

California Fruit & Nut Review



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JULY GENERAL COMMENTS

Due to the warm and mild spring, almost all crops are one to two weeks ahead of normal. Almond harvest began in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Nectarines, peaches, and plums were harvested throughout the month. Plums were harvested for fresh market. Table grape harvest progressed from the

southern San Joaquin Valley northward throughout the month. Some raisin grape vineyards were receiving their last irrigation and some vineyard beds were prepared for sun drying. Wine grape harvest began. Some early apple varieties such as Gala were harvested. Apples and walnuts were treated for codling moth. Early season walnuts were showing a light crop; later season varieties were showing a heavy crop. The olive fruit set was light and the fruit was sizing normally. Valencia orange harvest was more than 50 percent complete by the end of July. New season Navel oranges were sizing normally, with wide variability in fruit set. Some groves were treated for red scale and mites. Lemon and red grapefruit harvests continued.

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		
NUT CROPS	- Acres -		- Pounds -		- 1,000 Pounds -			
Almonds (Shelled)	405,000	420,000	1,260	1,620	510,000	680,000	41	January 1998
Pecans	2,500	---	520	---	1,300	---		Sept. 11, 1997
Pistachio (In-Shell)	---	---	---	---	85,000	---		
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	20,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	105,000	---		August 29, 1997
Total	64,300	---	1,630	---	208.0	230.0	11	Sept. 5, 1997
Walnuts (In-Shell)	169,000	170,000	1.23	1.35	208.0	230.0	11	Sept. 5, 1997
FRUIT CROPS	- Acres -		- Tons -		- 1,000 Tons -			
Apples	36,200	36,600	12.45	12.30	450.0	450.0		January 1998
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	270,000	268,000	8.10	8.96	2,186.0	2,600.0	19	Oct. 10, 1997
Grapes, Table	74,500	75,000	7.95	9.33	592.0	700.0	18	Oct. 10, 1997
Grapes, Wine	311,000	325,000	7.15	8.31	2,225.0	2,700.0	21	Oct. 10, 1997
Grapes, All	655,500	668,000	7.63	8.68	5,003.0	6,000.0	20	Oct. 10, 1997
Olives	33,700	33,700	4.93	2.82	166.0	95.0		January 1998
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	January 1998
Pears, Other	4,800	4,800	6.25	6.25	30.0	30.0	NC	January 1998
Prunes (Dried Weight)	80,200	81,200	2.74	2.65	220.0	215.0	-2	January 1998
BERRIES	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
CITRUS CROP ^{1/}	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 ^{2/}	8,700	8,700	598	666	5,200	5,800	12	Sept. 23, 1997

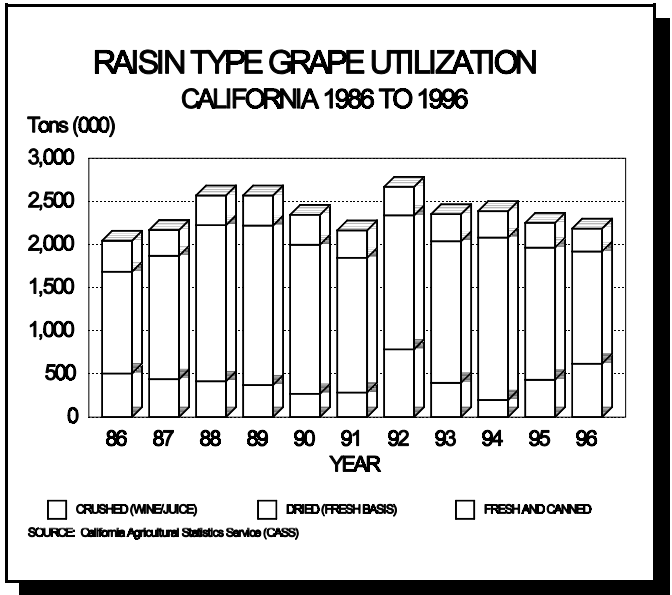
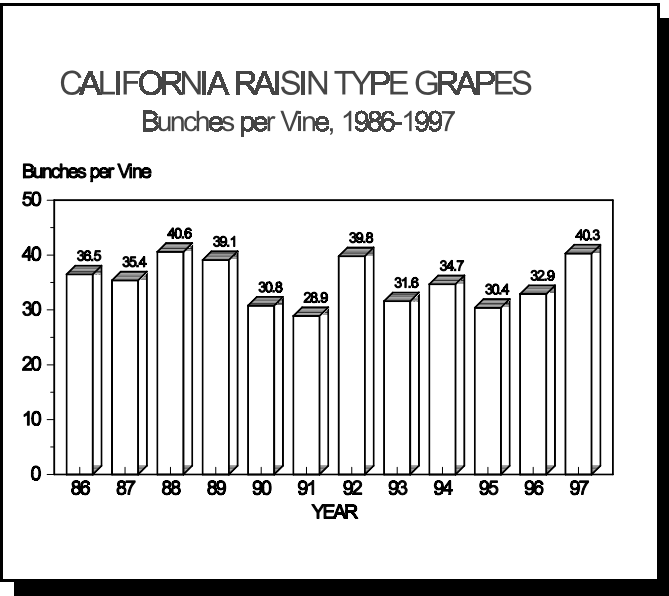
^{1/} Grapefruit - 33.5 lbs. per carton, Lemons - 38.0 lbs. per carton, Oranges - 37.5 lbs. per carton, Tangerines - 37.5 lbs. per carton.

^{2/} Includes tangelos, tangerines and tangors.

RAISIN TYPE GRAPE PRODUCTION UP

The California raisin type variety grape forecast is 2.6 million tons, up 19 percent from last year. Based on the objective measurement survey, there are 40.3 bunches per vine compared to 32.9 recorded in 1996. Bunch length, width, and thickness are up. There is no Raisin Industry Diversion (RID) Program acreage again

this year, so the acreage harvested will be 268 thousand compared to 270 thousand last year. Thompson Seedless variety grapes are currently being picked for fresh use in the San Joaquin Valley. Maturity is well ahead of schedule. Harvest for wine and raisin use will begin by mid-August.



CALIFORNIA RAISIN GRAPE OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT SURVEY RESULTS AND OFFICIAL ESTIMATES, 1986-97

Year	Number Vines Sampled	Avg. No. Bunches Per Vine	Number Normal Bunches Measured	Avg. Normal Bunch Length	Average Normal Bunch Width	Average Normal Bunch Thickness	Official Estimate		
							Bearing Acres	Yield Per Acre	Production
					<i>mm</i>		<i>Tons</i>	<i>(000) Tons</i>	
1986	327	36.5	1,389	218	110	84	277,000 <u>a/</u>	9.01 <u>a/</u>	2,045
1987	328	35.4	1,364	200	106	80	275,000 <u>a/</u>	8.35 <u>a/</u>	2,170
1988	319	40.6	1,560	212	109	81	274,000 <u>a/</u>	10.30 <u>a/</u>	2,570
1989	285	39.1	1,248	215	110	86	271,000	9.48	2,570
1990	319	30.8	1,202	212	113	91	270,000	8.69	2,345
1991	346	28.9	1,165	217	105	87	266,000 <u>a/</u>	8.80 <u>a/</u>	2,165
1992	317	39.8	1,443	230	116	95	267,000 <u>a/</u>	10.50 <u>a/</u>	2,670
1993	248	31.6	952	222	106	91	266,000 <u>a/</u>	9.57 <u>a/</u>	2,354
1994	330	34.7	1,342	229	105	85	270,000	8.85	2,389
1995	294	30.4	1,054	227	113	87	268,000 <u>a/</u>	9.27 <u>a/</u>	2,252
1996	362	32.9	1,396	217	102	85	270,000	8.10	2,186
1997	376	40.3	1,763	235	104	87	268,000	9.70	2,600

a/ The following acreage was enrolled in the Raisin Industry Diversion (RID) Program in the year specified: 1986, 50,000; 1987, 15,000 acres; 1988, 25,000 acres; 1991, 20,000 acres; 1992, 12,500 acres; 1993, 20,000 acres; 1995, 25,000 acres. These acres were deducted from bearing acres for yield calculations.

GRAPE PRODUCTION FORECAST FOR SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES, 1995-97

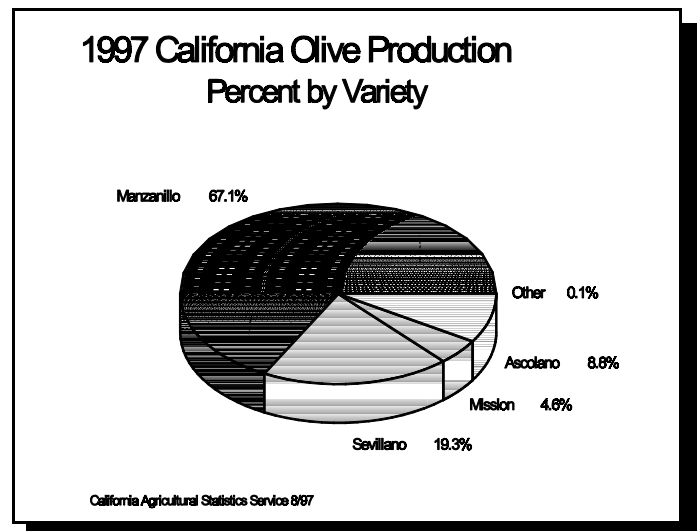
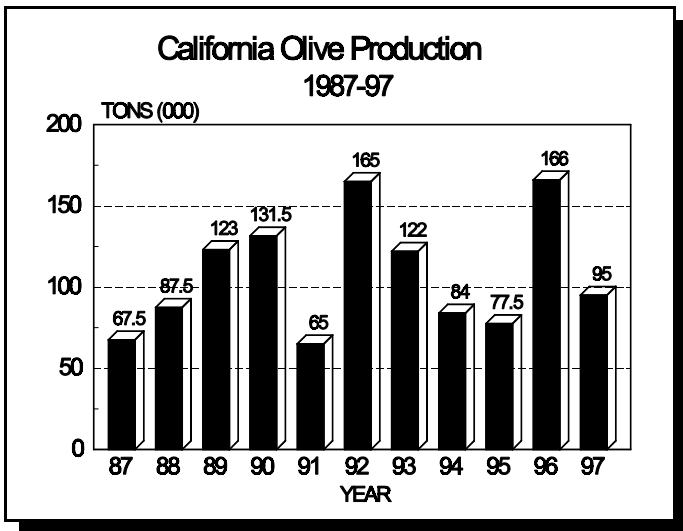
Crop and State	1995	1996	Forecast 1997
California		--- Tons ---	
All Varieties	5,234,000	5,003,000	6,000,000
Raisin Varieties	2,252,000	2,186,000	2,600,000
Table Varieties	707,000	592,000	700,000
Wine Varieties	2,275,000	2,225,000	2,700,000
Michigan	70,000	65,000	60,000
New York	165,000	189,000	155,000
Pennsylvania	63,000	83,000	65,000
Washington	326,000	144,000	299,000
Other States ^{1/}	64,300	64,200	65,350
U.S. TOTAL	5,922,300	5,548,200	6,644,350

^{1/} Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, and South Carolina.

1997 CALIFORNIA OLIVE FORECAST

The 1997 olive crop is forecast at 95,000 tons, down 43 percent from the 1996 production of 166,000 tons. Bearing acres are estimated at 33,700. A warm, mild spring brought a heavy bloom, however, the resulting fruit set was light compared to last years. The Manzanillo variety accounts for about 70 percent of the

total production. Growers expected the Manzanillo variety yield to drop 53 percent. Growers expected the yield of Sevillano and Ascolano varieties, which account for about 23 percent of production, to drop by 30 and 18 percent, respectively.



APPLES: Production for 1997 California apples is forecast to be 450 thousand tons, the same as last year. Relatively cool temperatures throughout most of the growing season have allowed fruit to size well, with some shippers reporting an average of two sizes larger than last year. Most varieties are being harvested as much as two weeks earlier than normal.

TABLE TYPE VARIETY GRAPES: The California table type grape production is expected to total 700 thousand tons, unchanged from last month and up 18 percent from last year. Picking is active in the San Joaquin Valley with good quality reported. Major varieties currently being picked included Perlette and Flame Seedless.

WINE TYPE VARIETY GRAPES: California's wine type variety grape production is forecast at a record 2.7 million tons, unchanged from last month and up 21 percent from 1996. The crop is maturing well with harvest underway in the San Joaquin Valley. Good quality is expected.

BARTLETT PEARS: The forecast of the 1997 Bartlett pear crop in California is 300 thousand tons, unchanged from June's forecast and up 5 percent from last year. Picking of Bartlett pears is well underway in all areas of the State, except Solano County, which will begin harvest soon. Approximately 60 percent of the crop had been picked by August 1. This is much faster than normal due to the excellent spring and early summer weather, which accelerated maturity. Good quality has been reported.

OTHER PEARS: The 1997 other pear forecast for California is 30.0 thousand tons, unchanged from 1996. Asian pear picking is underway with good quality reported.

FLORIDA CITRUS

Groves in all areas of Florida's citrus belt were maintained in very good to excellent condition throughout July with the help of rains and thunderstorms. Most of the lakes, ponds, and streams used by the citrus growers have started to refill with the assistance of the afternoon showers. The near tropical weather during July produced an abundance of new growth on trees of all ages. However, those groves with discontinued care are generally showing signs of stress in the form of yellowing foliage. New crop fruit is making good progress with good sizes on all types of fruit. Harvest of all oranges and grapefruit for the 1996-97 season were completed by early July. Caretakers have been busy cutting cover crops that have made advance growth with current ideal growing conditions. Summer fertilizations and sprays are being applied between rain showers. Growers are pushing and burning dead trees. Some larger grower organizations are resetting new trees.