Los Angeles County

2011

Crop & Livestock Report

Nurseries Nestled in a Massive Metropolis

Department of Agricultural Commissioner | Weights and Measures

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For a copy of this report, visit our website at http://acwm.lacounty.gov

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Department of
Agricultural Commissioner/
Weights and Measures

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Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

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California Department of Food and Agriculture

and

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles

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Mark Ridley-Thomas – Second District
Don Knabe – Fourth District
Michael D. Antonovich– Fifth District

2011 CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORT

The total gross value of the agricultural crops and commodities produced in Los Angeles County during 2011 was $173,106,050. This represents a slight decrease of 0.5% percent from last year's production value.

Severe heat and drought conditions in many areas of the County during 2010 and 2011 created a strong demand for hay products. In response, prices for these field crops increased significantly. Production values for beef cattle and milk also rose by 30%. Honey production increased by over 40%, and with the price for honey rising, the overall value of this commodity was up by more than 90%.

Although there were no significant changes in the production value of nursery products and vegetable crops, inclement weather conditions caused a late spring frost, severely affecting the fruit and nut crop production. In addition to the drop in acreage in production by 30%, production values decreased by over 80%.

Growers continue to face tough challenges, poor economic conditions, competition from foreign markets, and continuous pest threats.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to each of the producers and individuals who provided information to complete this report. I also would like to extend my thanks to the skilled and dedicated staff of this Department for their diligent work in serving and protecting the agricultural community and in collecting and compiling the statistics for this annual report.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt E. Floren
Agricultural Commissioner/
Director of Weights and Measures

Protecting Consumers and the Environment Since 1881
To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service

This annual publication presents statistical information on acreage, yield, and gross value of agricultural products produced in Los Angeles County. This is published in accordance with Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. Production values in this report represent gross values and do not reflect the cost of production, net income, or loss to producers.

Nurseries Nurtured in the County of Los Angeles

While most residents of the County of Los Angeles probably don't think of plant nurseries when thinking of the word "agriculture," Nursery Products account for more value in the overall commercial agricultural production in the County of Los Angeles than all other agricultural products *combined*. This is even more so if taking "Flowers and Foliage" into account, compared to the combined total from "Fruit & Nut Crops," "Vegetable Crops," "Field Crops," "Livestock Production," "Apiary," and "Forest Products."

Nurseries are very much part of agriculture. They are where plants sprout and are nurtured as they await to be adopted by gardens or landscapes. We have an important responsibility to nurseries through our Pest Exclusion and Pesticide Regulation programs.

Nurseries are found throughout the County of Los Angeles, sometimes in places that would otherwise be empty, such as in power transmission corridors, under the power lines.

With abundant sunshine, our County has historically been home to nurseries. Along with such businesses came concerns about pest threats. Red Scale was a problem in nurseries in the 1920s, as evidenced by various pieces of correspondence in our files. Letters about Red Scale, dated September 11, 1923, were sent to many recipients, including Beverly Hills Nursery in Beverly Hills, Hollywood Avocado Nursery in Hollywood, Kado and Yamada in Hollywood, Enterprise Nursery in Pasadena, Fruit Growers Supply Co. in Pasadena, and Yamamoto Nursery in San Gabriel. A list of Registered Nurserymen in 1922 included, among others, Ballou's Nursery in Pasadena, Eagle Rock Tropical Garden in Eagle Rock, Far West Nursery in Glendale, Honda Nursery on Slauson in Los Angeles, Inglewood Gardens in Inglewood, and Nishi Nursery on Santa Monica Boulevard in Los Angeles.

Monrovia Nursery in 1969

As with other agricultural operations, many nurseries of the past have been replaced by development. The closest nursery for many residents is now at their nearest big box store, but in the past, they were everywhere. A Mr. Sego Murakami of Van Nuys, California, sent a hand-written letter dated August 28, 1922, to ask about his opening of a branch nursery at Universal City on the corner of Ventura and Lankershim, a corner that is fully developed now.

One large stand-alone nursery in Los Angeles County for many years was the Monrovia Nursery. Founded in 1926 in the City of Monrovia, it moved 30 years later to the City of Azusa, where it was 545 acres in size. In 2004, while maintaining corporate headquarters in Azusa, the nursery moved their growing operation to another part of California and the former growing land was developed into housing.

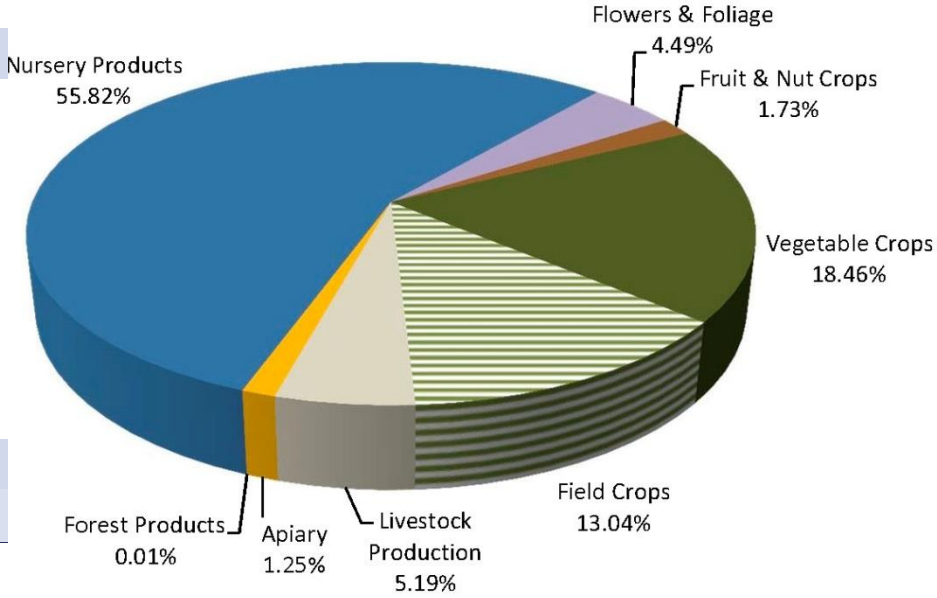
A 1952 publication from a nursery located in San Fernando, at an address where homes can now be found, describes Camellias and Azaleas as "the aristocrats of the garden," boasts of fifteen years of business, and advises California residents to add ***three percent sales tax*** to the purchase price of plants and crates.

Through the decades, nurseries have been woven into the fabric of the County of Los Angeles. They have a long history with us, and, hopefully, a long and robust future.

MILLION DOLLAR COMMODITIES

1.	Woody Ornamentals	48,639,220
2.	Bedding Plants	28,809,550
3.	Root Vegetables	27,051,510
4.	Alfalfa Hay	17,835,720
5.	Turf	9,400,000
6.	Dairy & Livestock	8,978,030
7.	Indoor Plants, Flowering	3,139,370
8.	Grain Hay	2,545,450
9.	Indoor Plants, Foliage	2,079,260
10	Orchids	1,837,920
11	Honey	1,222,910
12	Grapes	1,154,030

Year 2011 Crop Value Summary



SUMMARY:

COMMODITY	2011	2010	2009
Nursery Products	$96,635,150	$96,210,000	$111,662,000
Flowers & Foliage	$7,774,900	$7,681,000	$8,253,000
Fruit & Nut Crops	$2,999,260	$17,201,000	$21,239,000
Vegetable Crops	$31,956,680	$32,599,000	$30,357,000
Field Crops	$22,575,260	$12,679,000	$12,624,000
Livestock Production	$8,978,030	$6,910,000	$5,154,000
Apiary	$2,167,600	$744,000	$246,000
Forest Products	$19,170	$12,000	$12,000
TOTAL	$173,106,050	$174,036,000	$189,547,000

NURSERY PRODUCTS

Item	Year	Green House Square Feet	Field Acres	Total Value
Woody Ornamentals	**2011**	**6,680,000**	**854**	**$48,639,220 ↓**
	2010	4,752,000	1,071	51,282,000
Bedding Plants	**2011**	**1,194,000**	**92**	**$28,809,550 ↓**
	2010	1,251,000	100	33,061,000
Turf *	**2011**	**0**	**812**	**$9,400,000**
Vegetable Plants*	**2011**	**29,000**	**4.6**	**$951,500**
Bonsai*	**2011**	**132,000**	**4.5**	**$819,200**
Ground Covers	2011	113,000	12	$633,420↓
	2010	**166,000**	**10**	**752,000**
Miscellaneous *	**2011**	**323,000**	**87**	**$7,382,260↓**
	2010	272,000	890	11,115,000

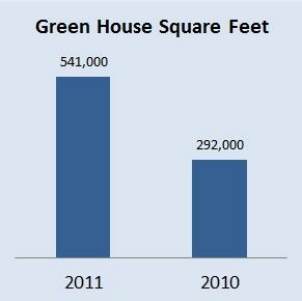
****Include perennials, Christmas trees, dragon fruits, lucky bamboo, fruit trees, citrus trees, roses, geraniums and other misc. nursery plants.**

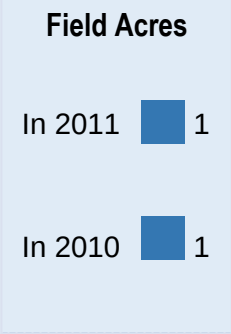
TOTAL	**2011**	**8,471,000**	**1,866**	**$96,635,150↑**
	2010	6,441,000	2,071	$96,210,000

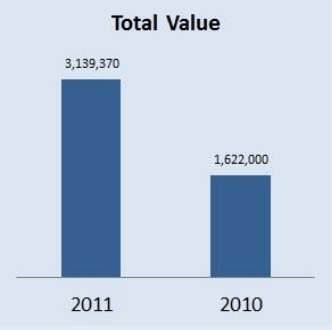
*** Own category due to the increased number of growers.**

Flowers & Foliage

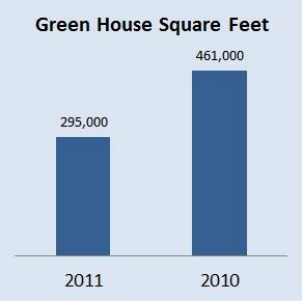
Indoor Plants, Flowering

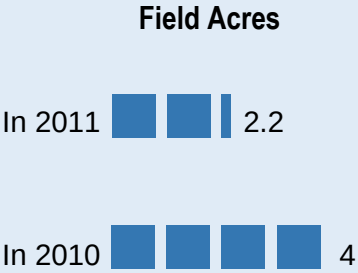


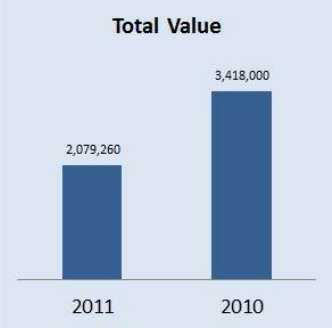




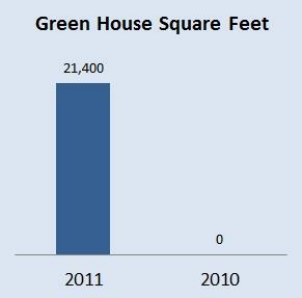
Indoor Plants, Foliage

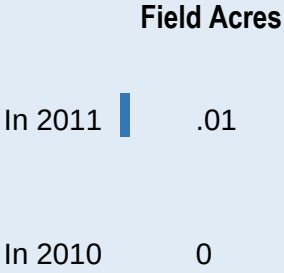


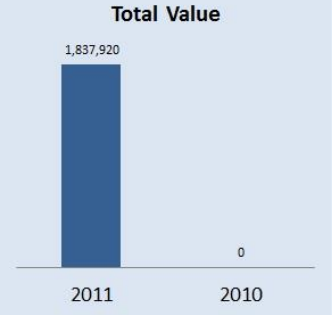




Orchids*

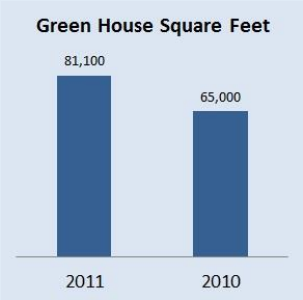


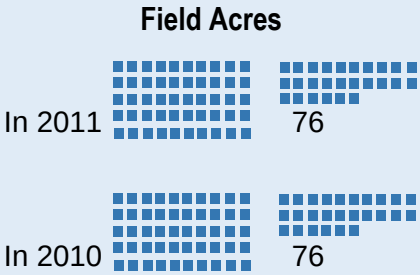


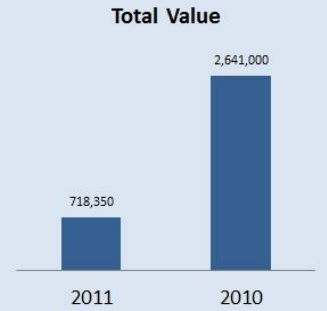


*Own category due to the increased number of growers.

Miscellaneous**

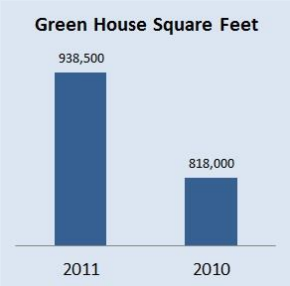


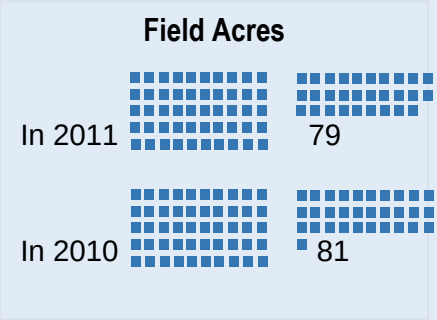


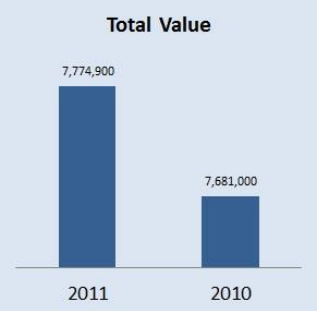


**Include poinsettias, lilacs, roses, dahlia, tulips, lilies, sunflowers, poppies, delphiniums, pom poms, mums, peach blossoms, cacti, and other miscellaneous flowers.

Total







Fruit & Nut Crops

Item	Year	Acreage	Production Per Acre	Production Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total Value
Grapes	**2011**	**419**	**1.5**	**642**	**Ton**	**$1,799**	**$1,154,030↓**
	2010	384	2.6	911	Ton	$2,566	2,338,000
Strawberries	**2011**	**16**	**14.5**	**232**	**Ton**	**$1,999**	**$463,910↓**
	2010	53	13.2	497	Ton	$1,708	849,000
Cherries	**2011**	**116**	**0.8**	**97.2**	**Ton**	**$4,563**	**$443,500↓**
	2010	152	1.5	257	Ton	$3,969	1,020,000
Avocados	**2011**	**78**	**0.2**	**14**	**Ton**	**$2,259**	**$207,600↑**
	2010	87	3.6	267	Ton	$693	185,000
Apples	**2011**	**131**	**0.3**	**32**	**Ton**	**$3,047**	**$97,500↓**
	2010	130	5.0	650	Ton	$1,300	845,000
Orchard Fruits	**2011**	**500**	Includes peaches, pears, plums, apricots, nectarines, persimmons, pomegranates, oranges, mandarins citrus, and grapefruits				**$533,810↓**
	2010	1,025					11,719,000
Miscellaneous	**2011**	**41**	Includes figs, pistachios, olives, berries, guavas, cherimoya, prickly pears, other miscellaneous fruit and nut crops.				**$98,910↓**
	2010	82					245,000
TOTAL	**2011**	**1,301**					**$2,999,260↓**
	2010	1,913					17,201,000

Increases of product values for avocados (112%) helped offset the reduction in production values.

ROOT VEGETABLES

- **5.61% ↓**
- **$27,051,510**

HERBS

- **70.55% ↓**
- **$348,440**

2011

TABLE GREENS

- **80.63% ↑**
- **$726,120**

Vegetable Crops

Item	Year	Acreage	Production Per Acre	Production Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total Value
Corn	**2011**	**248**	**29.8**	**1,214**	**Ton**	**$494**	**$599,560↑**
	2010	187	4.5	802		$524	420,000
Tomatoes*	**2011**	**32**	**76.0**	**330**	**Ton**	**$1,241**	**$409,690**
Root Vegetables	**2011**	**3,358**	Includes dry onions, carrots, potatoes, radishes, beets, turnips, and other root vegetables.				**$27,051,510↓**
	2010	4,002					28,659,000
Vine Crops	**2011**	**84**	Includes cucumbers, green beans, melons, pumpkins, squash, zucchinis, pumpkins, watermelons, and cantaloupes.				**$618,570↓**
	2010	135					1,047,000
Table Greens	**2011**	**20**	Includes spinach, kale, oriental specialties, alfalfa sprouts, and lettuces.				**$726,120↑**
	2010	14					402,000
Herbs & Spices	**2011**	**11**	Includes cilantro, parsley, chives, mint, thyme, fennel, and other herbs & spices.				**$348,440↓**
	2010	83					1,183,000
Miscellaneous	**2011**	**172**	Includes bell peppers, chili peppers, cacti, celery, chard, mustard greens, collard greens, leeks, kohlrabi, cabbages, green onions, broccoli, cauliflower, eggplant, and other misc. vegetables.				**$2,202,790↑**
	2010	51					888,000
TOTAL	**2011**	**3,925**					**$31,956,680↓**
	2010	4,472					32,599,000

***Own category due to the increased number of growers.**

Field Crops

Item	Year	Acreage	Production Per Acre	Production Total	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total Value
Alfalfa Hay	**2011**	**6,250**	**6.4**	**52,458**	**Ton**	**$341**	**$17,835,720↑**
	2010	6,196	8.4	51,988	Ton	$152	7,886,000
Grain Hay	**2011**	**3,710**	**3.0**	**11,225**	**Ton**	**$227**	**$2,545,450↑**
	2010	5,189	2.4	12,698	Ton	$110	1,400,000
Rangeland	**2011**	**4,600**					**$114,810↓**
	2010	45,115					1,134,000
Miscellaneous*	**2011**	**4,980**	Includes irrigated pasture, barley, wheat, sudan hay, oat hay, corn grain and silage, and grazing privileges on stubble.				**$2,079,280↓**
	2010	4,600					2,259,000
Total	**2011**	**14,900****					**$22,575,260↑**
	2010	15,985**					12,679,000

***Acreage excludes stubble.**

****Excluding rangeland and stubble**

Apiary

Item	Year	Production	Unit	Value Per Unit	Total Value
Honey	**2011**	**610,319**	**Lb.**	**$2.00**	**$1,222,910↑**
	2010	432,324	Lb.	$1.47	$634,000
Beeswax	**2011**	**4,205**	**Lb.**	**$1.67**	**$7,390↓**
	2010	6,053	Lb.	$2.67	$16,000
Miscellaneous	**2011**	Includes pollination fees, etc.			**$937,300↑**
	2010				$94,000
Total	**2011**				**$2,167,600↑**
	2010				744,000

Dairy & Livestock

Total Value Comparison

2011:
$8,978,030 ↑

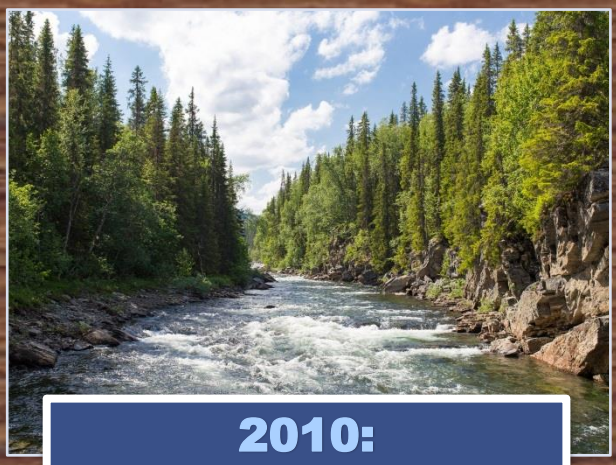
2010:
$6,910,000

Includes dairy cattle, beef cattle, hogs, goats, chickens, milk, goat milk, eggs, etc.

Forest Products

Firewood* Total Value Comparison

2011:
$19,170↑



2010:
$12,000

* Figures Obtained from USDA Forest Service, Angeles National Forest.

Year	Farms	Acres
2011	**28**	**133.77**
2010	33	91.40

PEST DETECTION ACTIVITIES

Pest	Number of Traps Pest Detection	Specimens Trapped
Mexican Fruit Fly	5,000	0
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	5,025	1
Melon Fruit Fly	5,015	0
Striped Fruit Fly (traps shared with Melon Fruit Fly)		2
Oriental Fruit Fly	5,015	15
Guava Fruit Fly (traps shared with Oriental Fruit Fly)		4
Gypsy Moth	2,346	1
Japanese Beetle	3,102	1
European Pine Shoot Moth	5	0
European Corn Borer	3	0
Light Brown Apple Moth	5,004	200+
TOTAL	**30,515**	**224+**

PEST ERADICATION ACTIVITIES:

Pest	Method	Scope of Program
Oriental Fruit Fly	Male Attractant Technique	2 treatment area
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	Continued preventative program: sterile Medfly release countywide	Approximately 7.9 billion steriles released

Biological Control Activities

Pest	Scope of Program	Agent/Mechanism
Mediterranean Fruit Fly	7,951,387,805 sterile Medflies released	Sterile Release

PEST EXCLUSION ACTIVITIES	
Pest Exclusion Interceptions, Actions, and Violations Issued	
Markings	312
Infested/Presumed Infested	254
Plum Curculio and Blueberry Maggot	20
Citrus Pests	8
Failure to Hold	6
Gypsy Moth	6
Japanese Beetle	4
Burrowing and Reniform Nematodes	4
Cereal Leaf Beetle	3
European Pine Shoot Moth	3
Federal (Hawaiian) Quarantine	3
Proof of Ownership	3
Caribbean Fruit Fly	2
Federal Domestic Quarantine – Fruit Flies	2
Peach Tree Diseases	1
Nursery Stock Certificates or Inspection	1
Hydrilla	1
Imported Fire Ant	1
European Corn Borer	1
Ozonium Root Rot	1
Pine Shoot Beetle	1
TOTAL	**637**

PEST EXCLUSION ACTIVITIES

PEST INTERCEPTED Latin Name (Common Name)	MATERIAL	SOURCE*	# of INTERCEPTIONS
Entomology Laboratory			
***Acanthoscelides sp.* (Seed beetle)**	Sweet basil	Quar	**1**
***Adoretus sinicus* (Chinese rose beetle)**	Basil	Quar	**2**
***Agallia sp.* (Leafhopper)**	Cut foliage	Quar	**10**
***Aleurodicus dispersus sp.* (Spiraling whitefly)**	Basil/Malongai	Quar	**4**
***Anomala sp.* (Scarab beetle)**	Thai basil	Quar	**1**
***Anoplolepis gracilipes* (Long-legged ant)**	Cut foliage	Quar	**6**
***Aonidiella aurantii (*California red scale)**	Nursery plants	Nurs	**2**
***Aonidiella orientalis* (Oriental scale)**	Cycad	Quar	**2**
***Araecerus coffeae* (Coffee bean weevil)**	Cut foliage	Quar	**2**
***Asiothrixus antidesmae* (Whitefly)**	Cut flowers	Quar	**1**
***Aspidiotus destructor* (Coconut scale)**	Cut foliage	Quar	**1**
***Aulacaspis yasumatsui* (Cycad aulacaspis scale)**	Cycad	Quar	**2**
***Bradybaena similaris* (Snail)**	Cut foliage/Palms	Quar	**5**
***Camponotus sp.* (Carpenter ant)**	Wooden pallets	Quar	**1**
***Cacopsylla sp.* (Psyllid)**	Pittosporum	Nurs	**1**
***Chionaspis sp.* (Armored scale)**	Cut foilage	Quar	**1**
***Chrysodeixis eriosoma* (Green garden looper)**	Cut foliage	Quar	**10**
***Coccus viridis* (Green scale)**	Cut foliage	Quar	**3**
***Coccus sp.* (Soft scale)**	Cut foliage	Quar	**2**
***Cylas formicarius* (Sweet potato weevil)**	Sweet potato	Quar	**1**
***Diaphania nitidalis* (Pickleworm)**	Tindora	Quar	**3**
***Dichromothrips smithi* (Trips)**	Orchids	Quar	**2**
***Dismicoccus neobrivipes* (Mealybug)**	Rambutan	Quar	**1**
***Dismicoccus sp.* (Mealybug)**	Rambutan	Quar	**1**
***Empoasca sp.* (Leafhopper)**	Malongai	Quar	**2**

PEST INTERCEPTED Latin Name (Common Name)	MATERIAL	SOURCE*	# of INTERCEPTIONS
Entomology Laboratory			
***Euconocephalus sp.* (Katydid)**	Thai basil	Quar	**1**
***Eumerus figurans* (Ginger maggot)**	Ginger roots	Quar	**9**
***Ferrisia virgata* (Striped mealybug)**	Cut flowers	Quar	**2**
***Gyponana germari* (Leafhopper)**	Cut foliage	Quar	**20**
***Homalodisca vitripennis (*adults*)* (Glassy-winged sharpshooter)**	Nursery plants	Nurs	**2280**
***Homalodisca vitripennis* (eggs) (Glassy-winged sharpshooter)**	Nursery plants	Nurs	**13**
***Hypoponera sp.* (Ant)**	Ginger root	Quar	**3**
***Isorhynchus sp.* (Weevil)**	Cut flowers	Quar	**1**
***Kallitaxila granulata* (Planthopper)**	Cut foliage	Quar	**36**
***Maconellicoccus hirsutus* (Pink hibiscus mealybug)**	Longan	Quar	**1**
***Meghimatium striatum* (Slug)**	Leeks	Quar	**3**
***Mitrastethus sp.* (Weevil)**	Longan	Quar	**2**
***Monomorium sp.* (Ant)**	Malongai/Rambutan	Quar	**3**
***Nesothrips sp.* (Trips)**	Basil/Longan	Quar	**2**
***Nipaecoccus sp.* (Coconut mealybug)**	Palm	Quar/Nurs	**10**
***Nysius sp.* (Lygaeid bug)**	Cut foliage	Quar	**14**
***Ochetellus glaber* (Ant)**	Malongai/Taro leaves	Quar	**5**
***Odontomachus ruginodis* (Ant)**	Ficus	Quar	**1**
***Orchidophilus sp.* (Weevil)**	Taro/Thai basil	Quar	**3**
***Phaneroptera furcifera* (Katydid)**	Cut foliage	Quar	**2**
***Pheidole megacephala* (Big headed ant)**	Cut foliage	Quar	**9**
***Pinnaspis buxi* (Boxwood scale)**	Cut foliage	Quar	**2**
***Pinnaspis strachani* (Lesser snow scale)**	Cut foliage	Quar	**3**
***Poliaspis cycadis* (Poliaspis cycad scale)**	Cycad	Nurs	**1**
***Protopulvinaria pyriformis* (Pyriform scale)**	Nursery plants	Nurs	**7**
***Pseudaulacaspis cockerelli* (Magnolia white scale)**	Cut foliage/Palms	Quar/Nurs	**4**
***Pseudaonidia trilobitiformis* (Trilobe scale)**	Cut flowers	Quar	**1**

PEST INTERCEPTED Latin Name (Common Name)	MATERIAL	SOURCE*	# of INTERCEPTIONS
Entomology Laboratory			
***Pseudococcus jackbeardsleyi* (Mealybug)**	Basil	Quar	**4**
***Pseudococcus lendoi* (Mealybug)**	Rambutan	Quar	**2**
***Pulvinaria psidii* (Green shield scale)**	Rambutan/Nursery plants	Quar/Nurs	**5**
***Rhopalosiphum sp.* (Aphid)**	Asparagus	Quar	**1**
***Solenopsis geminata* (Tropical fire ant)**	Cut foliage	Quar	**6**
***Spodoptera sp.* (Army worm)**	Basil	Quar	**2**
***Sybra alternans* (Long horned beetle)**	Cut foliage	Quar	**2**
***Technomyrmex albipes* (White footed ant)**	Cut foliage	Quar	**68**
***Trigonidomorpha sjostedti* (Cricket)**	Ginger root	Quar	**2**
***Veronicella sp.* (Slug)**	Cut foliage	Quar	**1**
***Wasmannia auropunctata* (Little fire ant)**	Ginger	Quar	**1**
***Xyloborus sp.* (Bark beetle)**	Galanga	Quar	**1**
***Xyphon sp.* (Leafhopper)**	Rambutan	Quar	**1**
TOTAL **Source*: Nurs: Nursery Quar: Quarantine Pub: Public**			**2,601**

PEST INTERCEPTED Latin Name (Common Name)	MATERIAL	SOURCE*	# of INTERCEPTIONS
Plant Pathology Laboratory			
***Euphobia terracina* (Carnation Spurge)**	Road Side	Pub	**1**
***Fatoua villosa* (Mulberry Weed)**	Nursery	Nurs	**1**
TOTAL **Source*: Nurs: Nursery Quar: Quarantine Pub: Public**			**2**

Winds Wreck Toppled Trees

It would take much nursery stock to begin to replace trees lost in an unusual series of winds. Late in the year, as November 30 gave way to December 1, extreme wind conditions, with gusts up to 120 miles per hour, ripped through the County of Los Angeles basin for a couple of days. Most damage hit the foothill communities from Tujunga to Bradbury. Countless branches were torn from trees and long-cherished trees were uprooted entirely. Wooden poles holding power lines snapped like twigs, some having been weakened by termites. Even in some places where the poles were not broken or toppled, lines were damaged by felled trees. Automobiles and structures alike were smashed as thick trunks came crashing down.

Personnel from our Department assisted at the exceptionally hard-hit Los Angeles County Botanical Garden and Arboretum in Arcadia. More than 325 trees were uprooted and more than 700 others were severely damaged. By Tuesday, December 6, our Weed Abatement Division had mobilized nine experienced weed abatement workers, three brush chippers, and numerous chain and pole saws to aid in the emergency clean up at the Arboretum, where Weed Abatement assisted for almost a full month. One of the trees lost was a Blue Gum Eucalyptus, one of the oldest in California, dating back to at least the 1870s.

There was over $34 million in public damage alone. Nearly a half-million residents lost power, some for more than a week. Countless streets were impassible until trees or branches were removed.

The City of Pasadena was especially hard-hit, with less than a month to go before the annual Tournament of Roses showcase of designs with flowers and seeds. Fourteen structures with a total of 54 housing units were completely condemned and another 38 were partially uninhabitable. The City had 1,500 mature street and park trees downed, uprooted or ruled unstable along with an additional 525 mature street and park trees severely damaged and requiring removal. An estimated 50,000 tons of trees, limbs and debris was collected from City streets. 100% of the green waste material collected was recycled.

It was a reminder that, even though the area is covered in urban sprawl, there are still trees everywhere, and caring for them is important.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL
COMMISSIONER
WEIGHTS & MEASURES