultural commodities is lost. Due to confidentiality rules, individual crops within the category of field crops, including alfalfa hay and grain hay, are now summed in the general category of 'miscellaneous'. The two categories of greatest growth are Dairy & Livestock and Apiary Products, showing increases in sales of 53% and 82%, respectively. Organic farm interest continues to increase, with an additional 10 farms and 366 acres reported above those in the previous year.

In early 2019, we realized great losses in grape and avocado acreage and production resulting from the late-2018 Woolsey Fire in the Santa Monica mountains and greater Malibu area. The fire claimed over 96,000 acres in both Los Angeles and Ventura counties, destroying homes, vineyards, groves, and native vegetation.

I express my appreciation to each of the producers and individuals who provided the data required to produce this report. My sincere thanks are extended to the people of this Department, whose skills and commitment combine in performing their critical jobs in serving and protecting the agricultural community and in compiling these essential statistics.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt E. Floren
Agricultural Commissioner/
Director of Weights and Measures

Protecting Consumers and the Environment Since 1881
To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service

This annual publication presents statistical information on acreage, yield, and gross value of agricultural products produced in Los Angeles County. This is published in accordance with Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. The production values in this report represent gross values and do not reflect the cost of production, net income, or loss to producers.

NURSERY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Green House Square Feet	Field Acres	Total Value	Value Change
Woody Ornamentals	**2019**	**2,145,000**	**773.4**	**$72,487,000**	▲
	2018	2,609,000	956.2	$65,570,000	
Bedding Plants	**2019**	**525,968**	**31.8**	**$8,633,000**	▼
	2018	1,366,000	20.3	$15,130,000	
Ground Covers	**2019**	**191,000**	**6.96**	**$1,847,000**	▲
	2018	219,000	15.5	$1,600,000	
Miscellaneous*	**2019**	**765,000**	**175.4**	**$15,473,000**	▲
	2018	702,000	154.0	$8,960,000	
* Includes, cacti, christmas trees, fruit trees, succulents, turf, vegetable plants, and other miscellaneous nursery plants.					
TOTAL	**2019**	**3,626,968**	**987**	**$98,440,000**	▲
	2018	4,956,000	1,146	$92,804,000	

Nothing says PINK better than crape myrtles and camellias. Over the past 100 years, many nurseries have come and gone while others persevere and prosper. Family-owned San Gabriel Retail Nursery & Florist was established in 1923 by Fred and Mikayo Yoshimura. Frank and Asaye Nakamura's family grew flowers for the wholesale market in the 1920s and, then, started Blue Hills Retail Nursery in 1950. Monrovia Wholesale Nursery started here in 1929 and has since moved its growing grounds out of the county. Nuccio's Growers of Rare Camellias (flower inset) and Azaleas started in 1935 and still blooms in LA today. Presently, Moon Valley Nursery (trees below) is new to the county, but is growing trees all over the state. All the nurseries, both retail and wholesale, contribute to providing a colorful array of nursery stock, Los Angeles County's top crop!

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."

Chinese Proverb

FLOWERS & FOLIAGE

Item	Year	Green House Square Feet	Field Acres	Total Value	Value Change
Indoor Plants, Flowering	**2019**	**226,000**	**11.6**	**$2,150,000**	▲
	2018	430,000	18.5	$1,250,000	
Indoor Plants, Foliage	**2019**	**106,000**	**12.7**	**$2,734,000**	▼
	2018	266,000	16.6	$6,850,000	
Miscellaneous*	**2019**	**20,000**	**56.3**	**$205,000**	▼
	2018	21,200	60.8	$348,000	
* Includes dusty miller, lilacs, orchids, poinsettias, pom poms, poppies, statice, sunflowers, and other miscellaneous flowers.					
TOTAL	**2019**	**352,000**	**80.6**	**$5,089,000**	▼
	2018	717,200	95.9	$8,448,000	

Thanks to Albert Ecke, the poinsettia phenomenon began right here in Los Angeles County at his nursery in Eagle Rock in 1909. More than 100 years later, poinsettias are the best-selling potted plant (plants below) in the United States, with California as the #1 producer. And to think, the showy colored parts of poinsettias (flower inset) that most people think of as the flowers are actually colored bracts, which are modified leaves; the small yellow structures inside the bracts are the real flowers!

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope."

Lady Bird Johnson

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

Item	Year	Acreage	Production Per Acre	Production Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total Value	Value Change
Grapes*	**2019**	**44.0**	**0.71**	**31.2**	**Ton**	**$4,800**	**$40,000**	▼
	2018	221.8	0.84	187.6	Ton	$5,868	$1,101,000	
Orchard Fruits	**2019**	**160.2**	Includes apricots, cherries, grapefruit, lemons, mandarins, nectarines, oranges, peaches, pears, persimmons, plums, and pomegranates.				**$2,756,000**	▲
	2018	263.2					$2,721,000	
Miscellaneous**	**2019**	**129.2**	Includes avocados, dragon fruit, figs, guavas, olives, pistachios, strawberries, and other miscellaneous fruit and nut crops.				**$1,306,000**	▲
	2018	179.8					$661,000	
TOTAL	**2019**	**333.3**	* Less production for grapes due to Woolsey Fire. ** Strawberries moved to miscellaneous due to confidentiality rules which are used to maintain anonymity during this reporting period.				**$4,102,000**	▼
	2018	693.3					$4,874,000	

Spring does not get any more PINK than this. The high desert Antelope Valley is home to LA County's tree fruit crops, including this young stand of peaches (orchard below). The famous "Last Chance" peach was developed right here in the valley years ago. As the winters are colder than in the LA basin, peaches, nectarines, cherries, apples (flower inset), apricots, persimmons, and pears, needing periods of chill to later produce blooms and setting of fruit, are able to be grown here.

"Agriculture is now, as its always been, the basis of civilization."
– President Theodore Roosevelt

VEGETABLE CROPS

Item	Year	Acreage	Production Per Acre	Production Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total Value	Value Change
Corn	**2019**	**47.0**	**4.0**	**189.7**	**Ton**	**$658**	**$125,000**	▲
	2018	52.0	4.0	209.6	Ton	$571	$120,000	
Tomatoes	**2019**	**13.7**	**5.4**	**73.7**	**Ton**	**$1,926**	**$142,000**	▲
	2018	10.9	7.3	79.9	Ton	$1,464	$117,000	
Root Vegetables	**2019**	**4,924.9**	Includes beets, carrots, dry onions, potatoes, and other root vegetables.				**$28,686,000**	▲
	2018	3,371.9					$20,392,000	
Vine Crops	**2019**	**14.5**	Includes beans, cantaloupes, cucumbers, green beans, melons, pumpkins, squash, and watermelons.				**$63,300**	▼
	2018	21.2					$84,000	
Table Greens	**2019**	**17.5**	Includes lettuces, oriental specialties, sprouts, and unspecified vegetables.				**$489,000**	▲
	2018	2.9					$166,000	
Miscellaneous*	**2019**	**69.9**	Includes artichokes, bell peppers, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, chili peppers, eggplant, herbs, and other miscellaneous vegetables.				**$8,265,000**	▲
	2018	942.8					$5,738,000	
TOTAL*	**2019**	**5,087.5**	* Vegetable production up, due to organic production. Herbs moved to miscellaneous due to confidentiality rules which are used to maintain anonymity during this reporting period.				**$37,770,300**	▲
	2018	4,456.9					$35,799,000	

The Solanaceae, or nightshades, are a family of flowering plants that range from annual and perennial herbs to agricultural crops. Many members of the family contain potent alkaloids, and some are highly toxic, like nightshade, but many—including eggplant (flower inset), tomatoes, potatoes, bell peppers (field below) and chili peppers—are important food crops.

"Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you're a thousand miles from a cornfield."
– President Dwight D. Eisenhower

FIELD CROPS

Item	Year	Acreage	Production Per Acre	Production Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total Value	Value Change
Alfalfa Hay*	**2019**							
	2018	8,076	21.8	36,018	ton	$236	$14,880,000	
Grain Hay*	**2019**							
	2018	2,280	2.5	6,450	ton	$174	$1,123,000	
Rangeland*	**2019**							
	2018	4,495					$88,000	
Miscellaneous*	**2019**	**13,243**	Includes alfalfa hay, grain hay, irrigated pasture, rangeland, silage, stubble, sudan hay, and other types of hay.				**$12,600,000**	▲
	2018	746					$720,000	
* Due to the loss of growers of Field Crops, confidentiality rules are used to maintain anonymity during this reporting period.								
TOTAL**	**2019**	**13,243**	****2018 miscellaneous and grand total acreage numbers revised.**				**$12,600,000**	▼
	2018	**15,597**					$16,811,000	

"Alfalfa has always been a part of the California dairy industry. Since the early days of the dairy industry 100 years ago in the northern San Joaquin Valley to the big expansion in the Los Angeles Basin area in the post-war years (1940s and 1950s), alfalfa hay has always been an integral part of the industry. It can be argued the dairy industry would not have expanded as rapidly and to such a large size if alfalfa hay, in particular, was not there."

Dr. Peter Robinson, University of California - Davis

DAIRY & LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

Item	Year		Total Value	Value Change
Dairy & Livestock	**2019**	Includes beef cattle, dairy cattle, goats, hogs, pigs, milk, poultry, sheep, etc.	**$13,130,000**	▲
	2018		$8,558,000	

The high desert Antelope Valley area is home to the last active dairy in the county, as well as many farms growing varied crops, but it is most famous for its native California Poppy Crop! The 2019 superbloom, a rare desert botanical phenomenon in which an unusually high proportion of wildflowers germinate and blossom at roughly the same time, drew 1,000s of people from the LA basin into the valley!

APIARY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Value Per	Unit Total Value	Value Change
Honey	**2019**	**599,408**	**Lb.**	**$9.75**	**$5,845,000**	▲
	2018	269,139	Lb.	$10.00	$2,690,000	
Beeswax	**2019**	**31,602**	**Lb.**	**$7.20**	**$228,000**	▲
	2018	9,298	Lb.	$7.50	$72,000	
Miscellaneous	**2019**	Includes pollination fees, etc.			**$406,000**	▼
	2018				$821,000	
Total*	**2019**	* Totals do not add due to rounding.			**$6,479,000**	▲
	2018				$3,583,000	

While almonds (above) are not grown commercially in LA County anymore, local beehives travel to almond orchards (left) across the state. The superbloom year not only brought wildflowers and poppies to the desert floor, it greatly increased bloom production on all crops, but especially almonds, and the need of bees for pollination, which increases overall crop production.

"No bees, no honey."
Latin Proverb

FOREST PRODUCTS

Item	Year		Unit Total Value	Value Change
Firewood	**2019**	Figures obtained from USDA Forest Service, Angeles National Forest.	**$2,000**	▼
	2018		$3,250	

The Angeles National Forest is home to both pine and oak trees. Pine trees have no flowers or fruit, but instead have male and female cones; the female cones produce the seeds. Oak trees have pollen bearing catkins (right) and the "fruits" are acorns. Both trees provide essential food sources for forest wildlife.

The creation of a thousand forests are in one acorn." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORTING ORGANIC FARMING STATISTICS		
Year	**Farms**	**Acres**
2019	**55**	**1,567**
2018	45	1,201

California provides nearly 100% of the U.S. artichoke crop, with about 80% of that being grown in Monterey County; there, Castroville proclaims itself to be "The Artichoke Center of the World" and holds the annual Castroville Artichoke Festival.

Certified Farmers' Markets provide a profitable venue, especially for organic growers, to market their products directly to consumers across the state. Los Angeles County organic production acreage continues to increase year after year, growing many types of fruits and vegetables, including artichokes!

"The word 'vegetable' has no precise botanical meaning in reference to food plants, and we find that almost all parts of plants have been employed as vegetables –
roots (carrot & beet)
stems (Irish potato & asparagus)
leaves (spinach & lettuce)
leaf stalks (celery & swiss chard)
bracts (globe artichoke)
flower stalks (broccoli)
bud stalks (cauliflower)
fruits (tomato & squash)
seeds (beans)
and even
the petals (yucca and pumpkin)."

Charles B. Heiser, PhD, Botanist, Author

PEST EXCLUSION ACTIVITIES

The Entomology Laboratory staff identified 3,245 invertebrate samples. Among them, 613 were regulated quarantine pests. In addition, the Entomology Laboratory verified 8,751 adult Glassy-winged Sharpshooter specimens from traps and confirmed 6 live egg mass detections. The leaf photograph below shows an infestation of Willow gall mite, *Aculops tetanothrix,* on willow leaves, Salix sp.

The Plant Pathology Laboratory processed 1,823 samples; 28 regulated quarantine pests were detected. Plant samples increased by 16.6% from last year and 85% of these samples were comprised of roots and bulbs for nematode detection. The crape myrtle flower bud photograph below shows one of the most common diseases in Southern California, powdery mildew, which is caused by *Erysiphe lagerstroemiae.* It is prevalent on leaves and flowers, where there is less sunshine or air circulation.

Pest Exclusion staff rejected all or part of 1,293 shipments and issued 1,987 total Notices of Noncompliance for State and Federal quarantine code violations, of which 881 regarded marking requirements. Several significant A- and Q-rated pests were intercepted from multiple domestic and international shipments at parcel sort, nursery, and air terminal inspections. Our Federally-trained Agricultural Detector Dogs use their amazingly acute sense of smell to locate undeclared and possibly infested fruits and plant materials right through the wrappings of unmarked packages.

PEST DETECTION & ERADICATION ACTIVITIES

The Pest Detection Division placed 24,446 traps and detected a total of 27 different exotic fruit flies. The biological control program released 5.4 billion sterile Mediterranean fruit flies to control population growth. With 6 treatment areas and 1 quarantine area for 4 different insects, one can see how timely pest detection and prompt control and eradication responses are crucial to protecting our environment and our agriculture. And, yes, we even put traps on Catalina Island, such as the Japanese Beetle trap in the rose bed, just in case exotic insects decide they want a vacation from the mainland!

"COUNTLESS FLOWERS ARE IN ONE SEED"

California has been recording crop statistics since the 1880s. Information on crop acreage was just as important to the Real Estate, Land Development, and Banking Industries as it was to the farmer. The Horticultural Commissioner's staff "counted trees" and created a county report. Each county's statistics were then compiled into a California Crop Report, which is still produced today. In the report of California production in 1886, an unknown author wrote, "the peach and apricot trees are pink with a wealth of bloom. The meadows are a foot high with lush grasses studded with the lovely tints of myriads of flowers. The broad fields of grain are up ankle high with vigorous blades which give promise of an early and abundant harvest. Signs of prosperity multiply on every side; and proofs are ample that here is the best country in the world for the farmer to tickle a fruitful soil with the most absolute certainty of a glorious crop when the harvest comes. His market for all he raises is at his door, nearly all we produce being consumed on the spot." *1887 article from the State Board of Equalization*

We celebrate the California "superblooms" of agriculture in this crop report. A superbloom is a brief season of color occurring with an unusually wet rainy season coupled with other conditions that are "just right." Just as the desert blooms with the blessing of bountiful rain, all crops benefit. This, in turn, made it a superbloom year for crop blossoms and hard-working bees!

Our own "ACWM flower" (see cover) holds stories of the seeds of tomorrow (color photo) AND the past (black & white photo inset).

Happiness held is the seed.
Happiness shared is the flower.

A WHOLE LOT OF PRODUCE:
The Largest Wholesale Produce District in the US

The Los Angeles Wholesale Produce Market glows pink in the pre-dawn light; the sun barely clips the downtown high-rise buildings. When this photograph was featured on our 2000 crop report cover, more than 95,000 carload equivalents of produce were on the move to more than 32 different states and 20 foreign countries. The 1929 photograph inset shows Commissioner Harold J. Ryan inspecting fruit arriving at the Wholesale Produce Market from Medfly-infested Florida.

WEIGHING IN FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY:
Get Your Money's Worth

We have seen advancements from mechanical devices to highly sophisticated software-based weighing and measuring instruments. The "blossoming" Weights and Measures Inspector in the 1980s photograph matured into our very own Director of Weights & Measures, Kurt Floren! The 1930 photograph inset shows Sealer Morris M. Fuller inspecting milk bottles for accuracy of measure.

A BUG'S WORLD:
The Battle Never Ends

In 1880, the Department of Agriculture was developed just to fight one bug, *Phylloxera vastatrix*, a grape-louse that was killing grapevines throughout the world. Quarantines were soon established to help stop the spread of insects and diseases from one area of the world to another. Invasive pests still pose a potential devastating risk. The first medfly in the US was found in Florida in 1929, totally destroying the citrus crop. The medfly arrived in California in 1975. Eradication efforts succeeded, but the fight continues. Detection traps have been used in our County since 1938. The 1938 photograph inset shows the inspector using the same style McPhail trap we still use today!

WAR AGAINST THE WEEDS:
A Weed is Just a Plant Growing in the Wrong Place

Invasive weed infestations reduce the biological, agricultural, recreational, and economical value of the land, and have negative effects upon the environment by suppressing native plant species. This sophisticated pesticide spray rig can apply pesticides to large areas quickly, accurately, and safely. The 1938 photograph inset shows a worker hand-applying pesticide to kill puncture vine, a noxious weed that wreaked havoc in the growing fields and to rubber tires!