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MESSAGE FROM THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER



County of San Diego

HA DANG
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

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Secretary Karen Ross
California Department of Food and Agriculture
and

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego

Supervisor Nora Vargas, Chair

Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, Vice Chair

Supervisor Joel Anderson

Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe

Supervisor Jim Desmond

I respectfully submit the County of San Diego Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures' 2023 Crop Statistics and Annual Report of acreage, yield, and value of agricultural production for San Diego county. In 2023, the direct economic output from agricultural production totaled \$1,656,337,261. This equates to a decrease of about \$120 million or 6.8% from 2022's total value of \$1,776,799,614. The overall acreage devoted to commercial agriculture went from 214,438 acres in 2022 to 210,732 acres in 2023, for a decrease of about four thousand acres or 1.7% overall.

This report details crop information and highlights the many diverse programs that promote the County's goals by supporting food security, agricultural trade, public health, consumer confidence, and a sustainable environment.

Special thanks to the producers, industry groups, and public agencies who provided vital information for this report. I would also like to express gratitude for your leadership and support. Finally, much appreciation to my outstanding staff for their continued superior service to our community.

Ha Dang

2023 OVERVIEW OF CHANGES

2023 OVERVIEW OF CHANGES



The overall value of commercial agriculture in San Diego County decreased about \$120 million or -6.78% from 2022 to 2023. This change is mainly due to the decrease of \$48,736,202 or 11% in total production value of Bedding Plants, Color, Perennials, Cacti & Succulents. Even though this year's crop report value was low, it also had some positive changes, which are due to San Diego's agricultural diversity, which allows it to be resilient in difficult times. The groups this year that thrived were Field Crops, Apiary Products, and Forest Products. On the other hand, the groups Nursery & Cut Flower Products, Fruit & Nut Products, Vegetable & Vine Crops, and Livestock & Poultry groups decreased in value, partially due to a reduction in acreage, less demand for products, price decreases, and lower yields.

The top crop group is still Bedding Plants, Color, Perennials, Cacti & Succulents, bringing in a total of \$396,623,341 or 24% of the total value of agriculture production in San Diego County. The second most valuable group is Ornamental Trees & Shrubs, valued at \$383,114,393, equaling 23% of the region's overall agricultural production value.

The value of Nursery & Cut Flower Products dropped by 3% to \$1,177,552,435. Beside decreases in Nursery Products values, there was also a 15% decrease in Cut Flower Products' overall value. However, Cut Flower Products', such as Leptospermum Outdoor and Proteas Outdoor, values increased by 2% each. Other Cut Flowers & Bulbs had the most significant drop in percentage in this group which was 18%. The reduction in the value of some Nursery & Cut Flower Products is due to a decrease in acreage and reduced sales.

Fruit & Nut Crops' value decreased to \$292,644,242, a 4% drop from the previous year. The overall value of Citrus increased by 5% compared to last year, despite a 3% decrease in acreage. All Citrus crops, except Oranges, increased in value. Lemons and Kumquats both rose by 21%, while Tangerines, Tangelos rose by 10%. The Citrus value growth is attributed to increased prices. The value of Avocados decreased due to a lower acreage and yield compared to the previous year, as well as reduced prices. The trend of an increase in value driven by rising prices and acreage was seen in the Fruit & Nuts, Other category. The value of Grapes, Wine increased by 36% due to growth in yield and acreage. The value of Apples increased significantly by 73% due to a higher yield as growers reported a recovery from last year's 52% decrease as a result of poor weather.

Vegetable & Vine Crops' value decreased to \$89,665,332, a 31% decrease from last year. This decrease was primarily due to a 34% drop in the value of Vegetables, Other. On the other hand, there was an increase in the value of Squash by 12%. The overall drop in value for this group is associated with decreases in acreage.

Apiary Products were valued at \$4,749,866, a 47% increase from last year. The increase is mainly due to an increase of 264% increase in Honey & Beeswax production, caused by an increase in rainfall. Pollinations dropped 8% as there were fewer colonies used for these services.

Livestock & Poultry were valued at \$86,347,306, a 24% decrease from last year. This drop is due to the decreased value of most Livestock & Poultry Products.

Field Crops' value increased to \$4,489,288, which is 14% higher than last year. This increase was seen in all the crops tracked in this group, except for Range. The growth in the group's overall value was mainly attributed to Field, Other, which increased by 44% in value due to an increase in acreage.

In summary, while there were some challenges for San Diego County's agriculture, there were also noticeable successes. The county's diverse agricultural products help it stay strong and adapt to changes.

HIGHLIGHTS

2023HIGHLIGHTS

TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTION	\$1,656,337,261
TOTAL ACREAGE	210,732
COMMODITY WITH HIGHEST REPORTED DOLLAR VALUE	BEDDING PLANTS, COLOR, PERENNIALS, CACTI & SUCCULENTS
HIGHEST DOLLAR VALUE PER ACRE	INDOOR FLOWERING & FOLIAGE PLANTS (INCLUDING POINSETTIA)
LOWEST DOLLAR VALUE PER ACRE	RANGE
GREATEST % INCREASE IN TOTAL DOLLAR VALUE FROM 2022	HONEY & BEES WAX
GREATEST % DECREASE IN TOTAL DOLLAR VALUE FROM 2022	VEGETABLES, OTHER
COMMODITY WITH GREATEST AMOUNT OF PLANTED ACREAGE	AVOCADOS

CROPS BY GROUP

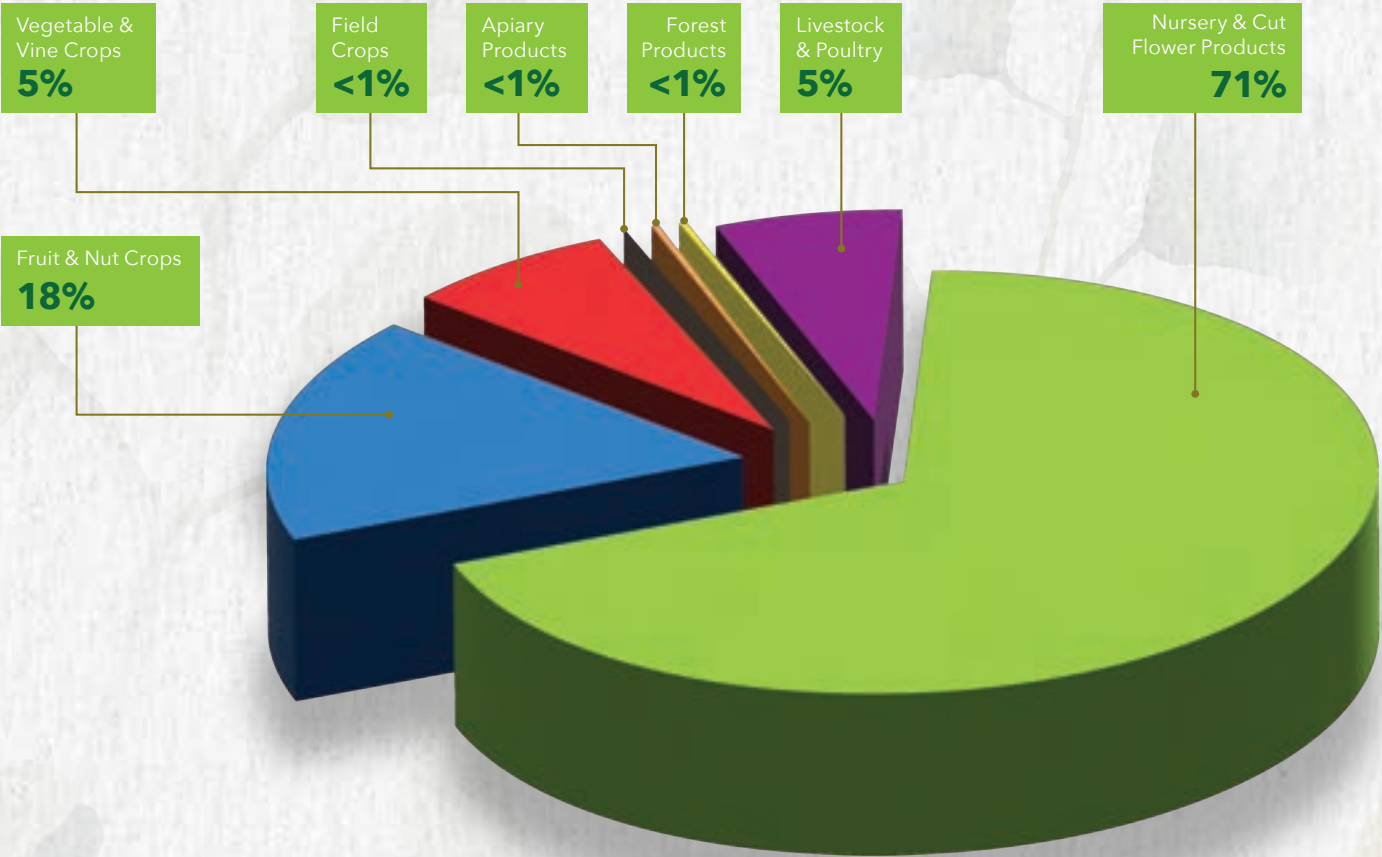
CROP	YEAR	ACRES	TOTAL VALUE
NURSERY & CUT FLOWER PRODUCTS	2023	10,755	\$1,177,552,435
	2022	11,089	\$1,219,074,411
FRUIT & NUT CROPS	2023	23,967	\$292,644,242
	2022	23,993	\$306,016,589
VEGETABLE & VINE CROPS	2023	2,847	\$89,665,332
	2022	3,122	\$129,829,054
FIELD CROPS	2023	173,162	\$4,489,288
	2022	176,234	\$3,954,751
APIARY PRODUCTS	2023		\$4,749,866
	2022		\$3,237,536

CROPS BY GROUP CONTINUED

FOREST PRODUCTS	2023		\$888,792
	2022		\$874,795
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	2023		\$86,347,306
	2022		\$113,812,477
TOTALS	2023	210,732	\$1,656,337,261
	2022	214,438	\$1,776,799,614



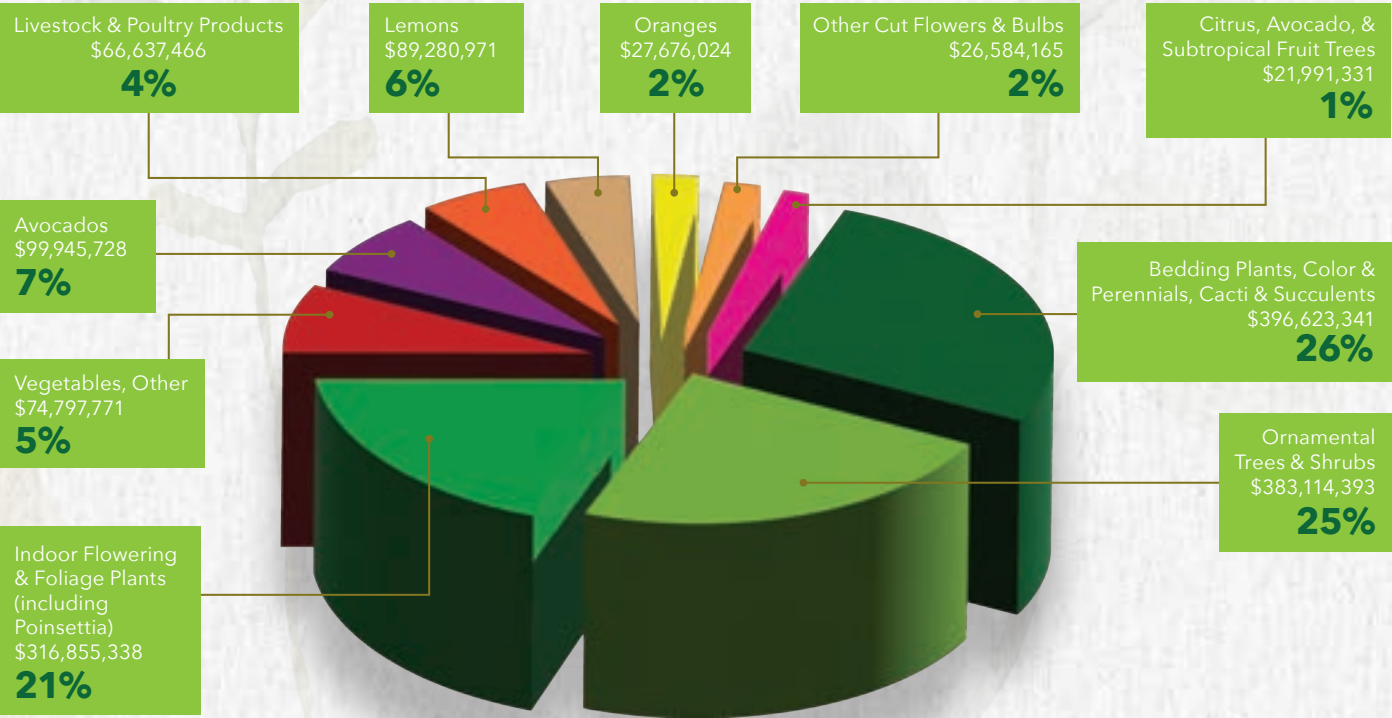
CROPS BY GROUP OVERALL



TOP TEN CROPS

TOP TEN CROPS	2023 VALUE	GROUP
BEDDING PLANTS, COLOR, PERENNIALS, CACTI & SUCCULENTS	\$396,623,341	NURSERY & CUT FLOWER PRODUCTS
ORNAMENTAL TREES & SHRUBS	\$383,114,393	NURSERY & CUT FLOWER PRODUCTS
INDOOR FLOWERING & FOLIAGE PLANTS (INCLUDING POINSETTIA)	\$316,855,338	NURSERY & CUT FLOWER PRODUCTS
AVOCADOS	\$99,945,728	FRUIT & NUT CROPS
LEMONS	\$89,280,971	FRUIT & NUT CROPS
VEGETABLES, OTHER	\$74,797,771	VEGETABLE & VINE CROPS
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTS	\$66,637,466	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY
ORANGES	\$27,676,024	FRUIT & NUT CROPS
OTHER CUT FLOWERS & BULBS	\$26,584,165	NURSERY & CUT FLOWER PRODUCTS
CITRUS, AVOCADO, & SUBTROPICAL FRUIT TREES	\$21,991,331	NURSERY & CUT FLOWER PRODUCTS

TOP 10 CROPS OVERALL



NURSERY PRODUCTS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES	TOTAL VALUE
BEDDING PLANTS, COLOR, PERENNIALS, CACTI & SUCCULENTS	2023	1,901	\$396,623,341
	2022	1,967	\$445,359,543
CACTI & SUCCULENTS*	2023	1,024	
	2022	969	
CITRUS, AVOCADO, & SUBTROPICAL FRUIT TREES	2023	216	\$21,991,331
	2022	216	\$22,352,065
INDOOR FLOWERING & FOLIAGE PLANTS (INCLUDING POINSETTIA)	2023	797	\$316,855,338
	2022	870	\$310,568,221
ORNAMENTAL TREES & SHRUBS	2023	4,590	\$383,114,393
	2022	4,662	\$375,080,420
TURF, CUT CHRISTMAS TREES	2023	812	\$17,443,366
	2022	806	\$17,097,737
TOTAL NURSERY PRODUCTS	2023	8,316	\$1,136,027,770
	2022	8,521	\$1,170,457,986

*Combined Cacti & Succulents with Bedding Plants, Color, Perennials

CUT FLOWER PRODUCTS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES	TOTAL VALUE
LEPTOSPERMUM OUTDOOR	2023	201	\$620,384
	2022	203	\$608,219
PROTEAS OUTDOOR	2023	376	\$2,248,966
	2022	373	\$2,213,820
WAX FLOWERS OUTDOOR	2023	590	\$4,208,064
	2022	588	\$4,597,014
OTHER CUT FLOWERS & BULBS	2023	827	\$26,584,165
	2022	830	\$32,437,482
FOLIAGE	2023	445	\$7,863,087
	2022	574	\$8,759,891
TOTAL CUT FLOWER PRODUCTS	2023	2,439	\$41,524,666
	2022	2,568	\$48,616,425
TOTAL NURSERY & CUT FLOWER PRODUCTS	2023	10,755	\$1,177,552,435
	2022	11,089	\$1,219,074,411

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	TONS/ ACRE	TONS	US \$/ TON	TOTAL VALUE
APPLES	2023	99	2	151	\$2,790	\$421,899
	2022	115	1	88	\$2,772	\$243,526
AVOCADOS	2023	12,306	3	35,108	\$2,847	\$99,945,728
	2022	12,597	3	37,178	\$3,304	\$122,828,742
BERRIES, OTHER	2023	238	6	1,442	\$8,801	\$12,695,235
	2022	222	7	1,579	\$9,463	\$14,945,121
TOTAL CITRUS	2023	8,185	15	123,829	\$1,168	\$144,577,389
	2022	8,404	16	136,327	\$1,013	\$138,115,277
GRAPEFRUIT	2023	1,007	17	17,037	\$973	\$16,579,932
	2022	1,010	18	18,612	\$858	\$15,963,251
KUMQUATS	2023	52	4	215	\$4,033	\$868,491
	2022	50	4	193	\$3,734	\$719,448
LEMONS	2023	2,810	20	54,841	\$1,628	\$89,280,971
	2022	2,985	18	52,499	\$1,408	\$73,922,314
LIMES	2023	197	4	762	\$1,979	\$1,507,101
	2022	192	4	728	\$1,916	\$1,394,735
ORANGES	2023	3,701	12	45,897	\$603	\$27,676,024
	2022	3,728	16	58,692	\$651	\$38,203,806
TANGERINES, TANGELOS	2023	419	12	5,077	\$1,707	\$8,664,871
	2022	438	13	5,603	\$1,412	\$7,911,724

FRUIT & NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	TONS/ ACRE	TONS	US \$/ TON	TOTAL VALUE
GRAPES, WINE	2023	1,100	2	2,487	\$1,974	\$4,910,340
	2022	978	2	1,796	\$2,017	\$3,621,285
FRUIT & NUTS, OTHER	2023	1,707				\$16,248,986
	2022	1,352				\$12,590,436
PERSIMMONS	2023	115	4	434	\$2,260	\$979,964
	2022	111	3	346	\$2,484	\$860,348
STRAWBERRIES	2023	217	19	4,029	\$3,193	\$12,864,701
	2022	215	22	4,687	\$2,734	\$12,811,852
TOTAL FRUIT & NUT CROPS	2023	23,967				\$292,644,242
	2022	23,993				\$306,016,589

VEGETABLE & VINE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	TONS/ ACRE	TONS	US \$/ TON	TOTAL VALUE
CUCUMBERS	2023	51	10	490	\$1,808	\$885,581
	2022	66	10	658	\$1,723	\$1,133,468
HERBS/SPICES	2023	141	10	1,411	\$7,438	\$10,491,114
	2022	162	10	1,599	\$7,816	\$12,496,059
SQUASH	2023	392	10	3,875	\$901	\$3,490,867
	2022	369	12	4,385	\$711	\$3,119,444
TOMATOES *	2023	1,119				
	2022	1,193				
VEGETABLES, OTHER *	2023	2,263				\$74,797,771
	2022	2,526				\$113,080,084
TOTAL VEGETABLE & VINE CROPS	2023	2,847				\$89,665,332
	2022	3,122				\$129,829,054

*Combined Peppers and Tomatoes with Vegetables, Other

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

COMMODITY	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	TOTAL WEIGHT CWT	US \$/ CWT	TOTAL VALUE
CATTLE & CALVES	2023	11,293	101,636	\$140	\$14,228,996
	2022	13,300	119,700	\$120	\$14,364,000
HOGS & PIGS	2023	1,577	3,942	\$66	\$260,161
	2022	1,546	3,865	\$60	\$231,891
CHICKENS	2023		59,162	\$86	\$5,101,489
	2022		60,518	\$78	\$4,706,865
LAMBS & SHEEP	2023	851	851	\$140	\$119,195
	2022	923	923	\$130	\$120,194
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY PRODUCTS *	2023				\$66,637,466
	2022				\$94,389,528
TOTAL LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	2023				\$86,347,306
	2022				\$113,812,477

*Combined Milk and Eggs, Chicken Market with Livestock & Poultry Products

FOREST PRODUCTS

COMMODITY	YEAR	TOTAL VALUE
FIREWOOD	2023	\$888,792
	2022	\$874,795
TOTAL FOREST PRODUCTS	2023	\$888,792
	2022	\$874,795



FIELD CROPS



COMMODITY	YEAR	ACRES	TONS/ACRE	TONS	US \$/TON	TOTAL VALUE
HAY, OAT	2023	1,146	1	1,623	\$253	\$410,687
	2022	1,113	1	1,125	\$284	\$319,093
PASTURE, IRRIGATED	2023	693				\$1,465,030
	2022	700				\$1,457,924
RANGE	2023	170,384				\$976,711
	2022	173,802				\$1,038,741
FIELD, OTHER *	2023	938				\$1,636,859
	2022	619				\$1,138,994
TOTAL FIELD CROPS	2023	173,162				\$4,489,288
	2022	176,234				\$3,954,751

*Combined Industrial Hemp with Field, Other

APIARY PRODUCTS

COMMODITY	YEAR	TOTAL VALUE
HONEY & BEES WAX *	2023	\$2,367,668
	2022	\$651,295
POLLINATION	2023	\$2,382,198
	2022	\$2,586,240
TOTAL APIARY PRODUCTS	2023	\$4,749,866
	2022	\$3,237,536

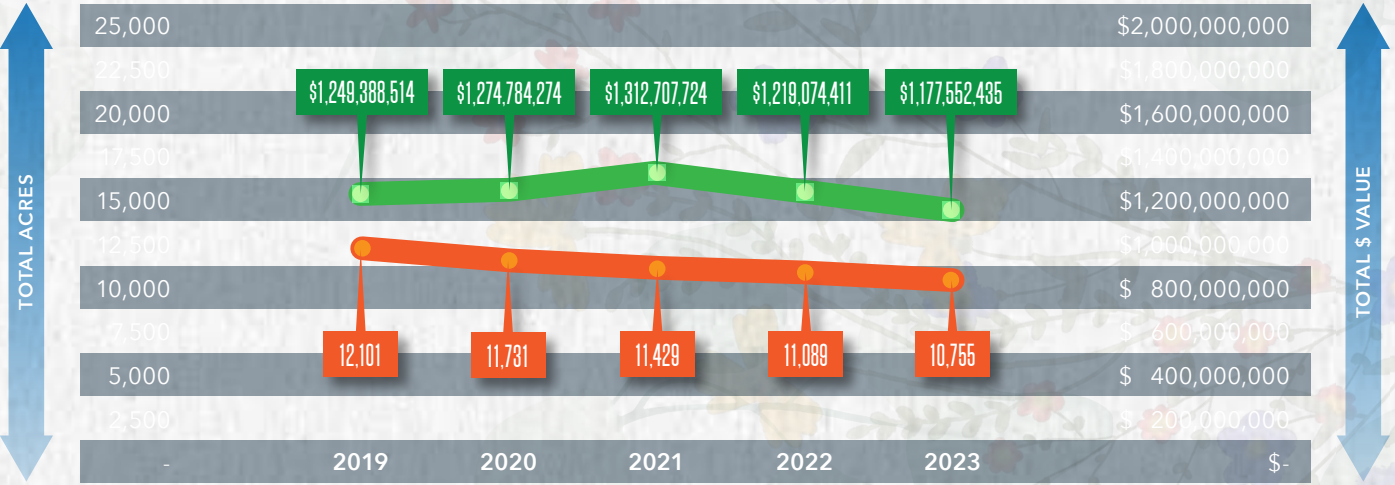
*Combined Bees Wax with Honey



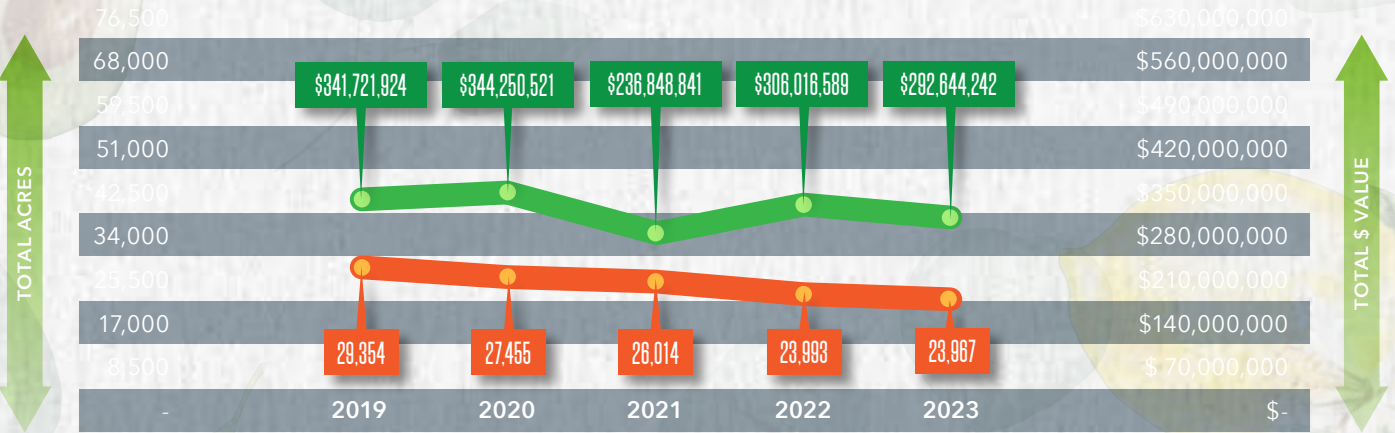
FIVE YEAR TREND ANALYSIS

TOTAL ACRES
TOTAL \$ VALUE

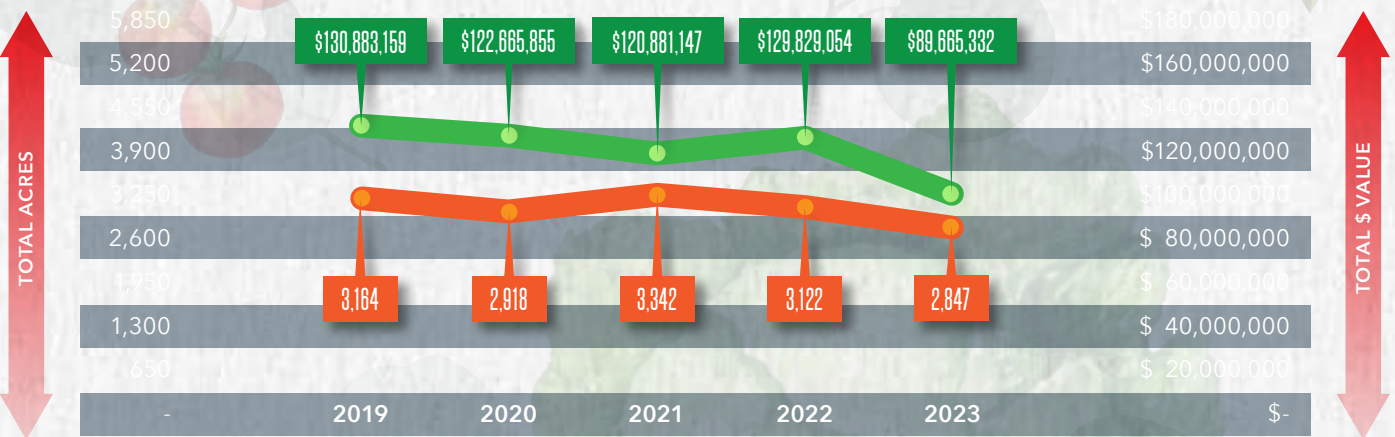
NURSERY & CUT FLOWER PRODUCTS



FRUIT & NUT CROPS

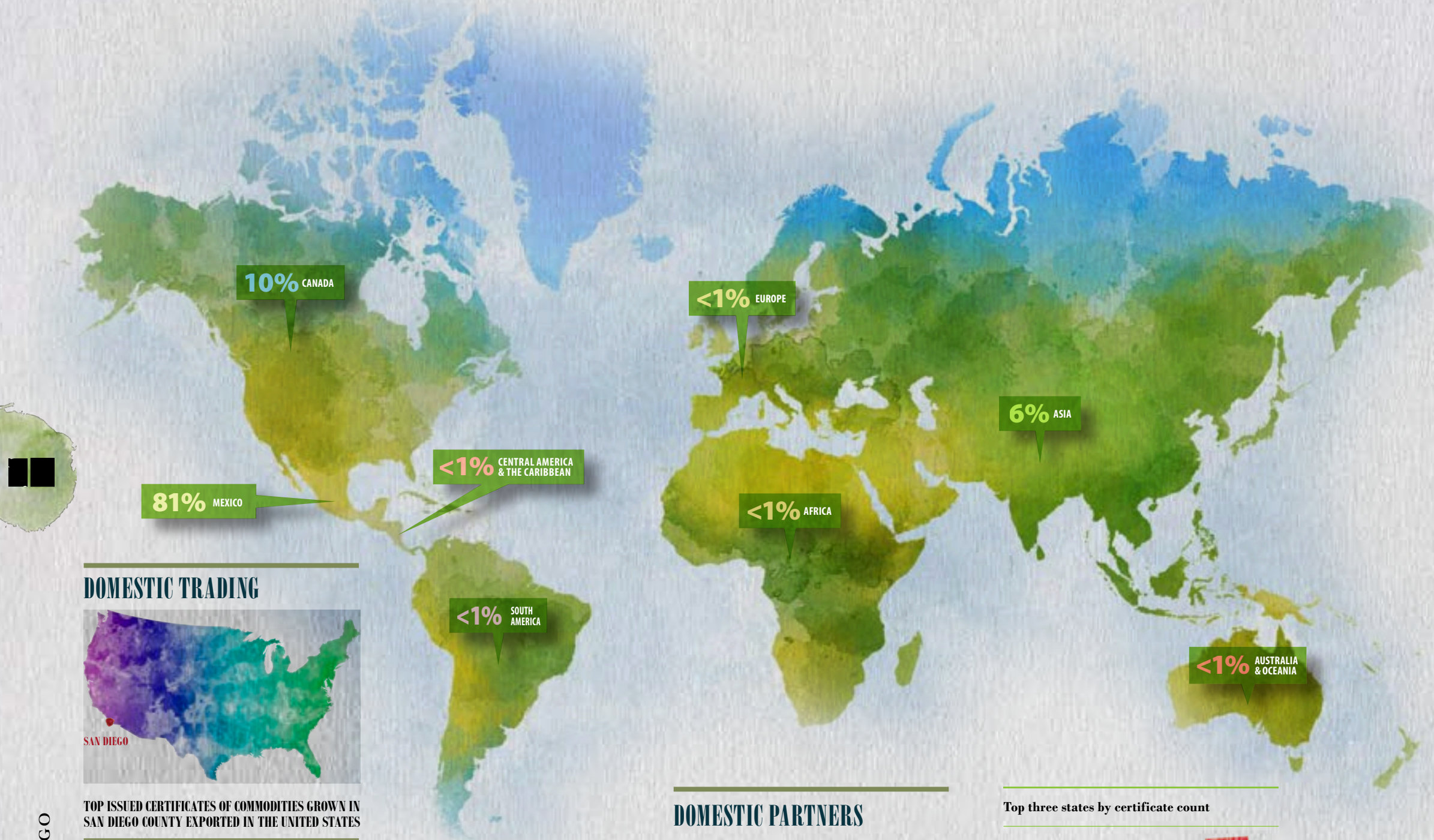


VEGETABLE & VINE CROPS

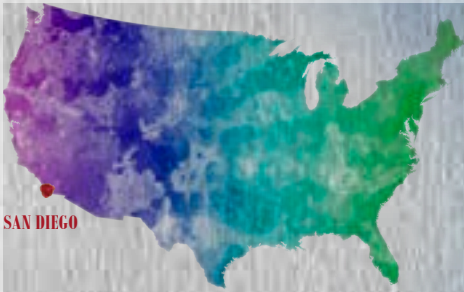


INTERNATIONAL TRADING PART NERS

IN 2023 WE CERTIFIED 8,924 SHIPMENTS OF PLANT MATERIAL
(INCLUDING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES) GOING TO 46 COUNTRIES



DOMESTIC TRADING



TOP ISSUED CERTIFICATES OF COMMODITIES GROWN IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY EXPORTED IN THE UNITED STATES

Commodity:	Ornamental Trees & Shrubs
Certificates:	874
Commodity:	Cacti & Succulents
Certificates:	110
Commodity:	Tomatoes
Certificates:	58

DOMESTIC PARTNERS

Top three counties by certificate count

194	KERN
144	FRESNO
93	TULARE

Top three states by certificate count

679	ARIZONA
279	TEXAS
129	FLORIDA

TOP TRADING PARTNERS

MEXICO	7,270
CANADA	920
TOTAL	8,190

CENTRAL AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

GUATEMALA	25
HONDURAS	9
BAHAMAS	6
PANAMA	4
BERMUDA	2
CURAÇAO	2
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	2
TOTAL	50

SOUTH AMERICA

CHILE	7
ECUADOR	3
BRAZIL	1
PERU	1
TOTAL	12

EUROPE

NETHERLANDS	45
FRANCE	8
SPAIN	5
BELGIUM	4
UNITED KINGDOM	3
GERMANY	2
UKRAINE	2
IRELAND	2

POLAND	1
GREECE	1
PORTUGAL	1
AUSTRIA	1
SLOVAKIA	1
TOTAL	76

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA	1
TOTAL	1

ASIA

JAPAN	271
TAIWAN	123
SOUTH KOREA	96
HONG KONG	19
THAILAND	15
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	13
CHINA	5
INDIA	5
KAZAKHSTAN	5
ARMENIA	3
SINGAPORE	2
KUWAIT	2
INDONESIA	1
VIETNAM	1
MALAYSIA	1
JORDAN	1
ISRAEL	1
TOTAL	564

AUSTRALIA & OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA	22
NEW ZEALAND	9
TOTAL	31

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE 2023



Sustainable agriculture promotes the economic viability of local farms and residents' quality of life while preserving natural resources for future generations' needs in California. An important component of these sustainability efforts is related to mitigation activities that are essential to prevent the spread of invasive agricultural pests. This work contributes to the security of the food system and helps protect the region's biodiversity and most vulnerable populations.

The County of San Diego Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures implements State regulatory programs for the detection, control, and eradication of invasive insect pests, plant diseases, and weeds that cause economic and environmental harm and supports the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) in enforcing agricultural quarantines to prevent the spread of invasive pests.

CDFA pest ratings inform county agricultural commissioners and the public of a pest's potential harm to agriculture and the environment. The pest rating also signifies its potential impact to the public by interfering with home/urban gardens and food security. Finally, the pest rating guides the regulatory actions that CDFA and county agricultural commissioners must take to mitigate these pest risks.

Below is a list of CDFA pest rating definitions our department follows:

A-RATED: A pest or disease that is known to have a detrimental impact on agriculture and the environment, and is not known to be established in California.

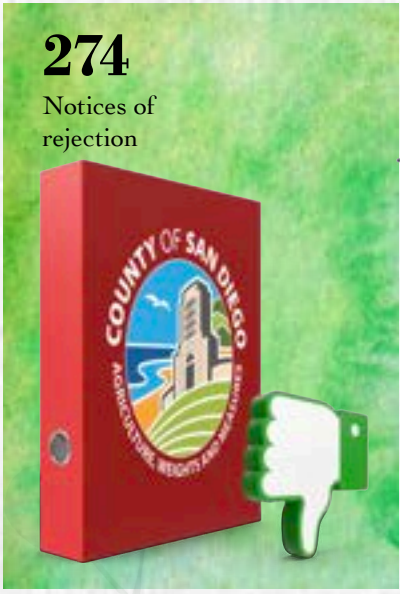
B-RATED: A pest or disease that is known to have a detrimental impact on agriculture and the environment, and is established in some areas of California.

C-RATED: A pest or disease that commonly occurs in the agricultural industry and the environment, and is found throughout California.

Q-RATED: A pest or disease requiring a temporary "A" rating pending the determination of a permanent rating. These organisms are usually new to California, or their impacts are unknown but are suspected of being economically harmful to agriculture.

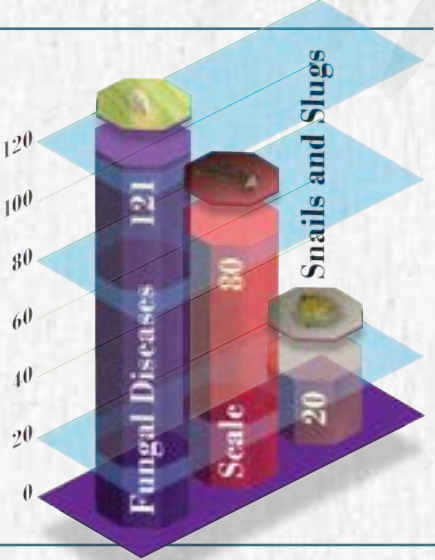
The infographics on the following two pages show the sustainable agriculture efforts in San Diego.

HIGH RISK PEST EXCLUSION

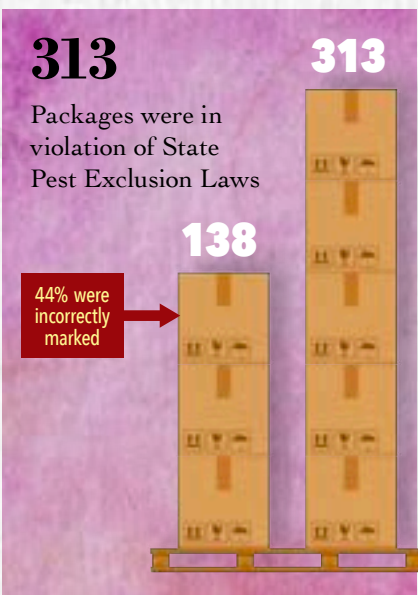


CALENDAR YEAR 2023

AWM inspectors intercepted and remedied a total of 80 scale insects on incoming shipments of nursery stock. Seventy-five of these scales were armored scales (Family Diaspididae), which are difficult to treat and can cause yellowing, premature dropping of leaves, and death if plants remain heavily infested with them. AWM also intercepted 20 snail and slug infestations and 121 plant diseases (fungal and bacterial). Snails and slugs are important agricultural and environmental pests that can carry human diseases such as Rat Lungworm. Fungal diseases caused by Colletotrichum spp. (114 out of 121) are hard to treat and are damaging to horticultural products.



DETECTOR DOG TEAMS



PLANT PEST DIAGNOSTICS LAB

Our Pest Identification Lab provides rapid identification allowing a quick response in the fight against invasive pests that damage agricultural crops and landscape plants. Some have a known economic importance (A-rated) and others are suspected of economic importance (Q-rated).



INTEGRATED PEST CONTROL

The Integrated Pest Control Program (IPC) protects the county's agriculture, sensitive habitats, native wildlife, and endangered species by controlling noxious and invasive weeds in cooperation with other county departments and agencies.

INVASIVE WEED SPECIES

Ward's weed, <i>Carthieria annua</i> Rating: A Acreage Survey /Treated: 22.9	Desert knapweed (<i>Volutaria</i>), <i>Volutaria tubuliflora</i> Rating: A/W Acreage Survey /Treated: 143.2	European sea lavender, <i>Limonium duriusculum</i> Rating: B Acreage Survey /Treated: 12.2	Algerian sea lavender, <i>Limonium ramosissimum</i> Rating: B Acreage Survey /Treated: 10	Croftonweed (<i>Eupatory</i>), <i>Ageratina adenophora</i> Rating: B Acreage Survey /Treated: 12.4	Canary Island St. John's wort, <i>Hypericum canariense</i> Rating: B/W Acreage Survey /Treated: 32.1	French broom, <i>Genista monspessulana</i> Rating: C/W Acreage Survey /Treated: 7.2
Stinknet, <i>Oncosiphon piluliferum</i> Rating: Q Acreage Survey /Treated: 2	Yellow starthistle, <i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> Rating: W Acreage Survey /Treated: 17.9	Artichoke thistle, <i>Cynara cardunculus</i> Rating: W Acreage Survey /Treated: 7	Barbed goatgrass, <i>Aegilops triuncialis</i> Rating: W Acreage Survey /Treated: 6.5	Spotted knapweed, <i>Centaurea maculosa</i> Rating: W Acreage Survey /Treated: 6.2	Bridal broom, <i>Retama monosperma</i> Rating: W Acreage Survey /Treated: 2	Total Acreage Survey /Treated 281.6



PULLING *Together* **IN A** **DECLARED** **EMERGENCY**

NATURAL DISASTERS CONTINUE TO BE A SOURCE OF UNPRECEDENTED DESTRUCTION THAT INFLECT A HEAVY TOLL ON COMMUNITIES AND LIVELIHOODS. IN 2023, THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ESTIMATED THAT NATURAL DISASTERS ACCOUNTED FOR \$94.9 BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF DAMAGE IN THE UNITED STATES, WITH DAMAGES TO AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS COMPRISING ABOUT 23% (\$21.94 BILLION). IN 2024, THE SAN DIEGO REGION EXPERIENCED UNPRECEDENTED RAINS, FLOODING EVENTS, AND MUDSLIDES THAT EXACTED HEAVY BURDENS ON REGIONAL COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS, WITH REGIONAL DAMAGE ESTIMATES PROJECTED TO BE \$90 MILLION.



AWM is the primary local agency responsible for collecting damage information from affected agricultural operations due to a declared emergency. AWM monitors and receives reports on events that could cause potential impacts to local agricultural operations. When an emergency proclamation is anticipated, AWM begins engaging with local industry associations and sends out communications to local agricultural operators notifying them of the event and the need to report any damages. When operators report damage from the event, AWM sends out teams of specially trained inspectors to verify



the reported damages and ensure that all applicable damages are reported. In some cases, when emergencies are confined to a smaller geographical area, AWM may use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to determine what specific agricultural

operations may have been impacted and focus efforts to assess the damages at these operations rather than waiting for them to self-report damages. AWM efforts to quickly compile information on the expected impact allows for decisive responses from relief organizations and opportunities for agricultural operators to access resources that will aid in their recovery.

In the 2024 heavy rain events, flooding was concentrated in central San Diego residential neighborhoods. To assist with regional emergency management efforts, AWM participated in the Emergency Operations Center meetings, and 12 AWM staff worked a total of 674 hours as Disaster Service Workers in the Local Assistance Centers and other emergency response programs. While most of the flooding was concentrated in the urban areas, AWM was cognizant of the effects to

agricultural operations and reached out to provide resources and investigate damages. AWM collected and performed verification visits to 26 operator-submitted damage reports totaling \$664,000 worth of damages to livestock and crops, agricultural infrastructure, and lost wages. Once verified, AWM then passed the damage assessments to various other agencies at the local, State, and federal levels to support their determination of emergency declarations and resource allocation. Data collected by AWM may be combined with other types of damages for cumulative totals or kept specific to agriculture. Organizations that may rely on the damage assessments submitted by local agricultural operators include the County Office of Emergency Services, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), United States Department Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) and National Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), and FEMA. To report agricultural damage during a declared emergency, please look for emails from AWM with instructions.

The County of San Diego Evacuation Pass for Agriculture and Livestock Program (Ag Pass) is focused on emergency preparedness rather than response. This program issues passes to commercial agricultural and livestock operators in the unincorporated areas for limited access to their properties during an emergency evacuation, allowing them to care for animals and tend to crops. AWM uses its knowledge of the agricultural community to verify that Ag Pass applicants are commercial agriculture and/or livestock operations.



San Diego County Fire then accepts, reviews, and coordinates the mandatory annual training and issues the passes to applicants prior to an emergency. Allowing an Ag Pass holder to re-enter their property can reduce the economic hardship that they may face post-disaster by providing them an opportunity to protect their animals and crops. Additionally, preserving food production during an emergency helps maintain the local economy and can provide healthy, nutritious food for San Diego residents. As of August 2024, there are 136 owners/managers at 55 business that are part of the Ag Pass program. Additionally, AWM has been assisting the City of Poway in identifying potential operations that could be eligible for outreach and inclusion in their Ag Pass program. For more information about the Ag Pass program or to apply, please visit <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/sdcfa/crr-main-menu/ag-pass1.html> or email Ag.Pass@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Emergency response requires many agencies and organizations to communicate and cooperate to ensure a supportive recovery. AWM is dedicated to being part of the emergency and recovery effort and providing a helping hand to local agricultural operations in times of need.

By Austin Shepherd
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

SAN DIEGO HAS 4031 FARMS

68 % OF FARMS ARE 1 TO 9 ACRES

Avocados acres bearing ranks **2nd** in California and in the United States



San Diego's Agriculture market value of products sold ranks **15th** in California and **46th** in the United States



94% of farms are family farms

Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, sod value of sales ranks **1st** in California and **2nd** in the United States



87% of farms have internet access

Labor workers in agriculture **12,947**



Source: 2022 Census of Agriculture. The Census of Agriculture is conducted every five years to collect agricultural data at county level throughout the nation. For more information you may visit:

FARMS BY SIZE NUMBER

FARMS BY SIZE NUMBER • NUMBER • PERCENTAGE



PROGRAMS & SERVICES



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES — 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



The **Pest Exclusion Division** is the first line of defense in keeping invasive agricultural pests out of our region to protect the food supply and promote regional economy and environmental sustainability. We inspect imported and exported plant shipments and production nurseries to look for harmful agricultural pests and support agricultural trade.

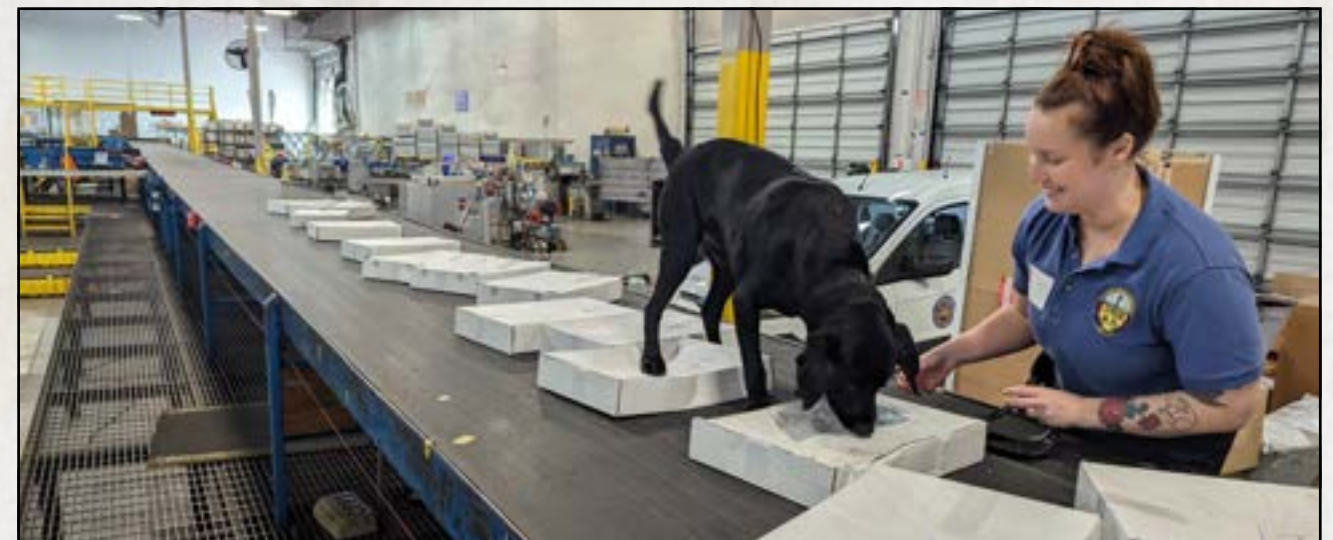
5,873 imported plant shipments inspected with 303 actionable pest finds

451 nurseries, equivalent to 9,736 acres, inspected for pests and diseases

162,911 Glassy-winged sharpshooter traps inspected in production nurseries

The **Detector Dog Team Program** supports the statewide pest prevention network and protects regional natural and agricultural resources by using two Agricultural Detector Dog Teams to check shipments at parcel facilities.

162 incorrectly marked packages containing plant material were intercepted by the Detector Dog Teams at terminal facilities and the United States Postal Service distribution center



The Pest Detection Program is a critical component of our statewide pest prevention network as it is the final line of defense against invasive pests to support agricultural trade and environmental sustainability. There were 160,392 insect trap inspections conducted at residential locations throughout the county. The traps are used to detect insect pests, such as invasive fruit flies, spongy moth, Japanese beetle, and other pests that pose threats to California’s agricultural and horticultural crops. There were several pests detected within the county, and the program assisted both State and federal agencies in conducting activities to eradicate the pests promptly and effectively. Early detection of pests allows eradication efforts to begin before pests multiply and spread, becoming economically challenging to control.

The Plant Pest Diagnostics Lab provides rapid preliminary identification allowing a prompt response in the fight against invasive pests that damage agricultural crops and landscape plants. Our lab also partners with the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s Plant Pest Diagnostics Center and the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardeners to help residents and the agricultural industry identify weeds, insect pests, and plant diseases that may be harmful to agricultural crops and landscape plants. Samples received by the lab are routinely processed within 24 hours.

Processed 3,497 regulatory plant and insect samples

The Citrus Quarantine Program is tasked with ensuring that the citrus industry complies with State regulations and quarantines regarding the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), the insect that spreads Huanglongbing (HLB), the most destructive disease known to citrus. Controlling the movement of ACP reduces the risk of HLB. The program’s primary goal is to mitigate the risk of HLB to protect the food supply and support agricultural trade.

- Performed 212 grower inspections
- Performed 180 transporter inspections
- Performed 80 packinghouse inspections
- Performed 125 fruit seller inspections
- Issued 49 compliance agreements to ensure safe movement of citrus fruit and inhibit the spread of the ACP and the deadly citrus disease, HLB
- Of the 597 shipments inspected by the program, 98% were in compliance with quarantine requirements



The Apiary Program educates beekeepers on County and State apiary regulations including the requirement that beekeepers register their hive locations with the County Agricultural Commissioner. This program conducts regulatory inspections of apiaries located in unincorporated areas of the county to ensure code compliance, support public health and safety, and protect pollinators. Registration promotes regulatory contacts with beekeepers for the exchange of important information on pesticide applications, quarantines, and best management practices.

Registered 319 beekeepers, totaling 23,340 managed honeybee colonies in 770 apiary locations



The Pesticide Regulation Program (PRP) protects human health and the environment by regulating pesticide use, and by fostering reduced-risk pest management through evaluations of Restricted Material Permits, outreach, inspections, complaint and illness investigations, and enforcement. PRP protects the health and safety of employees and the community while supporting a sustainable environment by identifying and reducing risk associated with the handling and storage of pesticides. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) evaluates PRP annually and has provided an “Effective” performance rating since 2016. An “Effective” rating is the highest rating possible, indicating the program has met all CDPR’s performance standards.

- Conducted 1,503 Pesticide Regulation inspections with an approximate 89% compliance rate
- Conducted 76 Hazardous Materials Inventory inspections
- Completed 56 pesticide or antimicrobial illness investigations
- Investigated 65 pesticide use and storage complaints
- Issued 122 Restricted Materials Permits
- Conducted 23 outreach events reaching over 1,161 people
- Participated in 10 stakeholder meetings
- Issued 16 Cease and Desist Orders
- Took 88 enforcement actions and 325 compliance actions



The **Agricultural Standards Division (AGS)** provides regulatory services that support access to healthy produce, increased agricultural trade, integrity in the marketplace, sustainable agricultural practices, and public safety. Activities include inspecting Certified Farmers Markets (CFM), Certified Producers (CP), organic growers/retailers/handlers, industrial hemp cultivators, and produce wholesale and packing house locations. Additionally, AGS verifies commercial agricultural or livestock operations for inclusion in the County Ag Pass Program.

Issued certificates to 34 CFMs and conducted 75 inspections at these markets with a compliance rate of 70%

Issued 240 certificates to CPs and conducted 1,021 inspections of CPs at CFMs with a compliance rate of 96%

Conducted 174 Fruit and Vegetable Standardization inspections with a compliance rate of 94%

Managed 428 active organic growers and conducted 325 organic programs inspections with a compliance rate of 95%

Issued registrations to 21 growers who harvested 4 acres of industrial hemp, and 45 routine cultivation activities were conducted on hemp registrants with a compliance rate of 98%



The **Agricultural Water Quality Program** performs inspections at irrigated commercial agricultural operations to support regional water quality by ensuring regulatory compliance with the County Stormwater Permit mandated by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board. Outreach, inspections, and investigations focus on preventing potential pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides, sediment, and organic waste generated by commercial agriculture activities from entering stormwater system and impairing water quality.

Completed 970 inspections

Investigated 18 complaints



The **Integrated Pest Control Program** supports human health and safety and environmental sustainability by implementing the Board of Supervisors' F-45 Policy "Pesticide Use Reduction" that mandates the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy, an effective and environmentally-sound approach for pest prevention and management. IPM incorporates current scientific information and control methods to prevent, manage, and eradicate unwanted pests while mitigating potential hazards to people, property, and the environment. IPCs' weed control work preserves road visibility and clearance, reduces fire danger along roadways and intersections, and enhances drainage to prevent flooding. This program's structural pest control work mitigates human disease, discomfort, or injury for County staff and customers by reducing pest populations known to be vectors of transmittable diseases through increased inspection and monitoring efforts.

Treated with herbicides or manually removed 3,208 acres of weeds

Treated 181 County facilities for structural pests



The **Weights and Measures Division** ensures consumers get what they pay for and supports fair competition in the marketplace to promote economic equity and sustainability. The division performs inspections to verify accuracy of product weight, measure, and price. These inspections include testing of commercial weighing and measuring devices, labeling and advertising requirements for petroleum products, price verification (price scanners), quantity control for packages, and weighmaster compliance.

Inspected 49,007 commercial weighing and measuring devices with an 85% compliance rate

Investigated 330 consumer complaints regarding commercial meters and scales, petroleum, package/labeling, and price overcharges

Inspected 1,487 retail locations for price accuracy with 22,230 items scanned with an 81% compliance rate

The Civil Actions Program supports due process through administrative civil penalty actions, or fine actions, to gain regulatory compliance.

AWM conducted inspections to verify compliance with State laws and regulations and County ordinances. During some inspections, non-compliances were found that resulted in the issuance of 407 fines. AWM held four requested administrative hearings (three in Weights and Measures and one in Pesticide Regulation) in which the hearing officer upheld the fines. Of the civil penalty actions:

306 were issued by Weights and Measures (232 price verification, 67 device, 7 quantity control)

88 were issued by Pesticide Regulation (30 structural, 58 agricultural)

9 were issued by Agricultural Standards (8 direct marketing, 1 standardization)

4 were issued by Detection, Diagnostics and Quarantine (4 apiary enforcement action)



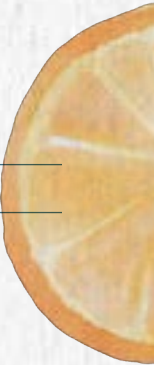
PROGRAM	SERVICES	HOW TO REACH STAFF
Agricultural Standards	Certified Farmers Markets and Certified Producer certificates; organic handler/producer/retail; fruit and vegetable standardization; industrial hemp cultivation; agricultural stormwater; Ag/livestock Pass	858-614-7786 FAX: 858-467-9273
AWM	All services	858-694-2739 www.sdcawm.org sdcawm@sdcounty.ca.gov
Citrus Quarantine	Enforcement of Asian citrus psyllid and Huanglongbing (citrus greening) quarantine requirements	858-614-7770 FAX: 858-467-9697
Civil Actions Program	Administrative civil penalty actions, or fine actions	858-614-7730
Detector Dog Teams	Parcel inspections at terminal sorting facilities and the USPS distribution center	858-614-7770 FAX: 858-467-9697
Hazardous Materials Inventory	Inspections and registrations of agricultural hazardous materials; and California Environmental Reporting System assistance	858-694-8980 FAX: 858-467-9277
Apiary Program	Apiary registration, inspections, complaint investigations, education, and outreach	858-614-7738 FAX: 858-467-9697
Integrated Pest Control	Weed control, habitat restoration, and structural pest control	858-614-7750 FAX: 858-467-9279
Pest Detection	Invasive insect trapping for invasive fruit flies, spongy moth, Japanese beetle and more	858-614-7770 800-300-TRAP(8727) FAX: 858-467-9697
Pest Exclusion (Import, Export, Nursery; Pierce's Disease; Sudden Oak Death)	Inspections of incoming and outgoing plant commodity shipments; phytosanitary and quarantine compliance certificates; nursery inspections; Spongy moth and Spotted Lanternfly inspections	760-752-4700 Inspection Request Line: 760-752-4713 FAX: 760-724-4098
Pesticide Regulation	Pest Control Business Registration, Restricted Materials Permits, Operator Identification Numbers, pesticide use reporting, employee pesticide training, and pesticide complaints	858-694-8980 FAX: 858-467-9277 prp.awm@sdcounty.ca.gov
Plant Pest Diagnostics Lab	Insect identification for regulatory purposes and pest surveys	858-614-7738 FAX: 858-467-9697
Weights and Measures	Price verification (price scanners) and commercial weighing and measuring device registration and inspections, weighmaster, petroleum quality/labeling, package, and labeling inspections	858-694-2778 FAX: 858-467-9278 wm.awm@sdcounty.ca.gov Meter Testing Lab Hours: 8:00am-5:00pm M-F

The 2023 Crop Statistics and Annual Report was produced by Program Coordinator Porfirio Mancillas, Operations Research Analyst Bosko Celic, and Information Technology Principal Vince Acosta. Photos were mostly taken by AWM employees with growers' consent.

All reported figures represent Freight on Board (F.O.B.) values for products. These are not net values and do not reflect cost of production. Total values may not add precisely due to rounding. Gross value of farm products does not reflect the total value to the economy. Values are aggregated to maintain growers' confidentiality.

STAFF

			
Ha Dang			
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures			
Garrett Cooper Deputy Director		Maria Gomez Deputy Director	
PEST EXCLUSION		DETECTION, DIAGNOSTICS, QUARANTINE	
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Shady Hajjar Supervising ASI		Bonnie Wheeler Supervising ASI	
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ASI		Owen	
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Jonathan Taylor		Ivonne Torres Sr. IDS	
Jacqueline Zelon		IDS II	
Richard Arne		JOB TITLES	
Heriberto Avalos		ASI: Agricultural/Standards Inspector	
Nicholas Bearmar		IDS: Insect Detection Specialist	
Roy Joseph		SR: Senior	
Aaron Judkins			
Keegan Smock			
Joshua Tidwell			
			
			



PESTICIDE REGULATION

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Gabriel Hernandez Supervising ASI
Tyler Lew Supervising ASI
Brian Pennington Supervising ASI
Gemma Bilog Supervising Office Assistant
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Sabumon Joseph Office Assistant
Kenneth Woodson Environmental Health Tech

SR. ASI

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Daniel Desserich
Sean Foley
Chase Goodman
Benjamin Jacobs
Rocio Lara
Nancy Wickus

ASI

Matthew Buller
Timothy Hewitt
Henderson Hsu
Siobhan Lozada
Amanda Mathews
Patrick Nava
Juan Zazueta

AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS

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Monica Winters Supervising ASI
Elinor Weed Office Support Specialist

SR. ASI

Camthao Ho
Robert Roma

ASI

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Wesley Leonard
Mario Maldonado
Claire Orion
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Richard Valentine

INTEGRATED PEST MGMT

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PEST MGMT TECHNICIAN I

Chase Voight

PEST MGMT TECHNICIAN II

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Danny Luna
Raul Macias
Ivan Robles
Marcel Sanchez
Raymond Wood

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Austin Shepherd Deputy Ag Commissioner/Sealer
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Claudia Verdugo Supervising ASI
Victor Cruz Amaya Supervising Office Assistant
Beverly Bledsoe Sr. Office Assistant
Areleous Burton Sr. Office Assistant
Arianne Adair Office Assistant

SR. ASI

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Kyle Moranton
Johanna Northcote
Quang Ong
Jeremy Parth
Chris Placek
Kevin Porter
Brad Shipley
Mazen Stevens

ASI

Ma Aurea
Richard Cockroft
Russel Coniff
Vanessa Figueroa
Jade Kluge
Joseph Marino
Jasmine Vuong

CIVIL ACTIONS
/ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Paul Rushton Office Support Specialist

ADMINISTRATION

FISCAL

Madonna Bagsie Chief of Departmental Operations
Rolinda Gelacio Principal Administrative Analyst
Mary Cervantes Sr. Accountant
Maria Victoria Medina Staff Accountant
Remulla Renante Administrative Analyst III
Joe Swaykos Administrative Analyst III
Hannah Elanny Administrative Analyst II
Sandra Luck-Quinata Administrative Analyst II
Christina Topacio Administrative Analyst I
Eddie Mercado Staff Accountant
Long Luong Account Clerk Specialist
Cesalyn Rusit Account Clerk Specialist
Mayda Pait Accounting Technician
Erlinda Espiritu Accounting Technician

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Angela Zehr Departmental HR Officer
Kaitlin Woods HR Specialist
Argelia Crouse HR Assistant

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Vincent Acosta IT Principal
Jeffery Westrick Sr. ASI
Lorie Roberts GIS Technician

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Justin Aquino Policy Analyst (Admin Analyst II)
Taylor Pizzuto Public Outreach Specialist

PROGRAM BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

Porfirio Mancillas Program Coordinator
Bosko Celie Operations Research Analyst





**DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE,
WEIGHTS &
MEASURES**

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This report is available in multiple
languages on the website.