

Good afternoon!

Although our famous groundhog yesterday predicted 6 more weeks of winter, California cherry trees are waking up and looking forward to Spring!

### **Crop Outlook**

Currently everything is looking extremely optimistic for the 2022 California Cherry crop! After last year's record crop, trees received a well-deserved rest (dormancy) this winter in each growing area receiving very sufficient chill hours. Sufficient chill hours are critical for allowing trees to store up enough energy to remain healthy and in staging the trees for a strong growing season. A good dormancy also helps with a more even bloom and better pollination.

### **Early Estimate**

With favorable chill hours and good growing conditions thus far, we project to see a very good crop size this year. Some growers are putting an early initial projection somewhere around 8-9M cartons. This number would be below last year's record crop but well above the 5-year average!

### **Previous Years Stats (cartons)**

2021- 10,122,334  
2020- 6,582,950  
2019- 5,599,472  
2018- 3,961,416  
2017- 9,555,650  
5-year average- 7.1M

### **Timing**

Last year was fairly normal as far as the timing of season starting. As of this date, trees appear to be in a very similar stage to last year (bud swelling on early variety- pic below). This means a projected first day harvest would put us around April 25-30, on earliest variety.



Although it is still very early and a lot can/will happen between now and harvest, all indications are pointing toward a big crop and very nice quality!  
More updates to follow.