

## PEACHES IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Peach production in the county has for many years been an important segment of the tree fruit industry. During the past few years (see chart below) acres devoted to peaches have been reduced. This is due primarily to growers planting crops (almonds, row crops, walnuts, and grapes) which they felt had a greater return potential.

YEAR	ACRES OF PEACHES, S. J. COUNTY	
	<u>Bearing</u>	<u>Nonbearing</u>
1940	5,991	2,561
1950	7,630	943
1960	8,949	4,112
1970	7,841	953
1980	4,281	192
1982	3,369	163

Total state acreage followed the same general trend. Today the state has 33,488 bearing and about 1,300 acres of nonbearing canning peaches.

Peaches are produced in the Lodi, Lockeford, Linden, and Escalon areas of the county. While most production is marketed to canneries, additional outlets include freezers and the fresh market. Very little of the crop is dried. Fresh market production is being given renewed consideration by growers. In general, fruit for fresh market grown in the county has a disadvantage in the marketplace, primarily because the fruit matures too late to be early and too early to be late. Quality of the fresh product has been excellent. Perhaps with the proper selection of varieties, this market outlet can be profitable.

Peach production as a whole will tend to follow state trends. We will probably maintain an acreage of cling peaches; however, additional plantings will be dependent on how well returns compete with alternate crops. Peaches can be profitable.

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