



2024 Del Norte County Crop Report



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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COUNTY OF DEL NORTE

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Karen Ross, Secretary,
California Department of Food and Agriculture,

November 2025

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Del Norte County

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Valerie Starkey, District 2

Chris Howard, District 3

Joey Borges, Vice-Chair, District 4

Dean Wilson, Chair, District 5

Neal Lopez, County Administrative Officer

It is my pleasure to present the 2024 Del Norte County Annual Crop Report, which is prepared under the provisions of Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. This annual report provides a statistical description of Del Norte County's agricultural production and is compiled using the best available data on production totals and values as collected from producer responses to crop report questionnaires.

The estimated gross value of the County's agricultural commodities was approximately \$52,683,000, but this is likely an underestimation due to the exceptionally low response rate from surveys this year. The County's leading reported commodities for 2024 were timber valued at \$24,272,000 and miscellaneous horticultural products with a value of \$7,069,000.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation for the efforts and cooperation of the agricultural producers and partners who provided information for this year's report, and I would like to recognize the dedicated staff of the Del Norte County Agricultural Department for their assistance in completing and producing the information for this publication.

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin Riggs

Del Norte County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures

Mission Statement

The mission of the Agricultural Commissioner's Office is to serve the citizens of Del Norte County by promoting and protecting the environment, the agricultural industry, public health, and consumer confidence through enforcement of federal and state laws and county ordinances in the areas of health, safety, and consumer concerns.



Image: Herd of Roosevelt elk outside the Department of Agriculture

FOREST PRODUCTS

Commodity	Production	Unit	Total Value
Timber	55,526,000	Board Ft	\$ 24,272,000

Board feet represents the quantity of timber cut and scaled. Miscellaneous products including all hardwoods, Christmas trees, fuelwood, poles and pilings, and split products are generally not measured in net board feet.

Timber was Del Norte County's top commodity and is the county's top natural resource industry. Harvest levels were consistent with recent years, supported by the area's extensive forestlands of redwood, Douglas fir, and other conifer species.



FIELD CROPS

Commodity	Acres	Value/Acre	Total Value
Hay Misc.	2,570	\$200	\$513,000

Note: Totals do not add due to rounding.

Data incomplete, total value may be underestimated for this commodity due to low survey response.

Hay continues to be an important forage crop in Del Norte County, supporting the county's livestock and dairy operations. Most of the crop is utilized locally for feed, with limited sales outside the county.



VEGETABLES

Commodity	Acre	Value/Acre	Total Value
Vegetables	18	\$4,210	\$85,000

Note: Totals do not add due to rounding.

Data incomplete, total value may be underestimated for this commodity due to low survey response.

Vegetable production remains limited in Del Norte County compared to larger agricultural regions, with most serving local markets, farm stands, and community supported agriculture. Small scale growers produce a variety of crops including niche and specialty varieties of tomatoes, potatoes, brassicas, leafy greens, and squash.



NURSERY PRODUCTS

Commodity	Acres	Value/Acre	Total Value
Nursery Misc.	207	\$34,200	\$7,069,000

Note: Totals do not add due to rounding.

Del Norte County continues to be a leading producer of Easter lily bulbs. Production remained steady in 2024, supported by favorable coastal growing conditions and the region's well established expertise in bulb cultivation. Lily bulbs remain one of the county's most valuable commodities and are distributed both nationally and internationally. Other nursery products include potted flowers and foliage and cut flowers and foliage.



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ORGANICS

Commodity	Acres	Total Value
Organic Production	5,870	\$20,373,000

Organic production encompasses agricultural products not reported elsewhere including organic beef, dairy, eggs, and other smaller scale commodities. Much of the farmable land in Del Norte County has been dedicated to organic practices, keeping the land both healthy and productive. Operations often integrate ecological stewardship with direct-to-consumer outlets, helping supply local markets while strengthening the regional food system.



Weights and Measures

The Weights and Measures division of the Department performs mandatory inspections of all weighing and measuring devices used for commercial purposes, from retail grocery scales to large livestock and truck scales, ensuring consumers and producers receive correct value. The department also investigates consumer complaints regarding short weight, incorrect pricing, faulty devices, and vehicle fuel and automotive product quality concerns. These activities help ensure consumer confidence and promote fairness and equity in the marketplace.

Device Type	Number of Inspections
Counter Scales	30
Computing/Point-of-Sale Scales	125
Platform Scales	18
Hanging Scales	11
Truck Scales	9
Retail Fuel Meters	192
Wholesale Meters	20
Vehicle Tank Meters	4
Miscellaneous Inspections	27

Pesticide Use Enforcement

Throughout the year, the department is involved in a variety of pesticide use monitoring activities, from exposure investigations involving disinfectants and other pesticides, to structural pest control business inspections, to field fumigation inspections. This program helps ensure these products are applied in a safe and effective manner and that all applicable laws and regulations are being observed.

Presite Inspections	21
Pesticide Use Monitoring Inspections	1
Field Fumigations Inspections	6
Structural Pest Control Inspections	2
Notices of Intent Reviewed	422
Enforcement Responses	4
Restricted Materials Permits Issued	4
Operator ID Numbers Issued	5

Pest Detection and Exclusion

The Pest Detection and Exclusion Programs are a critical first line of defense in protecting the county's agricultural, timber, and native plant resources from destructive invasive species. In collaboration with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, county inspectors work diligently to enforce state and federal quarantines.

Seasonal trapping is conducted throughout the county with targeted deployment of spongy moth and Japanese beetle traps in high risk areas. Traps are regularly monitored so suspect detections can be rapidly investigated. This early warning system helps prevent establishment of these highly destructive pests, neither of which have been detected in the county to date. The region's cool coastal climate, lack of common host trees, and remote location safeguard against the introduction of many insect pests that are more easily spread in other parts of the state.

Staff regularly inspect incoming plant shipments from other counties and states for pests of quarantine significance, ensuring that any infested plants are treated, returned, or destroyed. Plant exports receive phytosanitary inspections and certification for local agricultural commodities to ensure they meet the pest-freedom requirements of other states and foreign countries. Certification prevents rejection at borders and ensures continued access to domestic and international markets.

Insect Traps Deployed

Spongy Moth	105
Japanese Beetle	13

Phytosanitary Certificates Issued

State	19
Federal	33

Pest Interceptions

A-Rated Pests	1
B-Rated Pests	15
Q-Rated Pests	7

Pest Management and Eradication

Invasive weeds are controlled primarily through the spring, summer, and fall. Priority is given to noxious weeds that are rated by the State as highly invasive and of limited distribution.

Considerable efforts are also undertaken to control tansy ragwort, a plant that's toxic to livestock and for which a county ordinance has been established for its control.

Most removal efforts are accomplished mechanically with Pulaskis, weed wrenches, and other hand tools. Chemical control is only implemented when mechanical control has been shown to be mostly ineffective against a particular species such as giant knotweed.

In 2024, several new sites of knapweed, gorse, and Darwin barberry were discovered and are currently under management. Old sites of knotweed also continued to be monitored and treated as needed.

At least a few biocontrols for invasives are known to be established in Del Norte County. These include the tansy feeding cinnabar moth caterpillar and tansy flea beetle, as well as the Scotch broom gall mite. When weed crews encounter signs of these helpful organisms, they leave their food source intact so the insects can proliferate.

The department also has a weed wrench loan program, allowing residents or concerned citizens to participate in efficient weed removal free of charge.

Forest Health

In 2024, forest health remained a key concern across Del Norte County's timber and conservation landscape. Surveys conducted in the region show infestations of several native and non-native pests in the county, as documented in the California Oak Mortality Task Force Report and the California Forest Pest Conditions Report.

The native root-rot pathogen, *Heterobasidion occidentale*, fruited abundantly in 2024. It has been infecting grand fir stands in the Lake Earl Wildlife Management Area and is associated with western hemlock windsnap in Jedediah Smith State Park.

Phytophthora ramorum, a non-native pathogen that causes sudden oak death, continued its spread in the county and new isolated infestations were found in the lower part of the Peacock Creek drainage.

Phytophthora lateralis, another non-native and causal agent of Port Orford cedar root disease, was reported to have killed Port Orford cedars at multiple sites throughout the county.

The balsam woolly adelgid, a non-native insect pest, continued to infest grand fir, causing abnormal swelling and changes in crown form on trees at Lake Earl.

On a positive note, coordinated efforts to increase ecosystem vitality are underway. The North Coast Resource Partnership and CAL FIRE's Forest Health Program are driving major fuel-reduction and restoration initiatives in the North Coast region, including Del Norte. In 2024 the region saw approximately \$82 million in new California Climate Investments funds, with hundreds of new projects that include forest health and fuels treatment work.

Feature: Redwood Roadside Bouquets

Tucked away among the majestic redwoods of Northern California, Redwood Roadside Bouquets is more than just a flower stand; it's a heartfelt endeavor born from family love and a serendipitous turn during the COVID-19 pandemic. Cindy, with a warm smile, shares that the business was inspired by her mother, who, while visiting from Fargo, found joy in what became known as "Great Grandma's Garden." Her mother's simple suggestion, "You need to sell those, Cindy," was the spark that ignited the idea. The garden became her mother's sanctuary where she would spend hours crocheting and enjoying the tranquility. It's now dedicated with a special plaque to her memory. The pandemic gave Cindy and her husband Grant the push they needed to transform their love of gardening into a blossoming business. What started as a front-yard landscaping project evolved into a full-fledged passion. They repurposed an old greenhouse formerly used for chicken feed into a space to nurture seedlings, marking the beginning of their adventure. Cindy, a flight paramedic, found the garden to be a much-needed stress reliever during the challenging times, a place to find peace and immerse herself in nature.



Grant, a retired law enforcement officer, embraced his role as the "maintenance guy" and "dirt hauler," using his construction skills to create and enhance their garden infrastructure. He remarks, "How can you beat it when you go to work with your best friend every day?" He marvels at his wife's dedication, saying when Cindy dives into something, "it's like a thousand percent." Her meticulous research and planning are evident in the business's success, and she often surprises others with her extensive knowledge. People regularly visit to ask her advice on gardening tips. This dedication stems from her medical career. As Cindy says, "If you stop learning in my career, then you're done," a philosophy she also applies to her gardening pursuits.

Grant's transition from his former career to flower farming was a significant shift, but he has welcomed it wholeheartedly. He enjoys building and maintaining the property and appreciates when longtime customers note the differences and the progress the business has already made over a short time. Grant's friendly demeanor and willingness to chat make everyone feel at ease. Cindy explains, "He's the people person for sure."

The heartfelt tribute to Cindy's mother is a central part of Redwood Roadside Bouquets. The memorial area serves as a daily reminder of her mother's love and encouragement. Cindy fondly remembers bringing her mom fresh bouquets every day, a special ritual they shared. Grant remembers Cindy's mom as "a character, man," and recalls her excitement for tubing down the river. Despite her age, she took on a sense of youth when she visited. This dedication to her memory makes the business even more meaningful, a living tribute to the family's bond.



Seeing people enjoy their flowers makes all the hard work worthwhile for the couple. They love hearing testimonials and seeing pictures of customers proudly displaying their bouquets at special events. Grant is especially touched by the children's excitement when receiving free flowers from the special Kids' Rack, emphasizing how rewarding it is to see their joy. The excitement from the kids to grab and carry their flowers makes their day.

Redwood Roadside Bouquets' self-serve system enhances its unique charm. Customers can browse at their own pace, with a bell to ring for assistance if needed. This system creates a relaxed and peaceful atmosphere, allowing visitors to truly enjoy the beauty of the garden. Payment is easy through a cash box or a tap-to-pay system. They also offer a bouquet subscription service, delivering fresh flowers weekly to doorsteps, so everyone can experience the joy of their blooms, even if they can't visit in person. Cindy shares that she wanted to make the flowers accessible to people who are homebound or elderly. "I think it's important that we reach everybody, so everybody has a chance to enjoy our flowers."

Cindy's early career experience with disaster preparedness has been quite beneficial in planning out what and when they will grow in their limited space, a year in advance. "As you're moving towards spring transition, you're already overturning and getting that bed ready for the next thing. And with us, a lot of our flowers are grown in crates. As the spring flowers start to die off, you're already getting something else in the ground." Grant adds, "You start learning your patterns, and then you start learning to beef up more flowers here and there."

Their dedication to growing fresh, local flowers is evident in the quality and longevity of their bouquets. The uniqueness of their offerings, like the campanulas and tulips, sets them apart from typical flower shops. The business's slogan, "There's a garden in every bouquet," perfectly captures their commitment and passion. When visitors come to Redwood Roadside Bouquets, they find a serene retreat, a place where nature and community come together in a beautiful way.

THANK YOU ALL!

We gratefully recognize the farmers, producers, and land stewards that help keep our community strong. Your dedication, often unseen, supports families, the economy, and our future. Special thanks to all who submitted crop report surveys this year.



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