



2023 Crop ALAMEDA COUNTY Report

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WEIGHTS & MEASURES**



**ALAMEDA COUNTY
Community Development Agency**

URBAN AGRICULTURE IN ALAMEDA COUNTY: CULTIVATING COMMUNITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Alameda County exemplifies the transformative power of urban agriculture. Amidst its sprawling urban landscape, dominated by concrete and dense development, urban agriculture emerges as a beacon of sustainability and community connection. The county's diverse approaches to urban agriculture, including community gardens, indoor hydroponics, and backyard beekeeping, highlight its resilience and creativity in overcoming the challenges of city-based farming.

Urban agriculture contributes uniquely to the community's fabric. Community gardens, for example, provide residents with spaces to grow their own food, fostering connections among neighbors and promoting food equity. These gardens often serve as vital green spaces, offering a respite from the city's hustle and bustle. Diverse communities contribute a rich array of culturally significant crops, enhancing the variety of available produce and promoting cultural inclusivity. Workshops, volunteer opportunities, and youth programs linked to urban agriculture offer valuable educational experiences, empowering community members with knowledge and skills related to sustainable living. Many educational institutions across the county integrate gardens into their curriculum, providing students with hands-on learning experiences about sustainability, nutrition, and agriculture. By growing food locally, urban agriculture ensures that nutritious produce is accessible to those in need, strengthening food security by reducing reliance on distant supply chains.

Regardless of the benefits of urban agriculture, the industry confronts several key challenges. In densely populated areas, land is both expensive and limited. Non-profits often lease land or collaborate with city agencies to access usable spaces, and this introduces regulatory hurdles for urban farmers. The prior use of potential sites typical of urban areas seal off access to quality soil, requiring urban farms to either import soil or develop composting systems to ensure adequate growing conditions. Water, a crucial resource for agriculture, can be costly and unreliable in urban settings. Many urban farms operate as non-profits or community-based initiatives, which can pose financial limitations. Additionally, some residents view urban agriculture as a nuisance necessitating continuous community engagement and education to highlight its benefits and address concerns.

Urban agriculture in Alameda County stands as a testament to community resilience and innovation. Through diverse practices and collaborative efforts, it not only provides fresh, local food but also strengthens community ties, supports environmental sustainability, and enriches the urban landscape. Addressing the inherent challenges with creativity and persistence ensures that urban agriculture will continue to thrive and contribute to the county's vibrant future.



CalFresh Healthy Living, UC
Cooperative Extension, Hayward



CalFresh Healthy Living, UC
Cooperative Extension, Hayward



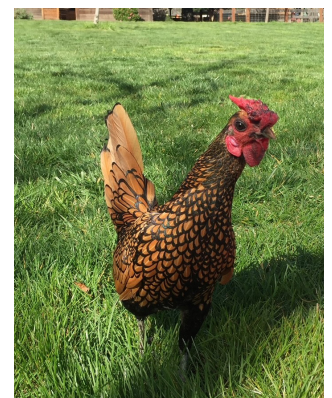
Alameda Point Collaborative
Farm2Market Farm, Alameda



Backyard passion fruit, Newark



LEAF, C.R. Stone Garden, Fremont



Ardenwood Historic Farm,
Fremont



ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
AGRICULTURE / WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT

Sandra Rivera
Agency Director

Cathy Roache
Deputy Director
Agricultural Commissioner/
Sealer of Weights and
Measures

224 West Winton Ave
Room 184

Hayward, California
94544-1215

phone
510.670.5232
fax
510.783.3928

www.acgov.org/cda

November 4, 2024

Karen Ross, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture
-and-
The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Alameda, California

In accordance with the provisions of Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, it is my pleasure to present the 2023 Alameda County Crop Report. This publication is presented annually and reports statistical information on acreage, yield and gross value of all agricultural products produced in Alameda County. The 2023 estimated total gross value of Alameda County's agricultural production was \$58,307,000. This figure represents a 7.3% increase from the 2022 estimated gross crop production value of \$54,318,000.

Fruit and Nut crops were once again the highest valued commodity group in Alameda County for 2023, with a total estimated value of \$30,007,000. Slight reductions in per acre production and value of white varieties were reported, but increased acres and average value reported for red varieties boosted winegrapes value overall. Other new permanent crops, planted in previous years, continue to mature into production and provide additional crop value annually in this category, namely olives, pistachios, and almonds.

Livestock remained our second most valued commodity group in 2023 with an estimated value of \$13,386,000, and Field Crops were our third highest valued commodity group in 2023 with an estimated value of \$8,395,000.

Because eastern county farmlands, which in previous years were high in production of hay, alfalfa and other field crops have now been converted to industrial hemp, beans, and almonds. These crop conversions have resulted in changes to our historic crop production trends with Field Crops increasing in value in 2023.

Nursery Products are our fourth valued crop estimated at \$5,618,000 for 2023.

Vegetable Crops are our fifth ranked commodity in 2023 estimated at \$361,000.

It is important to emphasize that the numbers in this report are gross values only and do not reflect costs related to production, harvesting, marketing or transportation. These production costs and other farm related services have a significant local economic benefit generally thought to be about three times gross production value.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Roache,
Agricultural Commissioner / Sealer of Weights and Measures





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Laurie Casebier	Mohamed Khair	Edmund Young
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Woodrow Creech	Julio Reyes	

Canine Inspection Teams-Agriculture and Standards Investigators
Lisa Sampson and Tank Sheila Stenger and Draco

Administrative Manager
Nicole Bouldin

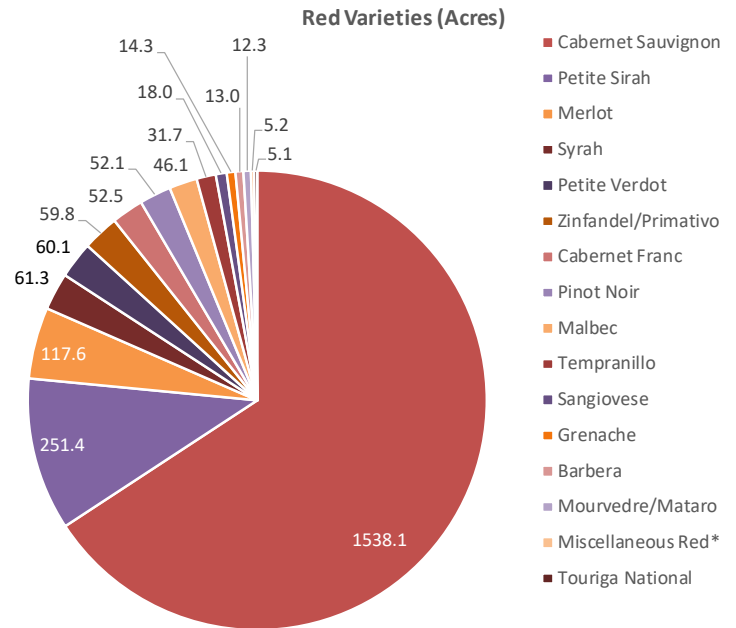
Administrative/Clerical Support
Sujatha Ganesasankar Clarice Walker Nicholas Yan

Cover Photo: Alameda Point Collaborative, Farm2Market Farm, Alameda
Drone Photos taken by Terry O'Connell

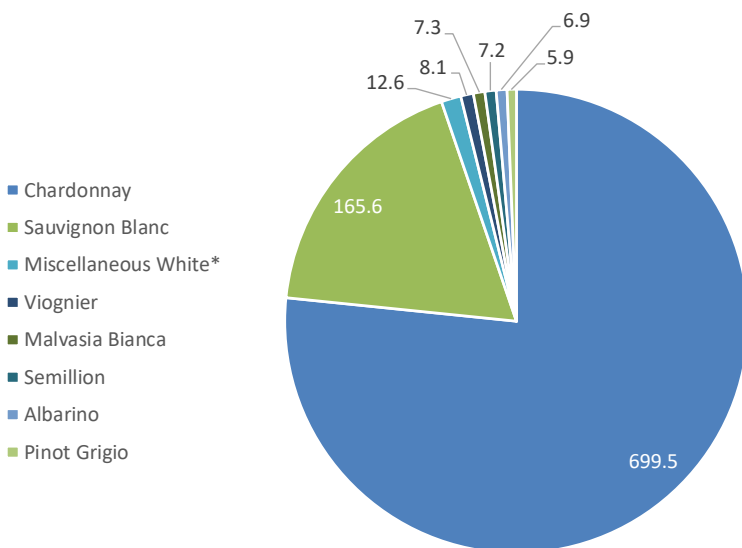
2023 ALAMEDA COUNTY WINEGRAPE VARIETIES

A total of 34 grape varieties were reported. 20 red varieties were reported, 15 with over 5 planted acres and 5 miscellaneous red varieties with fewer than 5 planted acres. 14 white varieties were reported, 7 of those with over 5 planted acres and 7 miscellaneous white varieties with under 5 planted acres.

Red Variety	Acres	Est. Tons
Cabernet Sauvignon	1538.1	6291.6
Petite Sirah	251.4	1118.2
Merlot	117.6	454.9
Syrah	61.3	258.0
Petite Verdot	60.1	213.4
Zinfandel/Primativo	59.8	294.2
Cabernet Franc	52.5	121.9
Pinot Noir	52.1	164.9
Malbec	46.1	205.2
Tempranillo	31.7	79.0
Sangiovese	18.0	83.7
Grenache	14.3	79.2
Barbera	13.0	59.2
Mourvedre/Mataro	12.3	37.2
Miscellaneous Red*	5.2	15.1
Touriga National	5.1	7.3



White Varieties (Acres)



White Variety	Acres	Est. Tons
Chardonnay	699.5	3771.0
Sauvignon Blanc	165.6	855.6
Miscellaneous White*	12.6	66.2
Viognier	8.1	25.5
Malvasai Bianca	7.3	65.14
Semillion	7.2	56.7
Albarino	6.9	24.47
Pinot Grigio	5.9	19.78

*Miscellaneous varieties are varieties with fewer than 5 reported acres. Miscellaneous Reds include: Counoise, Graciano, Souzao, Tinta Amarela, Tinta Cao. Miscellaneous Whites include: Gruner Veltliner, Granache Blanc, Muscat Blanc (Canelli), Muscat Orange, Pinot Blanc, Rousanne, Verdehlo.

PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE

FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL	TOTAL PER UNIT	TOTAL
Range & Pasture	2023	135,000	-	-	\$25/acre	\$3,375,000
	2022	135,000	-	-	\$28/acre	\$3,780,000
Miscellaneous	2023	2,750	Includes hay, beans, corn, industrial hemp, hops, etc.			\$5,560,000
	2022	2,960				\$4,149,000
Total	2023	138,000				\$8,935,000
	2022	138,000				\$7,929,000

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

ITEM	YEAR	# OF HEAD	TOTAL WEIGHT	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cattle & Calves	2023	13,200	102,600	Cwt	\$124.00	\$12,722,000
	2022	10,900	96,100	Cwt	\$112.14	\$10,805,000
Misc. Livestock & Poultry Products	2023	Includes sheep, goats, pigs, bee pollination & apiary products.				\$664,000
	2022				\$658,000	
Total	2023					\$13,386,000
	2022					\$11,463,000



Acta Non Verba, West Oakland Farm Park, Oakland



LEAF, C.R. Stone Garden, Fremont

PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE CONTINUED



Acta Non Verba, WOW Farm, Oakland

VEGETABLE CROPS			
CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	TOTAL
Miscellaneous Vegetables*	2023	147	\$361,000
	2022	155	\$345,000

*Includes broccoli, cabbage, corn, leaf lettuce, greens, pumpkins, tomatoes, squash, etc.

NURSERY PRODUCTS			
CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	TOTAL
Ornamental Trees & Shrubs	2023	58	\$4,605,000
	2022	53	\$4,963,000
Misc. Nursery Products*	2023	66	\$1,013,000
	2022	65	\$896,000
Total	2023	124	\$5,618,000
	2022	118	\$5,859,000

*Includes bedding plants, cut flowers, indoor decoratives, vegetable starts, Christmas trees, etc.

FRUIT & NUT CROPS						
CROP	YEAR	BEARING ACREAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL	TOTAL PER UNIT	TOTAL
Grapes, Wine Red	2023	2,338	4.1	9,586	\$1,684/ton	\$16,143,000
	2022	2,240	4.1	9,160	\$1,610/ton	\$14,750,000
Grapes, Wine White	2023	913	5.4	4,930	\$1,392/ton	\$6,863,000
	2022	944	5.8	5,500	\$1,330/ton	\$7,293,000
Miscellaneous Fruit & Nut	2023	1,951	Includes olives, walnuts, pistachios, pomegranates, almonds, avocados, etc.			\$7,001,000
	2022	1,920				\$6,675,000
Total	2023	5,202				\$30,007,000
	2022	4,540				\$28,722,000

Backyard and porch gardens thrive as practical methods for growing fresh herbs, vegetables, and fruits within residential areas. By incorporating edible plants into ornamental landscapes, residents can beautify their surroundings while also providing a source of fresh produce. Innovations such as hydroponics and vertical farming allow for year-round food production in indoor environments, maximizing space and resources. Urban beekeeping also plays a critical role, contributing to local pollination efforts and honey production, which in turn enhances biodiversity and supports the health of various plant species. Additionally, small livestock like chickens offer benefits such as fresh eggs, meat, and manure for composting, further enriching urban agricultural practices.



CalFresh Healthy Living, UC Cooperative Extension, Hayward



Beehive at Joe's Honey, Hayward

PROGRAM REPORTS

PEST EXCLUSION

Pest exclusion is the first line of defense to prevent non-native invasive pests and diseases detrimental to agriculture and the environment from entering the county. Incoming shipments of plant products and other high-risk articles are inspected daily at various shipping terminals to enforce quarantines intended to prevent the introduction of harmful pests.

TYPE OF SHIPMENT	SHIPMENTS INSPECTED	SHIPMENTS REJECTED	PESTS FOUND
Parcel Carrier	5613	403	82
Trucks	300	0	0
Household Goods	27	0	0
Nursery	2397	0	0
Airfreight	243	1	0

CANINE INSPECTION PROGRAM

TYPE OF SHIPMENT	SHIPMENTS REJECTED	ACTIONABLE PEST FINDS
Parcel Carrier	655	172

PEST MANAGEMENT & ERADICATION

Regulatory noxious weed control work is conducted in partnership with regional land management and partner organizations. Other weeds of concern in this region include Hoary Cresses, Rush Skeletonweed, White Horsenettle, Golden Thistle, Puna Grass and other species of concern as they are found.

WEEDS COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONTROL METHOD
Japanese Dodder	<i>Cuscuta japonica</i>	Chemical & Mechanical
Iberian Thistle	<i>Centaurea iberica</i>	
Purple Star Thistle	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	
Artichoke Thistle	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	
Stinkwort	<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i>	
Barb Goatgrass	<i>Aegilops triuncialis</i>	
Medusahead	<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>	
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	



LEAF, C.R. Stone Garden, Fremont

PROGRAM REPORTS CONTINUED

PEST DETECTION		
Pest Detection is the second line of defense against invasive non-native pests from becoming established in areas so vast that it is impossible to control or eradicate infestation. Insect traps are placed and monitored throughout the county to ensure early detection of exotic pests that are known to be detrimental to agriculture and the environment.		
TARGET PEST	INSECT HOSTS	TRAP SERVICINGS
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Fruit Trees	95,258
Mexican Fruit Fly	Fruit Trees	
Melon Fruit Fly	Vegetable Gardens	
Oriental Fruit Fly	Fruit Trees	
Miscellaneous Fruit Flies	Fruit Trees and Vegetables	
Spongy Moth	Shade Trees	
Japanese Beetle	Turf/Roses	
European Pine Shoot Moth	Pine Trees	
Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter	Landscape/Nursery Plants	10,788
Asian Citrus Psyllid	Citrus/Nursery Plants	6,065
European Grapevine Moth	Vineyards	500
In 2023 exotic insect pest finds included (2) Oriental fruit flies. (1) in Fremont, and (1) Oakland. The County Agriculture Department deployed a total of 7,146 traps to detect the presence of non-native insect pests and serviced the traps 112,611 times during the year.		



Backyard sunflowers, Newark

SUDDEN OAK DEATH	
Compliance Inspections	65
Sudden Oak Death Positives	0
Businesses Under Compliance Agreement	
Shipping Nurseries	5
Green Waste Facilities	16



Alameda Point Collaborative, Farm2Market Farm, Alameda

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

ORGANIC FARMING		
CROP	REGISTERED PRODUCERS	ESTIMATED ACREAGE
Miscellaneous*	12	123

*Includes grapes, seedlings, micro greens, avocados, cut flowers, and vegetables

URBAN FARMING		
TYPE	NUMBER	ESTIMATED ACREAGE
Community Gardens	36	52
School Gardens	269	92
Certified Farmers Markets	32	1050 vendors
Certified Producers	17	75



LEAF, C.R. Stone Garden, Fremont

COUNTY BIOLOGICAL CONTROL		
PEST	AGENTS	SCOPE OF PROGRAM
Yellow Star-Thistle <i>Centaurea Solstitialis</i>	Bud Weevil <i>Bangasternus orientalis</i>	Found in most areas of the County
	Seed-head Gall Fly <i>Urophora sirunaseva</i>	
	Seed-head Fly <i>Chaetorellia spp.</i>	
	Hairy Weevil <i>Eustenopus villosus</i>	
	Rust Fungus <i>Puccinia jaceae var. solstitialis</i>	



Backyard sunflowers, Newark



Niles Elementary School, Fremont



LEAF Center Community Garden, Fremont



Acta Non Verba, West Oakland Farm Park, Oakland

COMPARISON SUMMARY					
ITEM	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Field Crops	\$8,935,000	\$7,929,000	\$8,609,000	\$4,986,000	\$3,349,000
Vegetable Crops	\$361,000	\$345,000	\$317,600	\$316,400	\$896,000
Fruit & Nut Crops	\$30,007,000	\$28,722,000	\$28,482,000	\$21,624,000	\$22,499,000
Nursery products	\$5,618,000	\$5,859,000	\$5,768,000	\$4,583,000	\$4,484,000
Livestock & Poultry	\$13,386,000	\$11,463,000	\$12,062,000	\$12,703,000	\$12,427,000
Total	\$58,307,000	\$54,318,000	\$55,239,000	\$43,895,000	\$43,655,000

GENERAL ALAMEDA COUNTY INFORMATION

County Seat.....Oakland
 County Population, 2023.....1,682,353
 Land Area (Square Miles).....739
 Water Area (Square Miles).....82
 Persons per Square Mile, 2023.....2,323

**Total Assessed Property
 (Local Roll 2022-2023)**
 \$386 Billion

Major Roads
 Interstate 80, Interstate 580, Interstate 680, Interstate 880,
 Highway 238, Highway 84,
 Highway 92, Highway 13

Elevation
 Sea level to 3,817 ft. at Rose Peak in the
 southern part of the County.

Average Climate

Mild winters and cool summers near the Bay. The eastern portion of the County is moderately warmer; high temperatures in the Livermore Amador Valley average 90°F in July.

14 Incorporated Cities

Alameda • Albany • Berkeley • Dublin •
 Emeryville • Fremont • Hayward • Livermore •
 Newark • Oakland • Piedmont •
 Pleasanton • San Leandro • Union City

6 Unincorporated Areas

Ashland • Castro Valley • Cherryland •
 Fairview • San Lorenzo • Sunol

Total Harvested Crop Acreage (2023)
 143,000



Acta Non Verba, WOW Farm, Oakland

Mission

To enrich the lives of Alameda County residents through visionary policies and accessible, responsive, and effective services

Vision

Alameda County is recognized as one of the best counties in which to live, work and do business.

Values

Integrity, honesty and respect fostering mutual trust.

Transparency and accountability achieved through open communications and involvement of diverse community voices.

Fiscal stewardship reflecting the responsible management of resources.

Customer service built on commitment, accessibility and responsiveness.

Excellence in performance based on strong leadership, teamwork and a willingness to take risks.

Diversity recognizing the unique qualities of every individual and his or her perspective.

Environmental stewardship to preserve, protect and restore our natural resources.

Social responsibility promoting self-sufficiency, economic independence and an interdependent system of care and support.

Compassion ensuring all people are treated with respect, dignity and fairness.