

California Seed Association Fact Sheet Series



Q

What is the economic value of California seed?

A

Seed production in California is an important contributor to the state's economy and California is a leader in the global industry.

Background

Spread widely throughout the state (36 of 58 California counties have reported seed production), the seed industry in California is a major provider of seeds and fills an important niche in the global seed industry. California's diverse climates and winter rainfall pattern make it an ideal location for seed production. In addition, as California produces a wide array of agricultural crops, breeding programs locate here to develop cultivars adapted to Californian conditions.

State law requires market participants to be authorized to sell agricultural seed, including field crop, turf or vegetable seed. In 2015, there were 583 firms authorized to sell seed in California, of which 338 firms had operation facilities in the state. Through reporting information collected by the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) Seed Services Program, the reported value of seed sold in California in 2014 was \$631,630,680 million, an increase of 3% higher than prior year.

Building on data collected by CDFA, an independent study conducted by the University of California Agricultural Issues Center determined that in 2008 the global revenue generated by the California seed industry was over \$2.8 billion, or 7.9% of the global seed market. Primary data collected from the industry estimated that field seed represents 55% of the total gross revenue generated from the sale of seed produced in California with another 31% of revenue being generated from vegetable seed sales. Turf and flower seed represent the remaining 14% of gross revenue. This economic activity was generated on only 3% of all crop acreage in California that is dedicated to seed production.

More Information

Agricultural Issues Center (<http://aic.ucdavis.edu/publications/seedsincal.pdf>)

Seed Biotechnology Center (http://sbc.ucdavis.edu/Outreach_-_Public_Service_pages/Economic_Study_of_California_Seed_359/)

California Department of Food & Agriculture (<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/nsc/seed/>)

California  Seed
Association