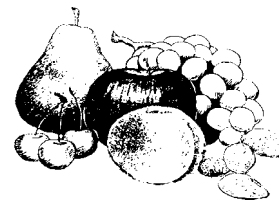


# California Fruit & Nut Review



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CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

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## DECEMBER CROP COMMENTS

Pruning, preplanting preparation, and field fumigation were active throughout the month as weather allowed. Kiwifruit and Table grape harvests ended, but avocado picking continued. Growers were digging bare root nursery stock and strawberry plants. Cold nighttime temperatures were beneficial to dormant tree and vine crops. The citrus crops suffered little damage from cold nighttime temperatures in the San Joaquin Valley. Picking of grapefruit has begun in the desert area with good size and quality. Harvest of lemons was active in the San Joaquin Valley and south coast areas with good quality. Navel orange harvest continued with excellent quality and large sizes. Approximately one-fourth of the crop had been picked by January 1. The Valencia orange crop continues to mature with picking to begin in the desert area by mid-February. The tangerine harvest remained active through December with a good quality crop reported.

**FLORIDA CITRUS:** This past month was one of the wettest Decembers on record. Some counties were well above the previous all time records for this winter month. Most of the growers and caretakers handled the excessive water with very few major problems. Some extra ditching and plowing were done to help move standing water. Most groves and trees are in very good condition with very little new growth showing at this time. Early and mid-season fruit is being harvested at a rapid pace as weather permits. All fresh fruit packing houses and processing plants were working long hours during this past month to move this season's large crop. Caretakers have been dirt banking young trees and placing heaters for cold protection. Very little spraying or fertilization was done during the month.

**ORANGES:** The 1997-98 California Navel orange forecast is 88.0 million cartons, unchanged from October, but up 10 percent from last season. Harvest of the Navel crop has progressed with approximately one-fourth of the crop picked. Quality is reported good to excellent with huge sized fruit.

The 1997-98 Valencia orange forecast is 60.0 million cartons, unchanged from October, but up 7 percent from last season. Picking of the 1996-97 crop ended in November. The 1997-98 crop is maturing well with harvest beginning in the desert area by mid-February.

## FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Forecast
	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 22, 1998
Pecans	2,500	2,500	520	1,120	1,300	2,800	115	January 22, 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 22, 1998
Walnuts (In-Shell)	169,000	170,000	- Tons -		- 1,000 Tons -		11	January 22, 1998
			1.23	1.35	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 22, 1998
Apricots	20,200	20,400	3.76	6.13	76.0	125.0	65	January 22, 1998
Cherries	12,900	13,700	1.91	2.55	24.6	35.0	42	January 22, 1998
Grapes, Raisin 1/	270,000	268,000	8.10	9.70	2,186.0	2,600.0	19	January 22, 1998
Grapes, Table	74,500	75,000	7.95	9.33	592.0	700.0	18	January 22, 1998
Grapes, Wine	311,000	325,000	7.15	8.31	2,225.0	2,700.0	21	January 22, 1998
Grapes, All	655,500	668,000	7.63	8.98	5,003.0	6,000.0	20	January 22, 1998
Olives	33,700	33,700	4.93	2.82	166.0	95.0	-43	January 22, 1998
Peaches, Clingstone	31,000	31,000	17.65	17.70	546.5	550.0	1	January 22, 1998
Peaches, Freestone	34,300	35,200	9.25	10.80	316.5	380.0	20	January 22, 1998
Pears, Bartlett	18,900	18,800	15.20	16.00	287.0	300.0	5	January 22, 1998
Pears, Other	4,800	4,800	6.25	6.25	30.0	30.0	NC	January 22, 1998
Prunes (Dried Weight)	80,200	81,200	2.74	2.65	220.0	215.0	-2	January 22, 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	January 22, 1998
<b>CITRUS CROPS 2/</b>	1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98		
	- Acres -		- Cartons -		- 1,000 Cartons -			
Grapefruit	18,600	18,600	882	968	16,400	18,000	10	April 9, 1998
Lemons	46,500	47,300	860	930	40,000	44,000	10	April 9, 1998
Oranges, Navel	124,000	125,000	646	704	80,000	88,000	10	April 9, 1998
Oranges, Valencia	75,000	75,000	746	800	56,000	60,000	7	April 9, 1998
Tangerines 3/	8,700	8,800	598	545	5,200	4,800	-8	April 9, 1998

1/ The Raisin Industry Diversion Program (RID) was not used in 1996 or 1997.

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

3/ Includes tangelos, tangerines and tangors.

**GRAPEFRUIT:** The 1997-98 all grapefruit crop is estimated at 18.0 million cartons, up 10 percent from last season. This number is unchanged from the initial October 1997 forecast. The yield is 968 cartons per acre, which is based on the 1997-98 acreage of 18.6 thousand acres. Weather conditions to date have been good. Picking has begun in the desert area with size and quality good.

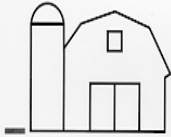
**LEMONS:** The 1997-98 California lemon forecast is 44.0 million cartons. This is unchanged from the October forecast, and up 10 percent from the 1996-97 production level of 40.0 million cartons. In the Central Valley, export grades are good to excellent, and domestic grades are good to fair. In the South Coast area, grades are good to fair. Statewide defects include flatsides, tip injuries, and windscar.

**TANGERINES:** The 1997-98 California tangerine forecast is 4.8 million cartons. This is unchanged from the October forecast and down 8 percent from the 1996-97 season. Quality, color, and flavor are good in the majority of lots. Grades are good to fair. Due to out of cooler decay, shippers are doing some repacking. Grade defects are scar, sunburn, coarse texture, green fruit, and soft fruit.

**CITRUS FRUIT PRODUCTION BY STATE AND U.S.**

Crop & State	1995-96	1996-97	Forecast 1997-98
<b>ORANGES: 1/</b>	--- 1,000 Cartons ---		
California, All	116,000	136,000	148,000
Navel & Misc.	76,000	80,000	88,000
Valencia	40,000	56,000	60,000
Florida	406,600	452,400	508,000
Texas	1,880	2,840	3,100
Arizona	3,300	2,000	2,000
<b>ALL U.S. ORANGES</b>	<b>527,780</b>	<b>593,240</b>	<b>661,100</b>
<b>GRAPEFRUIT: 2/</b>			
California	16,200	16,400	18,000
Florida	104,700	111,600	104,000
Texas	9,100	10,600	10,000
Arizona	2,400	1,800	1,600
<b>ALL U.S. GRAPEFRUIT</b>	<b>132,400</b>	<b>140,400</b>	<b>133,600</b>
<b>LEMONS: 3/</b>			
California	42,000	40,000	44,000
Arizona	10,200	5,200	5,200
<b>ALL U.S. LEMONS</b>	<b>52,200</b>	<b>45,200</b>	<b>49,200</b>
<b>TANGERINES: 4/</b>			
California 5/	5,200	5,200	4,800
Florida	9,000	12,600	11,000
Arizona	2,000	1,100	1,000
<b>ALL U.S. TANGERINES</b>	<b>16,200</b>	<b>18,900</b>	<b>16,800</b>

- 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.



**The Census Is in the Mail**

The 1997 Census of Agriculture is coming to a mailbox near you. Take the time to fill out your report form and return it by **February 2, 1998**. It's the law.

All the information you give is completely confidential by law.

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