

Santa Clara County



2017 Crop Report

Karen Ross, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture and



The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Santa Clara County

District 1 – Mike Wasserman

District 4 – Ken Yeager

District 2 – Cindy Chavez

District 5 – S. Joseph Simitian

District 3 – Dave Cortese

It is my pleasure to present the 2017 Santa Clara County Crop Report. The efforts of our agricultural industry are displayed as the acreage, yield and gross value of commodities produced in Santa Clara County. It is important to note that the values presented in this report are gross values and do not reflect net profits or losses to our agricultural producers.

The gross value of Santa Clara County's agricultural production for 2017 is \$316,524,000, an increase of 2% from the 2016 value of \$310,132,000.

The County's top crops for over ten years continue to be nursery crops (\$82,951,000) and mushrooms (\$74,659,000). Historically, bell peppers have been the third highest value crop and in 2017 it fell 3%, to number five with a value of \$13,264,000. In 2017, 21 different agricultural commodities grown in Santa Clara County exceeded \$1,000,000 in crop value.

The 2017 cherry crop experienced a stellar year. Conditions were perfect, and it was the best crop in years. The full 980 acres of mature cherry trees was harvested with the reported yield jumping 91% in 2017 for a total value of \$11,193,000.

In an era of decreasing farm lands, Santa Clara County's rich farming history continues to thrive. In this year's Crop Report, we place attention to our unique and industrious Asian Farming Community and the wide variety of Asian Vegetables they grow. They epitomize "local food" and the vast majority of their produce are consumed right here in the Bay Area.

I would like to express my gratitude for the continuing cooperation of all individuals, growers, and agencies who contribute the information necessary to prepare this report. I wish to thank my staff, and in particular, acknowledge the efforts of Agricultural Biologists Lori Oleson and Jennifer Pate, who made the publication of this report possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph C. Deviney". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Joseph C. Deviney
Agricultural Commissioner



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We are thankful to the growers of Santa Clara County for allowing our staff to photograph their facilities.

Photo credits to Nancy Barerra, Shayal Kumar, Lori Olsen, and Jennifer Pate.



Gau Choy (Chives) & Gai Choy (Mustard Greens)



Harvester with Napa Cabbage (Sui Choy)



Yam leaves in a greenhouse

Million Dollar Crops

2016		2017	
<u>AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
1. Nursery Crops	\$81,537,000	1. Nursery Crops	\$82,951,000
2. Mushrooms	\$79,020,000	2. Mushrooms	\$74,659,000
3. Peppers, Bell	\$19,822,000	3. Lettuce, All	\$17,522,000
4. Spinach	\$16,617,000	4. Spinach	\$14,616,000
5. Tomatoes, Fresh	\$15,493,000	5. Peppers, Bell	\$13,264,000
6. Lettuce, All	\$14,731,000	6. Tomatoes, Fresh	\$13,456,000
7. Peppers, Wax & Chili	\$10,569,000	7. Cherry	\$11,193,000
8. Corn	\$8,996,000	8. Wine Grapes, All	\$10,067,000
9. Wine Grapes, All	\$7,649,000	9. Asian Vegetables	\$8,876,000
10. Asian Vegetables	\$6,610,000	10. Peppers, Wax & Chili	\$7,488,000
11. Garlic	\$6,505,000	11. Corn	\$7,039,000
12. Beans	\$6,025,000	12. Beans, All	\$5,850,000
13. Celery	\$5,159,000	13. Garlic	\$5,441,000
14. Salad Greens	\$4,183,000	14. Salad Greens	\$4,189,000
15. Steers & Heifers	\$3,561,000	15. Broccoli	\$3,926,000
16. Range	\$3,437,000	16. Range	\$3,443,000
17. Broccoli	\$2,405,000	17. Steers & Heifers	\$2,824,000
18. Tomatoes, Processing	\$2,077,000	18. Cabbage	\$2,569,000
19. Cabbage	\$1,947,000	19. Seed Crops	\$2,362,000
20. Cut Flowers	\$1,755,000	20. Timber	\$1,545,000
21. Hay, Grain	\$1,116,000	21. Tomatoes, Processing	\$1,352,000
All Other Crops	\$10,918,000	All Other Crops	\$21,892,000
2016 Total Gross	\$310,132,000	2017 Total Gross	\$316,524,000



There are approximately 80 Asian vegetable farms in Santa Clara County and the crops are carefully tended and harvested by hand.

The farms are generally small and family run. As you drive through Morgan Hill, San Martin and Gilroy you can see the greenhouses and in a few places see the field grown bok choy and napa cabbage. The families and employees often work 9 to 10 hours a day, and because of the heat that builds in the greenhouses during the day, harvesting and tending are done in the early mornings and evenings.

After harvesting, the vegetables are often shipped directly to local restaurants or markets, but some go as far as Seattle. So look for locally grown Asian veggies at your grocery store or specialty Asian foods market and support Santa Clara County farms and families.

Bay Area Chrysanthemum Growers Association

In the early part of the 19th century Chinese growers recognized a market need for cut flowers. The nurserymen were quite successful and the number of growers in the Bay Area grew. In 1956 the Bay Area Chrysanthemum Growers Association was founded by Charles Foo Chin and Moon Man Mok.

By 1968 chrysanthemums were the biggest agricultural product in Santa Clara County, valued at \$9.4 million dollars. Grown on just 159 acres, the value per acre was \$59,000. In contrast, tomatoes, the second highest cash crop, were \$980 per acre*.

While urbanization changed the landscape, economic forces rapidly lowered the cut flower market profits. Rising energy and land costs combined with cheaper cut flowers imported from foreign countries caused a significant price drop in mums, roses, and carnations. Given this, many members of the Mum Growers Association switched to producing Asian vegetables to serve the growing demand for such vegetables in the Bay Area and beyond.

By localizing produce the Mum Growers' Association members are contributing to the specialty food market with quality food grown on the urban edge of Santa Clara County.



Gau Choy (Chinese flowering chives), Photo courtesy of Greenbelt Alliance

**Becoming Chinese American*, 2004, By H. Mark Lai

Special Focus: Gordon Chan, local Chinese-American Leader and Horticulturist



Gordon Chan, the first Chinese-American president of the Santa Clara Farm Bureau, was a well-known mentor to many Asian-American community activists and politicians. A cornerstone of the community, Mr. Chan passed away at 65 years old in late 2001. His contributions to the community and political leadership still resonant to this day.

Chan, a graduate in horticulture from the California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo, in 1959, took over family ownership of T.S. Chan Nursery, one of Santa Clara County's largest commercial flower growers. The former nursery was about a mile from a post office that now bears his name.

In 2009, Congressmembers Mike Honda and Zoe Lofgren, about 200 city officials and community group leaders attended a ceremony in front of the post office that dedicated the building as the Gordon N. Chan Post Office.

He was the first Chinese-American to become a member of the Santa Clara County Planning Commission and was the first and only Chinese-American to serve as president of the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau. He was the founder of the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project and Hee Shen Benevolent Association.

As a farmer for 30 years, Chan grew chrysanthemums and roses. But determined to get involved in community life, Chan joined many organizations, community boards and commissions including serving on the County's Redistricting Commission, Trail Commission, Open Space Authority, Cut Flower Commission, and the Fair Board. He was on the board and served as executive director of the Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI), the county's largest and oldest nonprofit agency serving Asian-Americans. He also served on the board of the Bay Area Chrysanthemum Growers Association, an influential industry group.

Vegetable Crops

ITEM	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	TONS PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Beans	2017	920	4.1	3,772.0	TON	\$1,551	\$5,850,000
	2016	1,123	5.0	5,615.0	TON	\$1,073	\$6,025,000
Broccoli	2017	684	6.5	4,446.0	TON	\$883	\$3,926,000
	2016	412	6.9	2,842.8	TON	\$846	\$2,405,000
Cabbage	2017	415	13.2	5,478.0	TON	\$469	\$2,569,000
	2016	132	11.4	1,504.8	TON	\$1,294	\$1,947,000
Celery	2017	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	\$0
	2016	393	29.9	11,750.7	TON	\$439	\$5,159,000
Asian Vegetables	2017	725	21.9	15,877.5	TON	\$559	\$8,876,000
	2016	551	21.5	11,846.5	TON	\$558	\$6,610,000
Corn	2017	1,657	9.0	14,913.0	TON	\$472	\$7,039,000
	2016	1,627	9.5	15,456.5	TON	\$582	\$8,996,000
Garlic	2017	761	5.1	3,881.1	TON	\$1,402	\$5,441,000
	2016	828	4.0	3,312.0	TON	\$1,964	\$6,505,000
Salad Greens *	2017	1,037	4.4	4,562.8	TON	\$918	\$4,189,000
	2016	1,133	4.0	4,532.0	TON	\$923	\$4,183,000
Lettuces **	2017	2,106	14.7	30,958.2	TON	\$566	\$17,522,000
	2016	2,703	10.9	29,462.7	TON	\$500	\$14,731,000
Mushrooms	2017	145	124.7	18,081.5	TON	\$4,129	\$74,659,000
	2016	143	128.3	18,346.9	TON	\$4,307	\$79,020,000
Onions - Dry	2017	23	6.4	147.2	TON	\$1,000	\$147,000
	2016	42	4.4	184.8	TON	\$750	\$139,000
Peppers -Bell	2017	1,221	28.3	34,554.3	TON	\$384	\$13,269,000
	2016	1,484	29.1	43,184.4	TON	\$459	\$19,822,000
Peppers - Wax and Chili	2017	596	24.3	14,482.8	TON	\$517	\$7,488,000
	2016	667	28.5	19,009.5	TON	\$556	\$10,569,000
Spinach	2017	1,082	8.8	9,521.6	TON	\$1,535	\$14,616,000
	2016	1,642	7.9	12,971.8	TON	\$1,281	\$16,617,000
Squash	2017	163	6.4	1,043.2	TON	\$555	\$579,000
	2016	128	12.9	1,651.2	TON	\$591	\$976,000
Tomatoes - Fresh	2017	941	26.0	24,466.0	TON	\$550	\$13,456,000
	2016	879	27.2	23,908.8	TON	\$648	\$15,493,000
Tomatoes - Processed	2017	322	56.0	18,032.0	TON	\$75	\$1,352,000
	2016	480	56.2	26,976.0	TON	\$77	\$2,077,000
Miscellaneous ***	2017	1,532	----	----	----	----	\$15,928,000
	2016	826	----	----	----	----	\$5,074,000
TOTAL	2017	14,330					\$196,906,000
	2016	15,193					\$206,348,000

* Arugula, Endive, Frisee, Mizuna, Mustard, Radicchio, Spring Mix, Swiss Chard

** Romaine, Leaf, Head

*** Artichokes, Cauliflower, Cucumber, Herbs, Parsley, Shallots, etc.



A TASTE OF ASIAN VEGETABLES

Bok Choy. Bok Choy is able to add many necessary nutrients by eating only one type of vegetable. It has just nine calories and barely a trace of fat, yet delivers vitamins C, A, and K. But it's also high in calcium, magnesium potassium, manganese, and iron. If you are like most people and struggle to take in as many vitamins as you should in a day, you should consider adding this vegetable to your diet. Not to mention, you can toss Bok Choy raw in a salad, or you can cook it and use it as part of a stir-fry.

Tung Ho (Edible Garland Chrysanthemum). Garland chrysanthemum contains chlorogenic acid, a type of hydroxycinnamic acid that is also abundant in coffee beans. In Northern Europe, chlorogenic acid made from green coffee beans is marketed under the tradename Svetol and is used in chewing gums and mints to promote weight loss. They are also rich potassium, a 100 grams has 30% more potassium than a 100 grams of banana.

Daikon Radish. If you love to pickle or braise your food, you should definitely include daikon on your list. This radish will stand out from other radishes in looks because it has a long, white root but it stands out in flavor too. They have a milder flavor in comparison to other radish varieties and have less of a pepper flavor. Known to be a superfood, daikon is popular in East Asian cooking. However, the daikon radish isn't for taste alone. It is thought by some that it can help with digestive troubles and cure headaches. Its juice has anti-inflammatory properties.

Yam Leaf. In addition to vitamin A (which promotes healthy skin) and vitamin C (for your immune system) yam leaf provides calcium (a bone builder) and potassium (which helps regulate muscle contractions, heartbeat and blood pressure). Add yam leaves to a stir-fry, soup or salad... or steam or sauté it as you would spinach.



Bok Choy (Chinese Cabbage)



Tung Ho (Garland Chrysanthemum)



Daikon Radish



Yam Leaf



GROWN BY LOCAL FARMERS

Gau Choy (Chinese Chives). They have a beautiful aroma and are often cultivated for their edible flower heads rather than their bulbs. They can be included in stir-fries, salads, soups, and over grilled meats. As a rich source of vitamin K and vitamin C, chives may alleviate a stuffy nose.

Gai Choy (Mustard Greens). No, these are not only supposed to be covered in bacon grease and vinegar! These heart-healthy veggies make a quick and easy stir fry or you can even juice them. One cup of mustard greens yields over 500% of the daily value of vitamin K, 85% of your daily vitamin A, 60% of vitamin C, dietary fiber and a bit of protein to boot.

Saan Choy (Malabar Spinach). This leafy green is not a true spinach, but a vine that shares its taste. Valued for its mucilaginous texture, Malabar spinach is used in soups and stews as a thickening agent in much the same way that okra is employed in Southern cuisine. No lightweight nutritionally, Malabar Spinach provides a good amount of vitamins A, B1 (thiamine), B2 (riboflavin), B6 (niacin) and C, as well as the minerals calcium, iron, phosphorus, magnesium, potassium, and sodium. Some cultures believe this herb is a healing agent and chew this botanical to give relief in cases of mouth ulcers.

Ong Choy (Water spinach). Ong Choy makes a great addition to stir-fry, curry, or you can sauté and enjoy it by itself. However you decide to fix it, you'll be glad you tried it because water spinach has an incredible amount of benefits. Water spinach helps to reduce your cholesterol, aids in digestion, helps with diabetes and is great for your heart health too.





Cactus

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR GROWN							
ITEM	YEAR	HOUSE (SQ. FT.)	FIELD ACRES	SOLD BY PRODUCERS	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Bedding Plants	2017	1,953,560	38	1,191,646	Flats	Various	\$18,269,000
	2016	1,915,800	36	1,463,900	Flats	Various	\$16,212,000
Christmas Trees	2017	----	232	5,610	Tree	\$59	\$329,000
	2016	----	168	5,786	Tree	\$56	\$322,000
Ornamental Trees, Roses, & Shrubs	2017	133,000	204	1,195,932	Plants	Various	\$25,799,000
	2016	147,900	205	1,138,057	Plants	Various	\$28,659,000
Miscellaneous*	2017	2,219,120	185	----	----	----	\$38,554,000
	2016	2,125,603	184	----	----	----	\$36,344,000
TOTAL	2017						\$82,951,00
	2016						\$81,537,000

*Includes herbaceous perennials, orchids, indoor decorative, propagative materials, cut flowers, succulents, turf, vegetable plants, 2017 Floral Crops (cut flowers), etc.



FLORAL CROPS: CUT FLOWERS			
ITEM	YEAR	HOUSE (SQ. FT.)	TOTAL
Chrysanthemum	2017	---	---
	2016	393,350	\$549,000
Miscellaneous*	2017	---	---
	2016	---	\$1,206,000
TOTAL	2017		---
	2016		\$1,755,000

*Includes Asters, Carnations, Eucalyptus, Gardenias, Lisianthus, Roses, Snapdragons, Stephanotis, Sunflowers, etc.

SEED CROPS			
ITEM	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	TOTAL
Veg and Flower	2017	557	\$2,362,000
	2016	503	\$2,221,000

FOREST PRODUCTS			
ITEM	YEAR	UNIT	TOTAL
Timber	2017	2,022	MBF \$1,545,000
	2016	6	MBF \$42,000



Fruits and Nuts

ITEM	YEAR	HARVESTED		TONS PER PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		ACREAGE	ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Apricots	2017	149	1.2	178.8	TON	\$1,168	\$209,000
	2016	177	2.0	354.0	TON	\$800	\$283,000
Cherries	2017	980	4.5	4,410.0	TON	\$2,538	\$11,193,000
	2016	321	0.4	128.4	TON	\$3,406	\$437,000
Grapes, Wine: White	2017	481	3.3	1,587.3	TON	\$1,467	\$2,329,000
	2016	464	3.2	1,484.8	TON	\$1,241	\$1,843,000
Grapes, Wine: Red	2017	1,120	3.5	3,920.0	TON	\$1,974	\$7,738,000
	2016	1,113	2.7	3,005.1	TON	\$1,932	\$5,806,000
Total Red & White	2017	1,601					\$10,067,000
	2016	1,577					\$7,649,000
Walnuts	2017	236	1.0	236.0	TON	\$3,237	\$764,000
	2016	221	1.2	265.2	TON	\$3,009	\$798,000
Miscellaneous*	2017	248	----	----	----	----	\$2,352,000
	2016	264	----	----	----	----	\$1,948,000
TOTAL	2017	3,214					\$24,585,000
	2016	2,560					\$11,115,000

*Includes Apples, Asian Pears, Kivis, Nectarines, Olives, Peaches, Persimmons, Plums, Prunes, Strawberries, etc.



Olives



Highland Calf

ITEM	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	PRODUCTION TOTAL (LIVE WEIGHT)	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Steers & Heifers	2017	3,180	21,556	CWT	\$131.0	\$2,824,000
	2016	3,941	26,187	CWT	\$136.0	\$3,561,000
Cows & Bulls	2017	354	3,771	CWT	\$69.0	\$260,000
	2016	380	4,907	CWT	\$79.0	\$388,000
Miscellaneous*	2017	----	----	----	----	\$326,000
	2016	----	----	----	----	\$313,000
TOTAL	2017	----	----	----	----	\$3,410,000
	2016					\$4,262,000

**Includes Chicken Eggs, Goats, Llamas, Pigs, Sheep, etc.*

Field Crops

ITEM	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	TONS PER ACRE	PRODUCTION TOTAL	UNIT	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL
Hay (Grain)	2017	4,044	1.9	7,684	TON	\$145	\$1,114,000
	2016	4,033	2.2	8,873	TON	\$210	\$1,863,000
Pasture, Irrigated	2017	349	-----	-----	ACRE	\$220	\$73,000
	2016	461	-----	-----	ACRE	\$220	\$101,000
Range	2017	263,375	-----	-----	ACRE	\$13	\$3,424,000
	2016	224,230	-----	-----	ACRE	\$13	\$2,915,000
Miscellaneous*	2017	495	-----	-----	-----	-----	\$631,000
	2016	547	-----	-----	-----	-----	\$532,000
TOTAL	2017	268,263					\$5,242,000
	2016	229,271					\$5,411,000

*Includes Alfalfa and Triticale



Hay



Hay

HISTORICAL COMPARISON OF HARVESTED ACREAGE

	1955	1975	1995	2017
Field Crops*	25,610	235,284	231,585	268,614
Floral Crops - Cut Flowers**	386	793	510	n/a
Fruit & Nut Crops***	75,428	15,130	5,070	3,214
Nursery Crops	n/a	365	860	758
Seed Crops	565	625	500	557
Vegetable Crops****	20,849	14,925	10,030	14,330
TOTAL	122,838	267,122	248,555	287,473

* 1955 Field Crops does not include Range or Pasture

** 2017 Cut Flowers included in Nursery Crops Misc.

*** Includes Bushberries and Strawberries

**** Includes Multiple Crops at same site

Certified Farmers' Market and Organic

There were 43 registered Farmers' Markets in Santa Clara County last year. For a list of times and locations, visit our website at www.sccagriculture.org.



Bok Choy, Choy Sum



Gail Lon, Bok Choy



Yam Leaves



Saan Choy (Malabar Spinach)

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

In 2017 Santa Clara County had 39 registered organic farms operating on 70 growing locations totaling 1,745 acres.

REGISTRANT TYPE	REGISTRANT NUMBER
Producers-primary county	39
Producers-secondary county	18
Handlers	1

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Protection Agency
Office of the Agricultural Commissioner

Agricultural Commissioner/
Sealer of Weights & Measures
Joseph C. Deviney

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Division

Weights & Measures
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