

~ 2025 ~

U.S. Sunflower Crop Quality Report



Regarding the 2025 Sunflower Crop Quality Report . . .

The 2025 U.S. Sunflower Crop Quality Report, compiled by the National Sunflower Association in cooperation with the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides an overview on the size and quality of the 2025 U.S. sunflower seed crop. It includes statistics on the marketing of the crop, as well as U.S. and world supply/disappearance tables and information on U.S. sunflower oil.

Produced annually by the National Sunflower Association since 1981, this newest U.S. Sunflower Crop Quality Report can be found on the NSA's website at www.sunflowernsa.com.

Printed copies of this report can be made available upon request by the NSA. (See the NSA's contact details on page 9).

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2025 U.S. Sunflower Acreage & Production

United States sunflower production in 2025 totaled 2.32 billion pounds, according to the USDA — more than double the 1.41 billion pounds of 2024. At 2.13 billion pounds, production of oil-type sunflower was up a dramatic 226% from the prior year’s crop, while at 189,362 million pounds, the 2025 confection crop was actually more than 4% below that of 2024.

North Dakota retained its top spot among states in 2025, harvesting a total of 1.09 billion pounds of sunflower. That was 212% higher than 2024. South Dakota came in at 865.7 million pounds, a 186% increase from the prior year. Across the eight USDA-surveyed states, 2025 experienced a 203% hike versus 2024.

The biggest percentage came in Kansas — which at 38.1 million pounds was 386% above the state’s 2024 production level. Meanwhile, Texas was up 358% from the prior year.

Average yield among oil-type sunflower acres in 2025 was an impressive 1,848 pounds per acre — 184 more than the 2024 average. Minnesota led at 2,200 pounds per acre, followed by South Dakota (1,960 pounds) and North Dakota (1,940 pounds). On the lower end were Texas (750 pounds), Colorado (1,100 pounds) and Nebraska (1,120 pounds).

On confection sunflower acreage, South Dakota averaged 2,300 pounds per acre in 2025, while North Dakota came in at 2,100 pounds and Texas at 2,000 pounds.



U.S. Sunflower Production

(1,000s of Pounds)

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Oil	2,566,400	1,963,075	943,010	2,132,490
Nonoil	242,155	294,615	198,185	189,362
Total	2,808,555	2,257,690	1,141,195	2,321,852

U.S. Oil-Type Sunflower Harvested Area, By State

(1,000s of Hectares)

State	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Colorado	19.8	17.8	13.0	15.8	17.4	9.3	7.3	14.2
Kansas	16.6	14.2	21.0	9.7	11.3	10.5	3.6	9.7
Minnesota	17.8	20.6	27.1	21.4	27.1	19.4	12.1	32.4
Nebraska	9.7	10.5	15.8	13.4	18.6	12.1	9.7	14.2
North Dakota	153.8	178.1	255.0	182.1	261.0	198.3	90.2	200.3
South Dakota	196.3	186.2	226.6	188.2	234.7	178.1	95.5	170.0
Texas	7.7	10.5	12.1	13.4	15.8	15.4	4.7	20.6
Other	23.1	19.8	17.2	18.0	12.5	11.2	6.2	6.2
Total	444.8	457.7	587.8	462.0	598.4	454.3	229.3	467.0

2025 Seed Quality/Confection Kernel Specifications

Seed quality and kernel specifications of the 2025 crop were estimated from samples of oil and nonoil (confection) sunflower collected with the aid of the North Dakota Grain Inspection Service, Kansas Grain Inspection Service and several confection sunflower processing plants. The samples were drawn from sunflower loads delivered to processors, or from submitted samples taken at local grain buying facilities. The seed samples were then analyzed according to USDA Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)

directives. Oil content of oil-type seed samples was determined on a clean-seed basis using nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) analysis.

Analysis of the oil-type sunflower seed samples indicated an average oil content of 43.9%, which compares to the 2024 average of 42.8%. Test weight averaged 30.2 pounds per bushel — identical to that of the 2024 samples. Foreign material, at 4.6%, was 0.1% below the 2024 samples. Finally, at 9.2%, moisture was 1.0% higher than the average of 2024's samples.

The percentage of con-

fection (nonoil) seeds over 20/64 in size averaged 84.7% among the 2025 crop year samples — 0.6% lower than the 2024 average of 85.3%.

Foreign material in the nonoils averaged 9.5% in 2025, significantly below

2024's 12.0%. At 22.4 pounds per bushel, 2025 nonoil test weight was identical to the average of the 2024 samples. At 10.1%, nonoil average moisture was 0.3% below that of 2024's seed sample group.

Oil-Type Sunflower Seed Quality

Year	Test Weight (Lbs/Bu)	Moisture (%)	Foreign Material (%)	Oil (%)
2025	30.2	9.2	4.6	43.9
2024	30.2	8.2	4.7	42.8
2023	30.8	8.9	3.7	44.9
2022	20.3	8.6	4.6	44.3
2021	31.7	8.8	4.4	44.4

Nonoil Sunflower Seed Quality

Year	Test Weight (Lbs/Bu)	Moisture (%)	Foreign Material (%)	Seeds Over 20/64 Size (%)
2025	22.4	10.1	9.5	84.7
2024	22.4	10.4	12.0	85.3
2023	21.5	9.7	12.4	80.9
2022	24.0	9.4	11.7	82.6
2021	21.4	9.0	12.8	85.4

Product Specifications U.S. Sunflower Kernel

Origin	- Sunflower hybrid seed
Flavor	- Good, typical, mild, distinctive
Odor	- Good, clean, fresh aroma
Texture	- Firm, not brittle or soggy
Color	- Off-white, gray
Microbiological	- Aflatoxin: Negative Pathogens: Negative
Chemical Additives	- No preservatives or chemical additives may be used
Pesticide Residues	- Meets all state & federal regulatory requirements
Fumigants	- Only FDA-approved fumigants may be used as considered necessary. Residues may not exceed FDA approved tolerances

Quality and type of kernel is determined with the following factors to meet specific customer needs:

Size	- Defined as kernel count per oz
Foreign Material	- Includes shells and unshelled seed; defined as percentage or count per unit of weight
Moisture	- Defined as a percentage at or below 8%
Damage	- Distinctly discolored kernel or insect damage. Each defined as a percentage
Broken or Chip	- Any portion less than 1/2 kernel; defined as a percentage
Sticktites	- Kernel with a piece of shell adhering; defined as count per unit of weight.

2025 Oil Quality Analysis / Oil Traits & Rules

The table below compares oil quality and fatty acid content of representative samples of high-oleic sunflower seed oil gathered from the 2025 U.S. crop, to previous years' data. The sunflower oil quality analysis was conducted with standard gas chromatography, basis American Oil Chemists' Society Method #Cel-62.

Note: U.S. oil sunflower processors are no longer crushing the mid-oleic NuSun® version of sunflower, so data for NuSun are not included in this year's report.

The 2025 high-oleic seed samples averaged an oleic acid content of

85.80%. That compares to an 86.84% average in the 2024 high-oleic seed samples and an 86.12% average in 2023.

As is the case each year, climatic factors and timing of production contributed to the fatty acid levels of the sunflower seed samples collected at harvest.

See general trading rules for sunflower oil, as well as product specification tables, at www.sunflowernsa.com. Click on the link "Sunflower oil," then "product specifications." For more details on trading rules, go to the National Institute of Oilseed Products website — <http://www.niop.org/>.

Sunflower Oil Quality / High Oleic

Percent

Year	Palmitic 16:0	Stearic 18:0	Oleic 18:1	Linoleic 18:2	Linolenic 18:3
2025	3.33	3.40	85.80	5.20	0.14
2024	3.26	3.28	86.84	4.43	0.14
2023	3.30	3.22	86.12	5.01	0.16
2022	3.34	3.24	85.55	5.74	0.16
2021	3.30	3.37	83.87	7.13	0.23

High-Oleic Sunflower Oil: Crude

Trading Rules: Specifications from the National Institute of Oilseed Products: Rule 6.13

ITEM	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
(A) QUALITY SPECIFICATIONS		
Iodine Value	78	88
Oleic Acid (as % of TFA)	77%	—
Flash Point	250° F	—
(AOCS Method Cc 9b-55)		
Unsaponifiable	—	1.3%
Moisture and Volatile	—	0.5%
(AOCS Method Ca 2b-38)		
Refractive Index C/25 degrees C	1.467	1.469
Insoluble Impurities	—	0.3%
(AOCS Method Ca 3a-46)		
Color, After Bleaching	—	2.5 Red
(AOCS Method Cc 13b-45)		
25 Yellow		
(B) OFFICIAL SAMPLE		
(See Rule 6. 11B.)		
(C) BASIS FOR HANDLING		
ADJUSTMENTS FOR REFINING		
LOSS AND COLOR		
(See Rule 6. 11C.)		
(D) ADJUSTMENTS FOR		
REFINING LOSS		

NOTE: For further information or questions regarding High-Oleic Sunflower Oil trading rules, go to <http://www.niop.org/>.



Sunflower Oil & Sunflower Meal Exports

Oil Exports - Sunflower oil is the preferred oil in most of Europe, Russia and Mexico, as well as in countries along the Mediterranean and several South American nations.

U.S. sunflower oil exporters currently supply high-oleic oil to their customers. High-oleic oil has 80% or more oleic (monounsaturated) acid. This unique oil has many

specialty applications.

Sun Meal Exports - Most U.S. sunflower meal is utilized within the United States as an ingredient for the domestic livestock feeding industry,

although some U.S. meal is exported. Three types of sun meal, identified by their respective protein contents (28, 32 and 35%), are produced in the United States.

U.S. Sunflower Oil Exports

(October-September, in Metric Tons)

Country	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Australia	382	273	651	91
Canada	40,498	21,348	17,169	13,192
Columbia	21	24	15	46
Honduras	313	480	0	28
Japan	509	467	282	511
Malaysia	0	16	1,040	2,448
Mexico	7,268	4,999	3,448	3,629
Netherlands	594	456	287	99
South Korea	3,828	2,917	1,613	1,755
Taiwan	815	551	416	191
Vietnam	26	97	22	71
Other	1,988	1,394	1,449	832
Total MT	56,242	33,022	26,392	22,893



U.S. Sunflower Meal Exports

(October-September, in Metric Tons)

Country	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25,
Cambodia	0	512	498	5,318
Canada	23,526	13,126	12,871	13,012
Indonesia	0	899	475	1,493
Mexico	0	0	356	0
Thailand	0	0	7,608	2,870
Vietnam	4,146	0	193	3,071
Other	64	2,507	592	1,151
Total MT	27,736	17,044	22,593	26,915



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U.S. Sunflower Supply & Disappearance *(in 1,000 Metric Tons, Unless Specified)*

Item	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 <i>Revised</i>	2025/26 <i>Forecast</i>
NONOIL SUNFLOWER						
Area Harvested (1,000 HA)	86	42	52	57	47	37
Area Harvested (1,000 AC)	214	104	129	141	117	92
Yield (MT/HA)	1.92	1.80	2.11	2.34	1.91	2.30
Yield (LB/AC)	1,711	1,602	1,884	2,089	1,700	2,054
Stocks, Oct. 1	26	43	34	11	30	17
Production	166	76	110	134	90	86
Seed Import	83	90	73	73	76	75
TOTAL SUPPLY	275	209	216	218	196	178
Disappearance	232	175	205	188	179	163
Ending Stocks	43	34	11	30	17	15
OIL SUNFLOWER						
Area Harvested (1,000 HA)	588	462	595	454	229	467
Area Harvested (1,000 AC)	1,452	1,142	1,471	1,123	567	1,154
Yield (MT/HA)	2.02	1.71	1.96	1.96	1.87	2.07
Yield (LB/AC)	1,802	1,523	1,745	1,749	1,664	1,848
Stocks, Oct. 1	57	103	66	123	191	58
Production	1,187	789	1,165	891	428	968
Seed Import	45	39	28	35	41	35
TOTAL SUPPLY	1,289	931	1,259	1,048	660	1,061
Oilseed Crushed	504	435	411	378	361	450
Planting Seed, Birdfood, Domestic Use	659	405	697	463	217	475
Exports	23	25	28	16	24	22
Disappearance	1,186	865	1,136	857	602	947
Ending Stocks	103	66	123	191	58	114
SUNFLOWER OIL						
Stocks, Oct. 1	22	27	29	39	26	16
Oil Imports	134	205	153	168	173	160
Oil Production	212	183	173	159	152	189
TOTAL SUPPLY	368	414	355	366	350	365
Domestic Oil Use	296	329	283	314	311	315
Oil Exports	45	56	33	26	23	30
Total Use	341	385	316	340	334	345
Ending Stocks	27	29	39	26	16	20
SUNFLOWER MEAL						
Stocks, Oct. 1	3	3	3	3	3	3
Production	257	222	210	193	184	230
TOTAL SUPPLY	260	225	213	195	187	233
Domestic Use	229	194	193	169	157	205
Exports	28	28	17	23	27	25
Total Use	257	222	210	192	184	230
Ending Stocks	3	3	3	3	3	3

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World Sunflower Supply & Disappearance

Sources:
Oil World & USDA

Item	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 <i>Revised</i>	2025/26 <i>Forecast</i>
Area Harvested (1,000 HA)	28,045	29,877	29,983	29,822	30,400	33,017
Yield (MT/HA)	1.81	1.95	1.87	1.99	1.82	1.71
SUNFLOWER SEED —						
Production						
Argentina	3,200	3,360	4,130	3,840	5,170	5,750
European Union	8,969	10,389	9,520	9,983	8,717	8,538
China	2,750	2,880	2,930	3,000	3,100	3,200
Russia	13,420	15,660	17,100	18,600	17,500	18,300
Ukraine	13,900	16,900	12,680	15,100	12,100	11,400
United States	1,353	864	1,276	1,024	520	1,053
South Africa	678	846	720	632	708	700
Turkey	1,580	1,750	1,730	1,280	1,250	1,130
Other	4,995	5,652	5,947	5,970	6,366	6,480
TOTAL	50,845	58,301	56,033	59,429	55,431	56,551
Seed Import						
Turkey	844	673	981	301	794	900
European Union	817	1,807	1,466	834	587	771
Other	1,308	1,639	1,492	1,480	1,343	1,373
TOTAL	2,969	4,119	3,939	2,615	2,724	3,044
Seed Exports						
Argentina	178	158	91	80	133	220
United States	72	69	63	47	36	50
Russia	528	280	285	324	267	275
Ukraine	186	1,793	1,685	302	69	52
Other	1,907	1,875	1,755	1,964	2,475	2,385
TOTAL	2,871	4,175	3,879	2,717	2,980	2,982
Oilseed Crushed	45,568	48,315	52,180	55,470	49,741	51,478
SUNFLOWER OIL —						
Oil Opening Stocks	2,817	2,294	3,509	4,572	4,381	3,493
Oil Production	18,891	20,481	22,067	23,604	21,039	21,874
Oil Imports						
Iran	903	668	729	647	1,017	765
Turkey	719	1,065	1,262	1,106	1,023	1,180
Egypt	204	281	368	691	480	535
European Union	1,720	2,322	2,564	3,242	2,597	3,085
India	1,958	1,956	2,988	3,516	2,905	3,200
Others	5,872	4,968	6,276	6,669	5,867	6,095
TOTAL	11,376	11,260	14,187	15,871	13,889	14,860
Oil Exports						
Argentina	796	894	947	1,158	1,541	1,832
European Union	671	846	1,196	1,000	695	762
Russia	3,228	3,193	4,279	5,358	4,880	5,090
Ukraine	5,250	4,725	5,447	6,272	4,505	4,620
United States	45	56	33	26	23	30
Other	1,337	1,697	2,018	2,232	2,318	2,306
TOTAL	11,327	11,411	13,920	16,046	13,962	14,640
Disappearance	19,414	19,266	21,004	23,795	21,927	21,923
Ending Stocks	2,294	3,509	4,572	4,381	3,493	3,444
SUNFLOWER MEAL —						
Meal Production	20,285	21,443	23,096	24,285	21,943	22,612
Meal Imports	8,048	8,274	9,585	11,115	8,806	9,838
Meal Exports	8,092	8,432	9,562	10,987	9,023	9,638
Disappearance	20,278	20,925	22,937	24,310	21,823	22,820
Ending Stocks	308	693	935	1,029	931	924

About the National Sunflower Association

The National Sunflower Association (NSA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of U.S. sunflower and its products, and to the development of sunflower markets throughout the world.

Based in the central North Dakota city of Mandan, NSA was incorporated in 1981. It is funded and governed by U.S. sunflower growers and industry representatives. Agreements with the U.S. Department of

Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service provide funding for overseas market development programs, including this publication.

Among the many NSA programs and activities are the following:

- Developing and distributing technical literature on sunflower refining and nutrition.
- Providing technical assistance to foreign companies on oil refining and finished product manufacture; also, providing tech-

nical aid to U.S. confection sunflower customers.

- Producing and distributing a variety of literature pertaining to sunflower markets, the U.S. sunflower crop and sunflower products, including *The Sunflower* magazine, which is published six times annually

- Researching the marketplace and surveying consumer awareness of (and attitudes toward) sunflower products.

- Conducting industrial research abroad, including

confection shelf-life and other utilization studies.

- Hosting foreign marketing and technical personnel, arranging meetings with U.S. sunflower industry representatives, setting up tours of U.S. processing and research facilities, and coordinating educational seminars for the benefit of foreign visitors.

The National Sunflower Association welcomes inquiries from any foreign agencies, companies or individuals interested in U.S. sunflower.

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U.S. Sunflower Information Online

The National Sunflower Association has a wealth of U.S. sunflower information online at www.sunflowernsa.com.

This website provides international marketing information, product specifications, and a list of sunflower product suppliers.

Click on the "Buyers and Sellers" link for a list of sunflower product suppliers and buyers.

The "Sunflower oil" link provides more detailed information on sunflower oil.

Use the "Sunflower seed/kernel" link if you require information about confection sunflower seeds and kernel.

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