

#7 Peppers

Ventura County is the 2nd leading producer of Peppers in California.



Peppers have been an on-again, off-again top ten commodity since the 1920s. In 1927, Peppers in the form of Pimientos were sandwiched between Tomatoes and Lettuce at the number nine position. Peppers popped back as a top commodity in 1943, but didn't keep a permanent residence in the top ten until the year 2000.

According to the 2022-2023 *California Agricultural Statistics Review*, California produced 37.0% of the U.S. Pepper production ranking us number one in the country. Ventura County produced 23.9% of the Pepper production, ranking us second in the state. Peppers were reported as the U.S.'s 43rd most valuable agricultural export producing \$24 million in total U.S. export value.

Pest and disease management remains a persistent challenge in Pepper cultivation. Pathogens such as *Phytophthora capsici* cause blight and fruit rot, leading to significant crop losses. Managing these diseases requires comprehensive strategies including crop rotation, resistant varieties and effective fungicide applications. However, the effectiveness of these measures can be limited and ongoing research is necessary to develop more robust solutions.

Peppers Facts

- ♦ Peppers first entered the *Crop & Livestock Report* in 1927 as Pimientos.
- ♦ Ventura County ranked second in California's Pepper production value.
- ♦ Ventura County growers produced 23.9% of the Peppers grown in California.
- ♦ California produced 37.0% of the Peppers grown in the country.
- ♦ The U.S. ranked 9th in global Pepper production.

