

2026-27 California Mandarin Objective Measurement Report



California Department of Food and Agriculture

Cooperating with the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

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TANGO AND W. MURCOTT AFOURER MANDARIN FORECAST

The 2026-27 California forecast for only the Tango and W. Murcott Afourer Mandarin varieties is 38.0 million 40-lb. cartons. This forecast is based on the results of the 2026-27 Mandarin Objective Measurement (O.M.) Survey, which was conducted from June 20 to August 23, 2026. Estimated fruit set per tree, fruit diameter, trees per acre, bearing acreage, and mandarins per box were used in the statistical models estimating production.

Survey data indicated a fruit set per tree of 493, down 2 percent from the previous year. The average diameter from the survey was 1.365 inches, less than 1 percent above last year's diameter for these varieties. Bearing acreage is estimated at 36,000, which results in a yield of 1,056 40-lb. cartons per acre.

Funding for the survey was provided by the California Citrus industry.

SURVEY HISTORY

This is the fourth year the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service has published a production forecast of Tango and W. Murcott Afourer Mandarin varieties. Fruit counts and size measurements have been collected since 2020 to build the dataset and develop the crop estimating models.

SURVEY SAMPLE

A sample of 338 Tango and W. Murcott Afourer Mandarin groves were randomly selected proportional to county and variety bearing acreage, with 336 of these groves utilized in this survey. Once a grove was randomly chosen and grower permission was granted, two trees were randomly selected. For each selected tree, the trunk was measured along with all connected branches. A random number table was then used to select a branch, and then all connected branches from the randomly selected branch were measured.

This process was repeated until a branch was reached with no significant limbs beyond it. This randomly selected branch, called the terminal branch, was then closely inspected to count all fruit connected to it, as well as all fruit along the path from the trunk to the terminal branch. Since each selected path has a probability of selection associated with it, a probability-based method was then applied to estimate a fruit count for the entire tree.

In the last week of the survey period, fruit diameter measurements were collected on the right quadrant of four trees surrounding the two sampled trees. These measurements were used to estimate an average fruit diameter per tree.

California Mandarin Objective Measurement Survey Results

County	Number of samples	Average set per tree	Average diameter (inches)
Fresno	54	415	1.325
Kern	79	389	1.341
Madera	34	330	1.476
Tulare	162	610	1.349
Other ¹	7	387	1.742
State Survey Avg.	336	493	1.365

¹ Other includes Imperial, Kings, and Riverside counties.

State Average Set and Diameter by Year

Crop Year	Number of samples	Average set per tree	Average diameter (inches)
2022-23	293	551	1.344
2023-24	280	593	1.244
2024-25	310	666	1.343
2025-26	332	504	1.359
2026-27	336	493	1.365

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