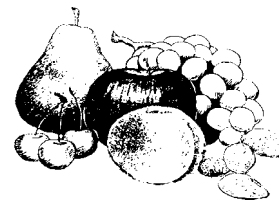


California Fruit & Nut Review



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CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

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area. Good size and quality were reported. In the central valley, shippers were packing lemons for export. Both domestic and export quality was good. Picking of lemons was also active in the south coast area with good grades. Growers in both areas were concerned about flatsides, tip bruising, and windscar. Approximately 70 percent of the Navel crop has been picked. Good quality was reported with large sized fruit. Rind breakdown, puff, and crease were concerns to growers. By April 1 the Valencia orange harvest was active in all three districts. Most of the fruit has been going to export. Quality was reported to be good to excellent. The tangerine harvest was winding down with export and domestic quality good to fair. Eating quality and flavor has been good to excellent. Some scar, sunburn, and picking injuries were reported.

MARCH CROP COMMENTS

Drier weather during March allowed growers to do more cultural activities in orchards and vineyards. Activities included pruning, weed control, and spraying for brown rot. Pollination improved in almond and stone fruit trees with the sunshine and warmer weather. By the end of the month most of the trees were past bloom and leafing out. Picking of grapefruit was active, but slow in the desert

FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Update
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997		
NUT CROPS	- Acres -		- Pounds -		- 1,000 Pounds -			
Almonds (Shelled) ^{1/}	405,000	420,000	1,260	1,790	510,000	750,000	47	May 11, 1998
Pecans	2,500	2,500	520	920	1,300	2,300	77	Sept. 11, 1998
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---		85,000	136,600		
Shelling Stock	---	0	---		20,000	41,400		
Total	64,300	65,400	1,630	2,750	105,000	180,000	71	Aug. 29, 1998
Walnuts (In-Shell)	169,000	170,000	1.23	1.58	208.0	269.0	29	July 10, 1998
FRUIT CROPS	- Acres -		- Tons -		- 1,000 Tons -			
Apples	38,000	38,500	12.50	12.70	475.0	487.5	3	Aug. 12, 1998
Apricots	20,200	20,400	3.76	6.47	76.0	132.0	74	June 12, 1998
Cherries	13,100	13,700	1.88	3.59	24.6	49.2	100	June 12, 1998
Grapes, Raisin	270,000	268,000	8.12	10.25	2,192.0	2,746.0	25	July 10, 1998
Grapes, Table	74,500	75,000	7.95	10.00	592.0	750.0	27	July 10, 1998
Grapes, Wine	311,000	325,000	7.15	8.31	2,225.0	2,700.0	21	July 10, 1998
Grapes, All	655,500	668,000	7.64	9.28	5,009.0	6,196.0	24	July 10, 1998
Olives	33,700	33,700	4.93	3.09	166.0	104.0	-37	Aug. 12, 1998
Peaches, Clingstone	31,000	31,000	17.60	18.50	546.5	574.0	5	June 12, 1998
Peaches, Freestone	34,300	35,200	9.85	10.50	337.0	369.5	10	June 12, 1998
Pears, Bartlett	18,900	18,800	15.20	15.00	287.0	282.0	-2	June 12, 1998
Pears, Other	4,800	4,800	6.25	6.25	30.0	30.0	NC	Aug. 12, 1998
Prunes (Dried Weight)	80,200	81,200	2.78	2.61	223.0	212.0	-5	June 4, 1998
BERRIES	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998		
	- Acres -		- Cwt. -		- 1,000 Cwt. -			
Strawberries	22,600	24,300	590	515	13,334	12,515	-6	Dec. 11, 1998
CITRUS CROPS ^{2/}	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	July 10, 1998
Lemons	46,500	47,300	860	930	40,000	44,000	10	July 10, 1998
Oranges, Navel	124,000	125,000	646	704	80,000	88,000	10	July 10, 1998
Oranges, Valencia	75,000	75,000	640	800	48,000	60,000	25	July 10, 1998
Tangerines ^{3/}	8,700	8,800	598	545	5,200	4,800	-8	July 10, 1998

^{1/} Almond forecast released May 11 - 12:00 PM.

^{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.

NAVEL ORANGES: The 1997-98 California Navel orange forecast is 88.0 million cartons, unchanged from January and up 10 percent from last season. Harvest of the Navel crop is approximately 70 percent complete. Good quality is reported with large sized fruit. Rind breakdown, puff, and crease are concerns to growers.

VALENCIA ORANGES: The April Valencia orange forecast is 60.0 million cartons, unchanged from January and up 25 percent from last year. Picking of Valencia oranges, mainly for export, is active throughout the State. Volume picked is less than 5 percent of the total crop, but early reports indicate good to excellent quality.

GRAPEFRUIT: The 1997-98 California all grapefruit production is forecast at 18.0 million cartons. This is unchanged from the January forecast and 10 percent above the 1996-97 estimated production. Minimal harvest has been conducted during the quarter, since other area has finished for the season and desert area harvest is just gaining momentum. Weather conditions to date have been fair with some problems caused by rain. Operators have reported good size and quality.

LEMONS: The 1997-98 California lemon forecast is 44.0 million cartons. This is unchanged from the January forecast and up 10 percent from the 1996-97 production level of 40.0 million cartons. In the central valley, shippers are packing exports with good results, and domestic grades are good to fair. In the south coastal area, grades are good to very good. Statewide defects include flatsides, tip bruising, and windscar.

TANGERINES: The 1997-98 California tangerine forecast is 4.80 million cartons. This is unchanged from the January forecast and down 8 percent from the 1996-97 season. Export and domestic grades are good to fair. Eating quality and flavor has been good to excellent. Defects include scar, sunburn, pliable fruit, and picking injuries.

FLORIDA CITRUS: March was generally colder, wetter, and windier than normal in Florida's Citrus Belt. Several citrus counties recorded record rainfall for the month. Some groves were not drivable or workable due to the water accumulations in the roads and drive middles between tree rows. The abundance of rainfall generated a lot of new growth and bloom buds of all stages. Some Valencia and Navel groves (generally the first to bloom) were in full open bloom by the end of the month with many other types following close behind. Early and mid-season orange harvests ended for all practical purposes by the last of March. Valencia harvest is very active with estimated weekly utilization now over 7.00 million boxes. Harvest of all seedless grapefruit is strongest on the lower east coast and is being used for both fresh shipments and processing. Picking of Temples and Honey tangerines slowed the last part of the month as supplies were running low. Caretakers spent most of their time discing and deep plowing to help aerate the wet grove soils. A few growers have started post bloom nutritional spraying.

STRAWBERRIES: Strawberry production in California is forecast at 12.5 million cwt., down 6 percent from the revised 1997 crop. Harvested acreage is expected to total 24,300 acres, up 8 percent from last year. The yield calculates to 515 cwt. per acre. Early spring rains in the southern coastal area have decreased year-to-date production by 30 percent. Increased acreage and improving weather should help offset some of the lost production.

**CITRUS FRUITS PRODUCTION:
1995-96, 1996-97 AND 1997-98 FORECAST, BY STATE AND U.S.**

Crop & State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 Forecast
ORANGES: 1/	- 1,000 Cartons -		
California, All	116,000	128,000	148,000
Navel & Misc.	76,000	80,000	88,000
Valencia	40,000	48,000	60,000
Florida	406,600	452,400	496,000
Texas	1,880	2,840	3,100
Arizona	3,300	2,000	2,000
ALL U.S. ORANGES	527,780	585,240	649,100
GRAPEFRUIT: 2/			
California, All	16,200	16,400	18,000
Florida	104,700	111,600	100,000
Texas	9,100	10,600	9,200
Arizona	2,400	1,800	1,600
ALL U.S. GRAPEFRUIT	132,400	140,400	128,800
LEMONS: 3/			
California	42,000	40,000	44,000
Arizona	10,200	5,200	5,200
ALL U.S. LEMONS	52,200	45,200	49,200
TANGERINES: 4/			
California 5/	5,200	5,200	4,800
Florida	9,000	12,600	10,200
Arizona	2,000	1,100	1,000
ALL U.S. TANGERINES	16,200	18,900	16,000

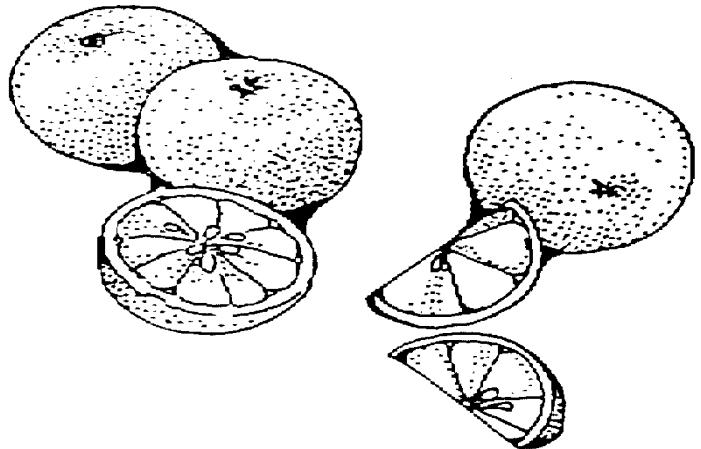
1/ ORANGES: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 45 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.

2/ GRAPEFRUIT: Arizona, 1 carton=32 lbs.; California, 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.



FRESH FRUIT: UNITED STATES PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION, 1977 TO DATE 1/

Year 2/	CITRUS FRUIT					TOTAL CITRUS 3/	NON-CITRUS FRUIT					
	Oranges & Temples	Tangerines & Tangelos	Lemons	Limes	Grapefruit		Apples	Apricots	Avocados	Bananas	Cherries	Cranberries
----- Pounds -----												
1977	13.4	2.6	2.1	0.2	7.7	26.2	16.5	0.1	1.2	19.2	0.6	0.2
1978	13.4	2.1	2.1	0.2	8.4	26.2	18.0	0.1	1.1	20.2	0.5	0.2
1979	11.5	2.0	1.9	0.3	7.3	23.0	17.1	0.1	1.3	21.0	0.7	0.1
1980	14.3	2.2	1.9	0.4	7.3	26.1	19.2	0.1	0.8	20.8	0.7	0.1
1981	12.4	2.0	2.0	0.4	6.7	23.5	16.9	0.1	2.1	21.5	0.5	0.2
1982	11.7	2.1	2.1	0.4	7.2	23.4	17.5	0.1	1.6	22.5	0.5	0.2
1983	15.0	2.3	2.3	0.5	7.8	28.0	18.3	0.1	1.9	21.3	0.7	0.1
1984	11.9	2.1	2.2	0.5	6.0	22.5	18.4	0.1	2.2	22.2	0.7	0.1
1985	11.6	1.5	2.3	0.6	5.5	21.5	17.3	0.2	1.8	23.5	0.4	0.1
1986	13.4	1.6	2.5	0.6	6.1	24.2	17.8	0.1	1.5	25.8	0.5	0.1
1987	12.8	1.8	2.5	0.5	6.4	23.9	20.8	0.1	2.4	25.0	0.7	0.1
1988	13.9	1.8	2.5	0.6	6.7	25.4	19.8	0.2	1.6	24.3	0.5	0.1
1989	12.2	1.7	2.4	0.7	6.6	23.6	21.2	0.1	1.6	24.7	0.6	0.1
1990	12.4	1.3	2.6	0.7	4.4	21.4	19.6	0.2	1.1	24.4	0.4	0.1
1991	8.5	1.4	2.6	0.8	5.9	19.1	18.2	0.1	1.4	25.1	0.4	0.1
1992	12.9	1.9	2.5	1.0	6.0	24.4	19.3	0.2	1.4	27.3	0.5	0.1
1993	14.2	1.9	2.7	1.0	6.2	26.0	19.2	0.1	2.2	26.8	0.4	0.1
1994	13.1	2.1	2.7	1.0	6.1	25.0	19.6	0.2	1.3	28.1	0.5	0.1
1995	12.0	2.0	2.9	1.2	6.1	24.1	18.9	0.1	1.4	27.4	0.3	0.1
1996	12.8	2.2	2.9	1.2	5.8	24.9	19.3	0.1	1.6	28.0	0.4	0.1
Year 2/	NON-CITRUS FRUIT CONTINUED										TOTAL NON-CITRUS 3/	TOTAL FRUIT 3/
	Grapes	Kiwifruit 4/	Mangos	Peaches & Nectarines	Pears	Pineapples	Papayas	Plums and Prunes	Strawberries			
----- Pounds -----												
1977	3.5	N/A	0.2	5.1	2.4	1.4	0.3	1.6	1.9	54.0	80.2	
1978	3.1	N/A	0.2	6.1	2.3	1.5	0.3	1.5	2.1	57.1	83.3	
1979	3.5	N/A	0.2	6.7	2.3	1.5	0.2	1.6	1.9	58.1	81.1	
1980	4.0	N/A	0.3	7.1	2.6	1.5	0.2	1.5	2.0	60.9	87.0	
1981	4.1	N/A	0.2	6.9	2.8	1.6	0.2	1.7	2.2	60.9	84.4	
1982	5.7	0.1	0.3	5.4	2.9	1.7	0.2	1.1	2.4	62.0	85.4	
1983	5.6	0.1	0.4	5.4	3.0	1.7	0.2	1.4	2.3	62.5	90.4	
1984	6.1	0.2	0.4	6.7	2.5	1.5	0.3	1.8	3.0	66.2	88.7	
1985	6.8	0.1	0.4	5.5	2.8	1.5	0.2	1.4	3.0	65.1	86.5	
1986	7.1	0.2	0.5	5.8	3.0	1.8	0.2	1.3	2.9	68.6	92.8	
1987	7.1	0.3	0.6	6.1	3.5	1.7	0.2	1.9	3.1	73.5	97.4	
1988	7.7	0.3	0.4	6.8	3.2	1.8	0.2	1.7	3.3	71.8	97.2	
1989	7.9	0.3	0.5	5.9	3.2	2.0	0.1	1.4	3.3	72.9	96.4	
1990	7.9	0.5	0.5	5.5	3.2	2.1	0.2	1.6	3.2	70.4	91.7	
1991	7.3	0.5	0.9	6.4	3.2	1.9	0.2	1.4	3.6	70.6	89.6	
1992	7.2	0.4	0.7	6.0	3.1	2.0	0.2	1.8	3.6	73.8	98.1	
1993	7.1	0.6	0.9	6.0	3.4	2.1	0.3	1.3	3.6	73.9	99.8	
1994	7.3	0.6	1.0	5.5	3.5	2.0	0.3	1.6	4.1	75.6	100.6	
1995	7.5	0.6	1.1	5.4	3.4	1.9	0.4	0.9	4.2	73.6	97.7	
1996	6.9	0.6	1.4	4.3	3.1	1.9	0.6	1.4	4.4	74.1	98.9	

1/ All non-citrus fruit data are on calendar-year basis, except for apples (year begins in August of the year shown), grapes, and pears (year begins in July). For oranges, Temples, tangerines, and tangelos, year begins in November; grapefruit in September; and lemons in August of prior year. Lime year begins in April of the year shown.

2/ Preliminary 1996 figures.

3/ Some figures may not add due to rounding.

4/ Reporting began in 1982.

SOURCE: Economic Research Service, USDA.