



California Fruit & Nut Review

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In Cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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Released: January 18, 2007 • Frequency: Monthly (except November) • (USPS 598-290) VOL. 27 NO. 1

DECEMBER FRUIT COMMENTS

Stone fruit harvest was complete. Cultural activities such as irrigating, pruning, fertilizing, herbicide application, and the pushing out of old orchards for replanting continued throughout the month of December. Pomegranate harvest continued at a slower rate. Hachiya and Fuyu persimmon varieties were harvested. Grape vineyard activities included fertilization, pruning, shredding, and trellis system repair. At the beginning of the month, some table grape vineyards were covered with plastic to extend harvest for Red Globes, Autumn Royal, Calmeria, and Crimson varieties. Olive orchard pruning continued in Tulare County. Some almond, walnut, and pistachio growers were pruning, shredding, irrigating, applying herbicides, and pushing out old orchards for replanting.

At the beginning of the month, Navel orange and lemon harvests were underway in Fresno County and continued throughout the month. Cooler weather enhanced orange color and made rinds tougher. Tangerine harvest came to an end for some growers. Owari Satsuma and Clementine tangerine harvests continued. Growers treated to control fungus and weeds and pruned orchards to prepare for harvest.

FLORIDA CITRUS

Florida's citrus producing regions were unseasonably warm during December. Several heavy rains and thunderstorms resulted in two to three inches of precipitation in the northern, eastern, and central citrus producing areas. Less than a quarter of an inch of rain was recorded in the southern growing area. Daytime temperatures reached the high 70s to low 80s on several days in all areas, while nighttime temperatures ranged from the 40s to 60s. Gift fruit movement was very active with Sunburst tangerine and Navel orange shipments peaking during mid-December and then tapering off after the Christmas holiday. The color and quality of tangerines and grapefruit were reported as excellent all month. Early-mid season orange processing utilization increased significantly during the month and had reached a level of 5.00 million boxes per week by the end of the month. Processing plants began taking field-run Orlando tangelos in the third week of the month. Grove maintenance activities were winding down, but included mowing, irrigation, irrigation repair, and some applications of fertilizer. All, but one, of the processing plants slated for operation this season have opened. The final plant should open in January.

FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Update
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006		
NUT CROPS 1/	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled)	580,000	580,000	1,580	1,810	915,000	1,050,000	15	January 23, 2007
Pecans	2,800	2,500	1,390	1,280	3,900	3,200	-18	January 23, 2007
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	215,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	68,000	---		
Total	105,000	---	2,700	---	283,000	---		January 23, 2007
Walnuts (In-Shell)	215,000	215,000	Tons		1,000 Tons			
			1.65	1.63	355.0	350.0	-1	January 23, 2007
FRUIT CROPS 1/								
Apples	25,000	24,000	7.10	7.50	177.5	180.0	1	January 23, 2007
Apricots	14,500	13,800	5.21	2.83	75.5	39.0	-48	January 23, 2007
Cherries	27,000	28,000	1.95	1.61	52.7	45.0	-15	January 23, 2007
Grapes, Raisin	240,000	240,000	9.61	8.33	2,306.0	2,000.0	-13	January 23, 2007
Grapes, Table	83,000	83,000	10.45	9.04	867.0	750.0	-13	January 23, 2007
Grapes, Wine	477,000	477,000	7.98	6.29	3,805.0	3,000.0	-21	January 23, 2007
Grapes, All	800,000	800,000	8.72	7.19	6,978.0	5,750.0	-18	January 23, 2007
Olives	32,000	31,000	4.44	1.61	142.0	50.0	-65	January 23, 2007
Peaches, Clingstone	30,400	26,300	15.90	14.40	484.0	380.0	-21	January 23, 2007
Peaches, Freestone	36,000	36,000	10.70	10.60	385.0	380.0	-1	January 23, 2007
Pears, Bartlett	12,000	12,000	13.80	16.30	166.0	195.0	17	January 23, 2007
Pears, Other	4,000	4,000	9.00	10.00	36.0	40.0	11	January 23, 2007
Plums, Dried	67,000	67,000	1.34	2.54	90.0	170.0	89	January 23, 2007
BERRIES	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007		
Strawberries	35,800	37,000	Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
			---	---	---	---		January 23, 2007
CITRUS CROPS 2/	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07		
			Cartons		1,000 Cartons			
Grapefruit	11,500	11,500	1,043	1,043	12,000	12,000	-5	April 10, 2007
Lemons	44,000	45,000	955	911	42,000	41,000	-2	April 10, 2007
Oranges, Navel	135,000	136,000	674	485	91,000	66,000	-27	April 10, 2007
Oranges, Valencia	46,000	43,000	522	605	24,000	26,000	8	March 9, 2007
Tangerines 3/	14,000	16,000	514	475	7,200	7,600	6	April 10, 2007

1/ Estimate for current year carried forward from previous forecast.

2/ Grapefruit - 33.5 lbs. per carton; Lemons - 38.0 lbs. per carton; Oranges - 37.5 lbs. per carton; Tangerines - 37.5 lbs. per carton.

3/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.

CITRUS FRUIT - JANUARY 1 FORECAST

NOTE: Citrus production forecasts reflect conditions on or about January 1. They do not reflect damage caused by the mid-January freeze.

Oranges - The all orange forecast for California, at 92.0 million cartons (1.73 million tons), is unchanged from the October forecast, but down 20 percent from last season's final utilization. The Navel orange forecast is 66.0 million cartons (1.24 million tons), unchanged from the previous forecast, but 27 percent lower than the previous season. The Navel orange harvest began late this season, but has progressed quickly with about 25 percent of the crop harvested and shipped. Demand is high and flavor and overall quality have generally been good. The cold temperatures in November and December are expected to affect pack-outs. Ice marked fruit and some internal damage is expected from areas that experienced freezing temperatures. California's Valencia orange forecast is also unchanged from the previous forecast, but is 8 percent higher than the 2005-06 season's utilization. The Valencia crop has generally developed normally thus far, and is maturing nicely in the orchards as harvest time draws near. There are concerns that recent cold temperatures may affect the quality and size of the harvest.

Grapefruit - California's grapefruit production forecast is 12.0 million cartons (201,000 tons), up 5 percent from the October forecast, but equal to last season's final utilization. Harvest has begun with good fruit quality reported. Pummelo harvest has begun with strong demand reported. Rio Red harvest has been underway in the desert. The fruit has had bright red interiors and good exterior blushes. Oroblanco harvest has begun and fruit has exhibited nice color, juice, and flavor. Strong demand has been seen for pummelos, which have had good to excellent exterior quality and strong condition.

Lemons - California production is forecast at 41.0 million cartons (779,000 tons), up 4 percent from the previous forecast, but down 2 percent from the 2005-06 season. Good fruit quality has been reported in all growing areas. Central Valley lemons have exhibited good quality and shape, as well as strong condition. Picking of south coast lemons has been on the increase and quality has been good to fair. Desert area lemons are also of good quality and strong condition.

Tangerines - The California tangerine forecast, at 7.60 million cartons (143,000 tons), is unchanged from October, but up 6 percent from the previous season. Harvest is progressing well, but growers have been monitoring groves for freeze damage. The harvest of Satsumas, Fairchilds, and Clementines has been strong and momentum is gaining in the San Joaquin Valley for Owari and Dobashi Beni varieties. The crop has been light in some areas. With cooler wet weather, citrus growers have been monitoring lots for freeze damage.

CITRUS FRUIT PRODUCTION BY STATE AND U.S.

Crop and State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 Forecast
	1,000 Cartons		
ORANGES: 1/			
California, All	129,000	115,000	92,000
Navel & Misc.	88,000	91,000	66,000
Valencia	41,000	24,000	26,000
Florida	299,600	295,800	280,000
Texas	3,540	3,200	3,960
Arizona	860	900	700
ALL U.S. ORANGES	433,000	414,900	376,660
GRAPEFRUIT: 2/			
California	12,200	12,000	12,000
Florida	25,600	38,600	52,000
Texas	13,200	10,400	13,000
Arizona	280	200	200
ALL U.S. GRAPEFRUIT	51,280	61,200	77,200
LEMONS: 3/			
California	41,000	42,000	41,000
Arizona	4,800	7,600	5,600
ALL U.S. LEMONS	45,800	49,600	46,600
TANGERINES: 4/			
California 5/	5,800	7,200	7,600
Florida	8,900	11,000	9,200
Arizona 5/	800	1,100	800
ALL U.S. TANGERINES	15,500	19,300	17,600

1/ Oranges: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 45 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.

2/ Grapefruit: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 33.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 40 lbs.

3/ Lemons: All, 1 carton = 38 lbs.

4/ Tangerines: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 47.5 lbs.

5/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.