

# California Seed Association Fact Sheet Series



## Background

Spread widely throughout the state, the seed industry in California is a major provider of seeds and has evolved to fill an important niche in the global seed industry. Seed industry activities have been recorded for the past three decades during which 62% of counties (36 of 58) have reported seed production.

State law requires market participants to be authorized to sell agricultural seed, including field crop, turf or vegetable seed. In 2008, there were 684 firms authorized to sell seed in California, of which more than 200 were seed-labeling firms headquartered in the state. Through reporting information collected by the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) Seed Services Program, the reported value of California Seed in 2008 was \$480.7 million, an increase of 8.6% over the previous year.

Building on data collected by CDFA, an independent study was conducted by the University of California Agricultural Issues Center which determined that the global revenue generated by the California seed industry was over \$2.8 billion, or 7.9% of the global seed market in 2008. Primary data collected from the industry estimates that field seed represents almost 50% of the total gross revenue generated from the sale of California produced seed at \$410 million, with another 30% of revenue being generated from vegetable seed sales at \$235 million. Turf and flower seed represent the remaining 20% of gross revenue at \$62 and \$45 million, respectively. In addition, this report determined that 3% of all crop acreage in California is dedicated to seed production.

## More Information

**Agricultural Issues Center** (<http://aic.ucdavis.edu>)

**Seed Biotechnology Center** (<http://sbc.ucdavis.edu>)

**California Department of Food & Agriculture** (<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov>)



**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.