

# California Fruit & Nut Review



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## JUNE CROP COMMENTS

Cherry harvest was completed. The harvest of apricots, figs, nectarines, peaches, and plums continued. Pistachios were treated to control mildew. Almonds were treated for mites, especially in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Apples, pears, and walnuts were treated for codling moths. Fruit set and sizing in olives were good. By July 1, harvest of Thompson Seedless grapes for fresh use and other Table grape varieties was winding down in the Coachella Valley, while harvest

began in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Raisin Industry Diversion (RID) program was not used this year. Wine grapes were 2-3 weeks ahead of schedule on the North Coast. Lemon grades throughout the State have been fair to very good. Most lemons currently being packed are from the South Coast, while the desert shippers have finished packing. The Navel orange harvest was completed in early June. Quality throughout the season was excellent with very large fruit size. Picking of Valencia oranges was active throughout the State. Approximately one-half the crop has been harvested with above average quality. The grapefruit harvest is about 75 percent complete. Harvest was nearly complete in the desert area, but continues in areas further north. Fruit size was small, but color and taste qualities were excellent.

## FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next 1997 Crop Update
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997		
<b>NUT CROPS</b>	- Acres -		- Pounds -		- 1,000 Pounds -			
Almonds (Shelled)	405,000	420,000	1,260	1,620	510,000	680,000	33	January 1998
Pecans	2,500	---	520	---	1,300	---		Sept. 11, 1997
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	85,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	20,000	---		
Total	64,300	---	1,630	---	105,000	---		August 28, 1997
Walnuts (In-Shell)	169,000	170,000	1.23	1.35	208.0	230.0	11	August 28, 1997
<b>FRUIT CROPS</b>	- Acres -		- Tons -		- 1,000 Tons -			
Apples	36,200	---	12.45	---	450.0	---		August 12, 1997
Apricots	20,200	20,400	3.76	6.13	76.0	125.0	65	January 1998
Cherries	12,900	13,700	1.91	2.55	24.6	35.0	42	January 1998
Grapes, Raisin <sup>1/</sup>	270,000	268,000	8.10	8.96	2,186.0	2,400.0	10	August 12, 1997
Grapes, Table	74,500	75,000	7.95	9.33	592.0	700.0	18	August 12, 1997
Grapes, Wine	311,000	325,000	7.15	8.31	2,225.0	2,700.0	21	August 12, 1997
Grapes, All <sup>1/</sup>	655,500	668,000	7.63	8.68	5,003.0	5,800.0	16	August 12, 1997
Olives	33,700	---	4.93	---	166.0	---		August 12, 1997
Peaches, Clingstone	31,000	31,000	17.65	17.70	546.5	550.0	1	January 1998
Peaches, Freestone	34,300	35,200	9.25	10.80	316.5	380.0	20	January 1998
Pears, Bartlett	18,900	18,800	15.20	16.00	287.0	300.0	5	August 12, 1997
Pears, Other	4,800	---	6.25	---	30.0	---		August 12, 1997
Prunes (Dried Weight)	80,200	81,200	2.74	2.65	220.0	215.0	-2	January 1998
<b>BERRIES</b>	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997		
	- Acres -		- Cwt. -		- 1,000 Cwt. -			
Strawberries	25,200	22,600	540	560	13,608	12,656	-7	Dec. 11, 1997
<b>CITRUS CROP <sup>2/</sup></b>	1995-96	1996-97	1995-96	1996-97	1995-96	1996-97		
	- Acres -		- Cartons -		- 1,000 Cartons -			
Grapefruit, All	18,800	18,800	862	978	16,200	18,400	14	Sept. 23, 1997
Lemons	46,300	46,300	908	950	42,000	44,000	5	Sept. 23, 1997
Oranges, Navel	121,000	125,000	628	688	76,000	86,000	13	Sept. 12, 1997
Oranges, Valencia	75,000	74,000	746	756	56,000	56,000	NC	Sept. 23, 1997
Tangerines <sup>3/</sup>	8,700	8,700	598	666	5,200	5,800	12	Sept. 23, 1997

<sup>1/</sup> The Raisin Industry Diversion Program (RID) had zero acreage enrolled for both 1996 and 1997.

<sup>2/</sup> Grapefruit - 33.5 lbs. per carton, Lemons - 38.0 lbs. per carton, Oranges - 37.5 lbs. per carton, Tangerines - 37.5 lbs. per carton.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes tangelos, tangerines and tangors.

**Apricots** - The 1997 apricot crop is forecast at 125 thousand tons, up 64 percent from last year and unchanged from the June forecast. The crop was 7-10 days ahead of last year's and harvest was virtually complete by July 1.



**Grapes** - The California raisin type variety grape forecast is 2.40 million tons, up 10 percent from last year. The warm, dry weather this spring has hastened maturity. Picking of Thompson Seedless for fresh use in the Coachella Valley was winding down by July 1. Harvest for fresh use in the southern San Joaquin Valley was underway by late June. The Raisin Industry Diversion (RID) program is not in effect this year.

California's table type grape production is expected to be 700 thousand tons, up 18 percent from last year. By July 1, picking was near completion in the Coachella Valley. Picking had begun in the southern San Joaquin Valley by late June. Quality was reported above average. Wine type variety grape production for California in 1997 is forecast at a record 2.70 million tons, up 21 percent from 1996. Maturity is well ahead of normal due to the warm, dry spring. A good quality crop is expected.

**Freestone Peaches** - The 1997 California Freestone peach crop is forecast at 380 thousand tons, up 20 percent from last year's crop and 4 percent above the June 1997 estimate. The yield is 10.8 tons per acre. Harvest is nearing the halfway point, with mid-season varieties Flavorcrest and Rich Lady making up the bulk of the current harvest. Peach quality to date is good with medium sized fruit.



**Clingstone Peaches** - The 1997 California Clingstone peach crop is forecast at 550 thousand tons, up 1 percent from last year's crop and unchanged from the June 1997 estimate. The yield is 17.7 tons per acre. Harvest is just beginning with about 3.00 thousand tons or 0.5 percent harvested to date. Quality is very good with some smaller sizes being reported. Off grades are running below last year's rate.

**Walnuts** - The 1997 California walnut production forecast is 230 thousand tons, 11 percent above 1996's 208 thousand tons. Bearing acreage is estimated at 170 thousand acres. The crop is expected to be larger than last year due to increased Hartley production. Lower blight occurrence and less droppage should result in a cleaner crop with above average quality.

**FRUIT PRODUCTION:  
1995, 1996 and 1997 Forecast for Selected States & U.S.**

Crop & State	1995	1996	Forecast 1997
--- Tons ---			
<b>APRICOTS</b>			
California	54,000	76,000	125,000
Utah <u>1/</u>	---	300	---
Washington	6,500	3,500	7,000
U.S. Total	60,500	79,800	132,000
<b>CHERRIES</b>			
California	19,800	24,600	35,000
Michigan	27,000	22,000	24,000
Oregon	38,000	32,000	43,000
Washington	75,000	69,000	85,000
Other States <u>2/</u>	5,700	6,700	4,250
U.S. Total	165,500	154,300	191,250
<b>PEACHES</b>			
California--All	683,500	863,000	930,000
Freestone	251,000	316,500	380,000
Clingstone <u>3/</u>	432,500	546,500	550,000
Illinois	6,500	1,000	6,250
Michigan	30,000	20,000	30,000
New Jersey	35,000	39,000	40,000
Pennsylvania	45,000	37,500	37,500
Virginia	13,000	17,000	4,000
Washington	22,000	5,500	25,000
8 So. States <u>4/</u>	255,500	11,400	201,500
Other States <u>5/</u>	60,250	50,750	50,200
U.S. Total	1,150,750	1,035,150	1,324,450

1/ No significant production in 1995 and 1997 due to freeze damage.

2/ ID, MT NY, PA, and UT.

3/ California Clingstone is over the scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.

4/ AL, AR, GA, LA, NC, OK, SC, and TX.

5/ CO, CT, DE, ID, IN, KS, KY, MD, MA, MO, NY, OH, OR, TN, UT, and WV.

**Navel Oranges** - The 1996-97 California Navel orange forecast is 86.0 million cartons, unchanged from April, but up 13 percent from last season. Harvest was completed in early June. Quality throughout the season was excellent with very large fruit size.

**Valencia Oranges** - The July Valencia orange forecast is 56.0 million cartons, unchanged from both April and last year. Picking of oranges is active throughout the State, although approximately one-half the crop has been harvested. Quality is above average.

**Grapefruit** - The 1996-97 California grapefruit production forecast is 18.4 million cartons, unchanged from the last forecast but 14 percent above last season. The 1996-97 harvest is about 75 percent completed. Harvest is nearly complete in the desert area, but continues in areas farther north. Fruit size is small this year, while color and taste qualities are excellent.

**Lemons** - The 1996-97 California lemon forecast is 44.0 million cartons, unchanged from the April forecast and up 5 percent from the 1995-96 production level of 42.0 million cartons. Grades throughout the State have been fair to very good. Most lemons currently being packed are from the south coast as desert shippers have finished packing.

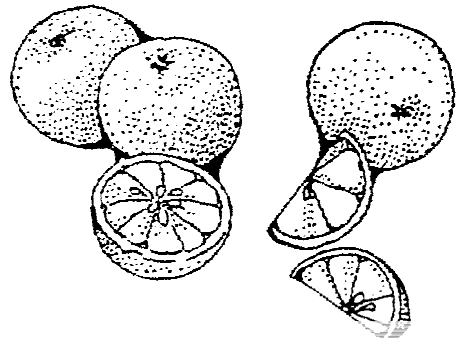
**FLORIDA CITRUS**

Groves, trees, and new crop fruit were all in very good condition during the month of June. Normal summer rains prevailed during the month providing adequate moisture in most areas, however heavier and more frequent thunderstorms are needed to help refill ponds, lakes and streams that were used and partially drained during the dry spring. The hot, wet and humid weather by mid June provided ideal conditions for most trees to produce an abundance of new growth on trees of all ages. Normal droppage of new crop fruit had abated by early month as the trees had adjusted to the size crop they could carry for the next season. Fruit sizes are just about normal for this time of year. Harvest of Valencia oranges slowed to the million plus box per week level by the end of the month as supplies were running low in all areas. Movement of all seedless grapefruit was nearly complete for the season as most of the packing houses and processors had closed. Several fresh squeeze juice operations were still running and plan to stay open through most of the summer moving small quantities of both oranges and grapefruit.

**CITRUS FRUITS PRODUCTION:  
1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 Forecast, by State and U.S.**

Crop & State	1994-95	1995-96	Forecast 1996-97
- 1,000 Cartons -			
<b>ORANGES: 1/</b>			
California, All	112,000	132,000	142,000
Navel & Misc.	70,000	76,000	86,000
Valencia	42,000	56,000	56,000
Florida	411,000	406,400	451,400
Texas	2,110	1,880	2,840
Arizona	2,100	3,300	2,000
ALL U.S. ORANGES	527,210	543,580	598,240
<b>GRAPEFRUIT: 2/</b>			
California, All	18,600	16,200	18,400
Desert Valley	6,600	---	---
Other Areas	12,000	---	---
Florida	111,400	104,700	112,000
Texas	9,300	9,100	10,600
Arizona	2,800	2,400	1,800
ALL U.S. GRAPEFRUIT	142,100	132,400	142,800
<b>LEMONS: 4/</b>			
California	40,000	42,000	44,000
Arizona	7,200	10,200	5,200
ALL U.S. LEMONS	47,200	52,200	49,200
<b>TANGERINES: 5/</b>			
California 6/	5,000	5,200	5,800
Florida	7,100	9,000	12,800
Arizona	1,300	2,000	1,100
ALL U.S. TANGERINES	13,400	16,200	19,700

- 1/ ORANGES: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 45 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.
- 2/ GRAPEFRUIT: Arizona and California, 1 carton=33.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 40 lbs.
- 3/ Desert and Other Area Grapefruit forecasts combined to All Grapefruit beginning in 1995-96.
- 4/ LEMONS: All, 1 carton = 38 lbs.
- 5/ TANGERINES: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 47.5 lbs.
- 6/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.



### 1997 CALIFORNIA ALMOND FORECAST

California's 1997 almond production is forecast at 680 million meat pounds, down 4 percent from May's subjective forecast, but up 33 percent from last year's crop. This is based on 420,000 bearing acres. The Nonpareil variety is forecast at 333 million meat pounds, up 33 percent from last season. The Nonpareil variety represents 49 percent of total almond production.

Statewide bloom reports were excellent with a warm and mild spring. The crop is one to two weeks ahead of normal.

There has been some concern about bud failure, a genetic susceptibility of some varieties, to extreme heat. Some orchards in the central and southern San Joaquin Valley were subject to high heat last summer, affecting this year's bud development. The average nut set per tree is 7,567, up 38 percent from 1996. The Nonpareil average nut set of 7,714 represents a 55 percent increase from last year's set. The average kernel weight for all varieties sampled was 1.59 grams, down 14 percent from last year. A total of 97.9 percent of the nuts sized were sound.

**TABLE 1: COMPARISON OF NUT ESTIMATES AND ORCHARDS SAMPLED BY DISTRICT AND VARIETY, JUNE OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT SURVEY COUNTS**

District and Variety	1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997	
	Nuts Per Tree	Orchards Sampled	Nuts Per Tree	Orchards Sampled	Nuts Per Tree	Orchards Sampled	Nuts Per Tree	Orchards Sampled	Nuts Per Tree	Orchards Sampled	Nuts Per Tree	Orchards Sampled
<b>ALL DISTRICTS</b> (All Varieties)	7,217	678	5,871	767	8,183	766	3,792	798	5,482	872	7,567	887
<b>BY DISTRICTS</b>												
<u>District I</u>												
Sacramento Vly.	8,171	139	6,801	173	9,498	176	4,926	176	6,739	175	8,544	190
<u>District II</u>												
San Joaquin Vly.	6,908	535	5,652	587	7,830	586	3,471	622	5,194	693	7,347	691
<b>BY VARIETIES</b>												
California Types <u>1/</u>	8,406	113	5,901	129	9,081	134	3,635	151	6,510	174	7,597	171
Carmel <u>2/</u>	8,301	73	5,317	85	8,749	86	3,384	99	5,993	116	7,862	107
Merced	6,618	34	6,332	30	8,848	32	2,841	32	4,450	31	6,020	20
Mission	8,097	70	6,117	70	6,909	69	4,534	72	6,320	78	6,831	78
Ne Plus Ultra	6,479	25	4,808	29	9,785	26	2,557	29	3,486	28	7,215	30
Nonpareil	6,567	376	5,849	447	7,869	431	3,851	430	4,963	464	7,714	485

1/ For survey purposes, the California classification includes the following varieties: Aldrich, Ballico, Carmel, Davey, Fritz, Harvey, Le Grand, Mono, Monterey, Norman, Price Cluster, Ruby, Tokoyo and Yosemite.

2/ Carmel breakdown was first provided in 1988. Carmel variety is also included in California Types.