

PRODUCTION

It should be pointed out that a comparison of total acreage and merchantable production figures will, in most years, show very little correlation. This is due mainly to the fact that from the time of planting, a fig tree will require approximately 7 or 8 years before it can be considered as bearing.

Dried Fig Production in California reached its peak in 1947 when the merchantable tonnage totaled 30,550 and since that time there has been a continuous, although somewhat erratic downward trend. Between 1947 and 1956 merchantable production declined approximately 10,000 tons and the 1962-66 average (Table 3) shows a further decrease from the 1956 figure of approximately 3,700 tons. The 1967 merchantable production is now being estimated at less than 11,000 tons, a reduction of about 7,300 tons from the 1966 figure; the smallest tonnage since 1931. The principal reason for this past year's sharp reduction being adverse weather conditions during the caprification period required for the production of Calimyrna Figs. Merchantable production of this variety of fig, which has historically been of greater economic importance to growers than any of the other three commercial varieties, will be approximately 2,650 tons this year, down about 67% from 1966. Based on the previous 5 year average, 1967 Calimyrna production will be 60% below normal.

TABLE 3.—MERCHANTABLE DRIED FIG PRODUCTION, 1937 TO 1967 (TONS)

	Calimyrna	Adriatic	Kadota	Mission	Total
Crop year:					
1937.....	5,360	8,950	2,870	5,920	23,100
1938.....	5,672	7,893	3,207	3,412	20,184
1939.....	6,704	6,674	3,728	4,080	21,186
1940.....	5,528	9,432	4,056	4,984	24,000
1941.....	4,449	10,153	3,309	6,994	24,905
1942.....	5,500	9,050	2,250	6,000	22,800
1943.....	7,930	11,690	1,900	8,380	29,900
1944.....	7,838	9,770	2,111	7,611	27,330
1945.....	6,416	8,404	2,190	7,628	24,638
1946.....	8,568	8,297	2,770	8,045	27,680
1947.....	10,044	10,374	3,516	6,616	30,550
1948.....	7,708	8,339	2,360	4,912	23,319
1949.....	7,295	8,251	3,179	3,919	22,644
1950.....	5,169	7,612	3,015	4,711	20,507
1951.....	7,584	8,847	2,897	4,040	23,368
1952.....	8,288	6,709	2,547	3,595	21,139
1953.....	5,876	6,615	2,109	4,025	18,625
1954.....	7,377	6,792	3,290	3,422	20,881
1955.....	8,274	7,619	2,842	3,857	22,592
1956.....	7,341	6,606	2,825	3,687	20,459
1957.....	7,210	6,582	1,583	3,626	19,001
1958.....	6,818	6,195	2,367	3,462	18,842
1959.....	7,154	5,555	1,198	2,627	16,534
1960.....	5,100	6,165	1,218	3,382	15,865
1961.....	6,225	5,776	1,059	3,085	16,145
1962.....	7,025	6,408	1,595	3,674	18,702
1963.....	5,632	4,793	1,573	3,323	15,321
1964.....	6,515	5,595	1,500	3,195	16,805
1965.....	5,260	3,851	1,755	3,621	14,487
1966.....	7,848	5,842	1,570	3,085	18,345
1967 ¹	2,640	4,550	975	2,725	10,890
5 year averages:					
1937 to 1941.....	5,543	8,620	3,434	5,078	22,675
1942 to 1946.....	7,250	9,442	2,244	7,533	26,469
1947 to 1951.....	7,560	8,685	2,993	4,839	24,077
1952 to 1956.....	7,431	6,868	2,723	3,717	20,739
1957 to 1961.....	6,501	6,055	1,485	3,236	17,277
1962 to 1966.....	6,456	5,298	1,599	3,379	16,732

¹ Preliminary estimate.

Source: Official records of the dried fig advisory board.