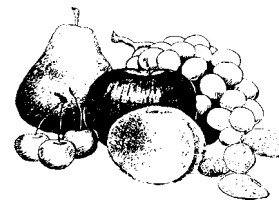


# California Fruit & Nut Review



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CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

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Bartlett pears, Asian pears and pomegranates continued. The olive crop was light, but sizing normally. Processors began to prepare for harvest at the end of the month. The Valencia harvest slowed at the beginning of the month, but picked up toward the end of the month to take advantage of a marketing window. Red grapefruit and lemons were also harvested during the month. The new Navel crop was ahead of normal and maturing well with large sizes.

## SEPTEMBER CROP COMMENTS

The almond harvest continued and accelerated, expanding north from the central San Joaquin Valley. The harvest of early variety walnuts began in the southern and central San Joaquin Valley. Table grape harvest continued. The harvest of raisin and wine grapes gained momentum. The harvest of peaches, plums, and nectarines began to decline during the month. Prunes were sent to dehydrators. Fuji, Gala, and other early apple varieties were harvested. The harvest of

## 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	2,500	520	1,120	1,300	2,800	115	January 1998
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	85,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	20,000	---		
Total	64,300	65,400	1,630	2,600	105,000	170,000	62	January 1998
Walnuts (In-Shell)	169,000	170,000	1.23	1.35	- Tons -		11	Nov. 17, 1997
					208.0	230.0		
<b>FRUIT CROPS</b>	- Acres -		- Tons -		- 1,000 Tons -			
Apples	36,200	36,600	12.45	12.30	450.0	450.0	NC	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 <sup>1/</sup>	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 <sup>1/</sup>	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	-43	Oct. 10, 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	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
<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>	1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98		
	- Acres -		- Cartons -		- 1,000 Cartons -			
Grapefruit	18,800	---	978	---	18,400	---		Sept. 23, 1997
Lemons	46,300	---	950	---	44,000	---		Sept. 23, 1997
Oranges, Navel	124,000	125,000	646	704	80,000	88,000	10	Sept. 23, 1997
Oranges, Valencia	74,000	---	756	---	56,000	---		Sept. 23, 1997
Tangerines <sup>3/</sup>	8,700	---	666	---	5,800	---		Sept. 23, 1997

<sup>1/</sup> The Raisin Industry Diversion Program (RID) was not used in 1996 or 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.

**PECANS**

The initial 1997 California pecan production forecast is 2.80 million pounds, up 115% from the 1996 production of 1.30 million pounds. The 1997 yield is 1,120 pounds per acre. Estimated bearing acres for 1997 is 2.50 thousand, unchanged from last year. Pecans fluctuate between high and low production years; 1997 is a high production year. This year, California pecans have also benefited from mild weather conditions throughout the spring and summer months.

**PECAN PRODUCTION FORECAST  
FOR SELECTED STATES AND U.S.**

Crop & State	1995	1996	1997 Forecast
--- 1,000 Pounds ---			
California	2,900	1,300	2,800
Georgia	75,000	100,000	100,000
New Mexico	45,000	22,000	42,000
Oklahoma	19,000	2,000	18,000
Texas	75,000	40,000	75,000
Other States <sup>1/</sup>	51,100	56,200	54,200
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>268,000</b>	<b>221,500</b>	<b>292,000</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Forecasts discontinued in 1996 for MO and TN.

**FLORIDA CITRUS**

Florida's citrus groves, trees, and new crop fruit are in very good condition. August was wetter than normal, but not excessive, with just about normal temperatures. An abundance of new growth is on trees of all ages, which has been generated by the near tropical weather conditions. New crop fruit in well cared for groves is making very good progress. A few fresh fruit packing houses are planning to pack new crop grapefruit the first week of September. No new crop fruit was packed during August. The maturity tests on several grapefruit, Navel and Ambersweet oranges, and Fallglo tangerine groves are just about at or above the passing levels. A little premature splitting of early fruit has occurred in the wetter groves. Caretakers have been very active cutting cover crops, which are making very good growth with the heavy summer rains. Many growers are spraying and fertilizing between the summer rains. Dead tree removal continues along with some replanting in the bigger groves.

**1997-98 CALIFORNIA NAVEL ORANGE FORECAST**

The initial 1997-98 Navel orange forecast is 88.0 million (37.5-pound) cartons, up 10 percent from the 80.0 million cartons in the 1996-97 season. Of this 88.0 million, 80.0 million cartons are estimated to be in the Central Valley. The crop is maturing well, with large sized fruit.

**CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY NAVEL ORANGES <sup>1/</sup>**

Crop Year <sup>2/</sup>	Final Utilized Production <sup>3/</sup> (37.5-Lb. Cartons)	Bearing Acres	Average Trees Per Acre	Average Set Per Tree
1984-85	43,386,000	93,039	128	354
1985-86	57,612,000	94,074	128	457
1986-87	58,566,000	94,997	128	544
1987-88	53,588,000	96,110	126	361
1988-89	58,326,000	98,766	126	570
1989-90	79,242,000	101,525	125	541
1990-91	25,514,000	104,560	124	498
1991-92	60,406,000	102,000	124	N/A
1992-93	81,034,000	102,612	121	572
1993-94	63,800,000	106,381	121	452
1994-95	66,358,000	107,049	121	457
1995-96	69,750,000	113,000	121	460
1996-97	71,700,000	115,000	121	359
1997-98	80,000,000	116,500	121	407

<sup>1/</sup> Data for final utilized production and bearing acres are from the orange industry. Acreage data is number of acres of bearing age (more than four years old). Some fruit could have been picked from trees younger than four years old, but not enough to consider the tree full bearing.

<sup>2/</sup> Data for 1990-91 (a freeze year) were not used in forecasting the 1997-98 crop. No Objective Measurement Survey was conducted for the 1991-92 season due to lack of funding.

<sup>3/</sup> California Agricultural Statistics Service preliminary forecast for 1997-98.

### WALNUT PRODUCTION FORECAST

The 1997 California walnut production forecast is 230 thousand tons, up 11 percent from 1996's production of 208 thousand tons. This is unchanged from the July forecast. The July forecast was based on subjective information provided by growers, while the September forecast is based on the Walnut Objective Measurement (OM) Survey. The Objective Measurement Survey was conducted July 28 through August 23, 1997. Due to an earlier than usual spring, the crop is ahead of normal. Mild temperatures have resulted in the highest percent of sound nuts in the last ten years. OM samples show low levels of sunburn and insect damage.

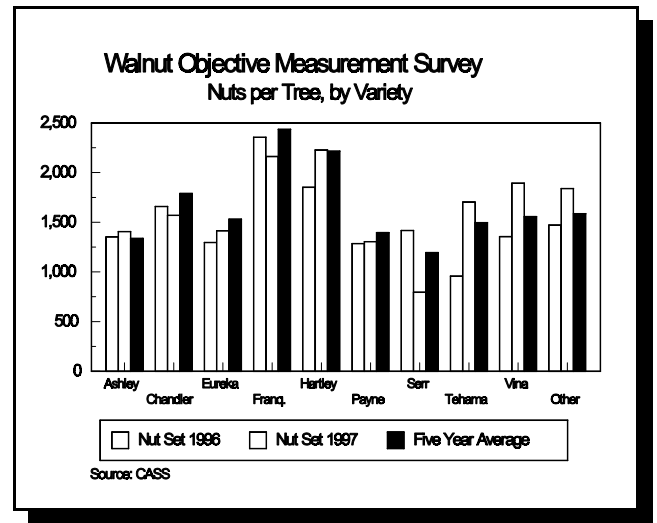
The 1997 Objective Measurement Survey utilized a total of 678 blocks with two sample trees per block. Survey data indicated an average nut set of 1,753, up 8 percent from 1996's average of 1,630. The Hartley nut set was up 20 percent; Serr, down 44 percent; Franquette, down 8 percent from 1996. Percent of sound kernels in-shell was 97.3 percent Statewide. In-shell weight per nut was 22.9 grams, while the average in-shell suture measurement was 32.3 millimeters. The average length in-shell was 38.6 millimeters.

Data Reliability: The 80 percent confidence interval is from 213 to 247 thousand tons. This means there is an 80 percent chance the 1997 production will fall within this range.

#### WALNUTS PER TREE, BY DISTRICT

Year	Coast 1/	Sacramento Valley 2/	San Joaquin Valley 3/	State Total 4/
1987	1,883	2,696	2,143	2,320
1988	1,359	2,390	1,837	2,008
1989	1,427	2,182	1,537	1,785
1990	1,637	2,380	1,835	2,028
1991	1,955	2,620	2,210	2,340
1992	1,567	1,902	1,380	1,604
1993	1,530	2,703	1,596	2,068
1994	1,813	1,961	1,602	1,773
1995	1,420	2,253	1,451	1,777
1996	1,362	1,836	1,497	1,630
1997	1,128	2,233	1,439	1,753

- 1/ Coast includes: Contra Costa, Lake, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara, and Sonoma counties.
- 2/ Sacramento Valley includes: Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Sacramento, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba counties.
- 3/ San Joaquin Valley includes: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare counties.
- 4/ District and State averages are derived by weighting county averages by county bearing acreage figures.



#### WALNUT OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT SURVEY DATA, CALIFORNIA

Year	Bearing Acres <u>a/</u>	Total Production (Tons)	Nuts Set Per Tree	Kernel Grade-Percent Sound	In-Shell Weight (gm)	In-Shell Width (mm)	In-Shell Length (mm)	In-Shell Cross-Width (mm)
1987	176,000	247,000	2,320	97.3	21.5	32.7	39.7	33.2
1988	177,000	209,000	2,008	96.2	21.2	32.5	39.1	32.7
1989	179,000	229,000	1,785	97.0	21.5	32.3	39.1	32.6
1990	181,000	227,000	2,028	96.3	21.8	32.3	38.8	32.4
1991	181,000	259,000	2,340	95.5	20.8	31.5	39.0	31.1
1992	178,000	203,000	1,604	96.9	22.7	32.6	39.5	32.9
1993	176,000	260,000	2,068	95.8	22.9	32.6	40.0	32.5
1994	171,000	232,000	1,773	95.6	22.1	32.2	39.4	32.2
1995	169,000	234,000	1,777	93.1	20.8	31.7	39.2	31.3
1996 <u>b/</u>	169,000	208,000	1,630	94.4	22.1	32.3	39.0	32.5
1997	170,000	230,000	1,753	97.3	22.9	32.3	38.6	32.6

- a/ Eight years and older for the Blackmer, Carmelo, Concord, Franquette, Grove, Mayette, Placentia, Poe, and Pride of Ventura varieties, 6 years and older for the Amigo, Ashley, Chandler, Gustine, Howard, Lompoc, Midland, Payne, Pedro, Serr, Sunland, Tehama, Trinta, Vina, Westside, and 4946 varieties, 5 years and older for the Chico and Marchetti varieties, and 7 years and older for all other varieties.
- b/ Price Per Ton and Total Value are July 1, 1997 preliminary figures.

### PISTACHIO PRODUCTION FORECAST

California pistachio production is forecast at a record 170 million pounds. The 80 percent confidence interval is from 149 to 191 million pounds. This means there is an 80 percent chance the 1997 production will fall within this range. This forecast is based on an objective measurement survey conducted by the California Agricultural Statistics Service under the sponsorship of the California Pistachio Commission. The survey collects data such as clusters per tree, nuts per

cluster, percent of bearing trees, as well as weight and size information. Due to an earlier than usual spring, the crop is approximately one to two weeks ahead of normal. In recent years, production has remained more stable as Pioneer Gold rootstock (verticillium wilt resistant) has increasingly replaced the older Atlantica rootstock. The Pioneer Gold generally bears heavy on even years and the Atlantica on odd.

**PISTACHIO OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT SURVEY DATA, CALIFORNIA, 1/**

Year	Samples Completed <u>2/</u>	Estimated Average Number Of Clusters Per Tree	Estimated Percent Of All Spaces That Contain		Count Data			In-Hull Data <u>3/</u>			Kernel Data <u>3/</u>			
			Bearing Trees	Pollinators	Nuts Per Cluster (Filled & Blank)	Percent Of Nuts Filled	Est. Total Number Of Filled Nuts Per Tree	Weight Per Nut (Includes Blanks)	Weight Per Nut (Filled)	In-Hull Cross Suture	Average Weight Per Kernel	Suture	Cross Suture	Length
1985	313	419	78.3	7.4	13.6	75.6	4,307	2.51	---	14.62	0.829	10.02	9.52	16.32
1986	332	1,090	79.8	6.1	11.5	77.3	9,689	2.77	---	15.63	1.000	10.50	10.49	17.00
1987	286	655	81.1	5.9	8.8	67.6	3,891	2.51	---	14.95	0.912	10.36	9.56	16.51
1988	347	1,181	83.2	5.7	10.5	80.7	10,032	2.61	---	14.13	0.832	10.02	9.37	15.87
1989	367	344	85.8	6.1	11.4	72.9	2,864	2.84	---	14.70	0.979	10.71	9.97	17.40
1990	373	1,479	85.6	6.3	10.1	73.5	10,942	2.43	---	14.14	0.871	10.12	9.32	16.11
1991	389	439	87.7	5.9	11.1	77.8	3,794	2.99	---	15.41	0.963	10.69	10.11	16.68
1992	394	1,670	86.3	6.8	7.2	70.4	8,433	3.04	---	15.26	1.240	10.96	10.35	17.79
1993	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1994	491	797	87.4	6.0	11.9	80.6	7,647	2.92	---	15.02	0.952	10.43	9.68	16.97
1995	586	974	89.9	5.4	9.2	78.9	7,114	3.07	3.26	15.51	0.949	10.33	9.94	16.40
1996	562	739	89.3	5.3	10.3	65.7	5,007	2.52	2.72	14.87	0.775	9.76	9.08	15.70
1997	642	1,049	89.5	5.4	10.4	76.0	8,326	2.78	2.92	14.92	0.896	10.56	9.60	16.55

1/ Survey was not conducted in 1993.

2/ Number of samples is based on the August Pistachio Objective Measurement Survey. There are two trees per sample.

3/ All weights are in grams. Suture, cross suture and length measurements are in millimeters.