

USDA report: 2014 grape, peach crops down

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Written by Business Journal Staff

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California's 2014 grape crop was down 12 percent from the previous year, according to a report issued Monday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

In its Pacific Region Fruit and Nut Review, NASS noted the 2014 grape crop in California developed ahead of the 2013 crop.

"Growers reported production was down for all three types of grapes" in 2014, according to the report.

"Hail during the bloom stage negatively impacted some vineyards [and] drought conditions were also reported as a concern by many growers," the report said.

According to the USDA, California accounted for 88 percent of the country's utilized grape production in 2014.

In the same report, the agency noted the 2014 California peach crop was down 5 percent from 2013 but still represented 74 percent of all U.S. peach production last year.

"Peach growers reported the drought situation remained a concern, however many of them were able to offset reduced irrigation district water deliveries by utilizing wells to pump groundwater," the report stated.

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