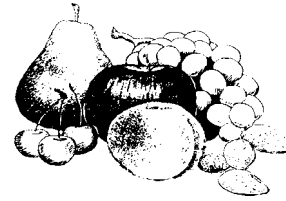


# California Fruit & Nut Review



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## MAY CROP COMMENTS

Maturity of fruit and nut crops was delayed by the wet, cool weather in May. Cherry growers lost the majority of their fruit due to splits. Fresh grape picking finally began in the Coachella Valley the last half of the month. In other areas of the State, grape growers applied sulfur for mildew control. Early varieties of apricots, nectarines, plums, and Freestone peaches were picked, but growth, cracks, and brown rot were

reported. The cool nights were beneficial for color, but not size. Almond growers were concerned about Anthracnose appearing in their orchards. Some occurrences of yellow leaves suggest waterlogged roots. Strawberries also suffered from the wet weather with fungi and crop loss rampant. Many salvaged strawberries went to juice. Avocado and olive trees bloomed. Navel orange harvest was virtually over by the end of May. Valencia orange picking gathered momentum during the month. Lemon harvest was active, primarily in the south coast area. Harvest of the tangerine crop was complete. Grapefruit picking was near the end in the desert area and beginning in the non-desert areas.

## FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Update
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998		
<b>NUT CROPS</b>	- Acres -		- Pounds -		- 1,000 Pounds -			
Almonds (Shelled)	410,000	425,000	1,850	1,294	757,000	550,000	-27	July 7, 1998
Pecans	2,500	---	920	---	2,300	---		Sept. 11, 1998
Pistachio (In-Shell)	---	---	---	---	136,600	---		
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	41,400	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Total	65,400	---	2,750	---	180,000	---		Aug. 28, 1998
Walnuts (In-Shell)	170,000	---	1.58	---	269.0	---		July 10, 1998
<b>FRUIT CROPS</b>	- Acres -		- Tons -		- 1,000 Tons -			
Apples	38,500	---	12.70	---	487.5	---		Aug. 12, 1998
Apricots	20,400	18,900	6.47	6.61	132.0	125.0	-5	July 10, 1998
Cherries	13,700	13,800	3.59	1.09	49.2	15.0	-70	January 1999
Grapes, Raisin	268,000	---	10.25	---	2,746.0	---		July 10, 1998
Grapes, Table	75,000	---	10.00	---	750.0	---		July 10, 1998
Grapes, Wine	325,000	---	8.31	---	2,700.0	---		July 10, 1998
Grapes, All	668,000	---	9.28	---	6,196.0	---		July 10, 1998
Olives	33,700	---	3.09	---	104.0	---		Aug. 12, 1998
Peaches, Clingstone	31,000	30,300	18.50	16.34	574.0	495.0	-14	July 10, 1998
Peaches, Freestone	35,200	32,400	10.50	10.03	369.5	325.0	-12	July 10, 1998
Pears, Bartlett	18,800	18,000	15.00	15.00	282.0	270.0	-4	Aug. 12, 1998
Pears, Other	4,800	---	6.25	---	30.0	---		Aug. 12, 1998
Prunes (Dried Weight)	81,200	80,100	2.61	2.12	214.0	170.0	-21	January 1999
<b>BERRIES</b>	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998		
Strawberries	- Acres -		- Cwt. -		- 1,000 Cwt. -			
	22,600	24,300	590	515	13,334	12,515	-6	Dec. 11, 1998
<b>CITRUS CROP <sup>1/</sup></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	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 <sup>2/</sup>	8,700	8,800	598	545	5,200	4,800	-8	July 10, 1998

<sup>1/</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>2/</sup> Includes tangelos, tangerines and tangors.

**APRICOTS** - Apricot production for 1998 is estimated to be 125 thousand tons, down 5 percent from the 1997 crop, but 64 percent above 1996. Bearing acres are estimated at 18.9 thousand. A break in the heavy rain during the bloom resulted in good fruit set. The crop is 10 to 14 days later than average, allowing the fruit to mature in size.

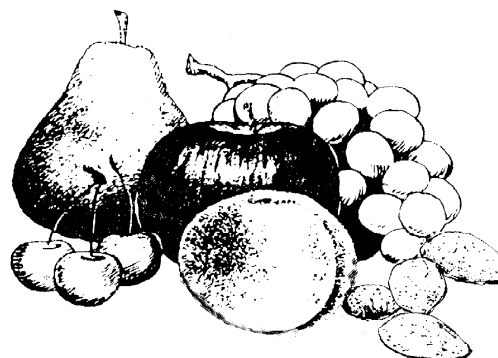
**SWEET CHERRIES** - This year's sweet cherry crop is forecast at 15.0 thousand tons, down 70 percent from the 1997 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 13.8 thousand, and the yield calculates to 1.09 tons per acre. Rains during the bloom and production periods resulted in poor fruit set and quality in most growing areas.

**FREESTONE PEACHES** - The 1998 California Freestone peach crop is forecast at 325 thousand tons, down 12 percent from last year's crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 32.4 thousand. The yield calculates to 10.03 tons per acre.

**CLINGSTONE PEACHES** - California's Clingstone peach crop is forecast at 495 thousand tons this year, down 14 percent from 1997. Bearing acreage is estimated at 30.3 thousand. The yield calculates to 16.34 tons per acre. The cool, wet weather has delayed crop progress two to three weeks.

**BARTLETT PEARS** - The forecast for the 1998 Bartlett pear crop is 270 thousand tons, down 4 percent from last year. Bearing acres are estimated to be 18.0 thousand. Bartlett pear growing areas have experienced an unusually cool, wet spring. Maturity has been delayed, and picking is not expected to begin in the Sacramento area until mid-July.

**PRUNES** - Prune production this year is forecast at 170 thousand tons, down 21 percent from the 1997 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 80.1 thousand. The yield calculates to 2.12 tons per acre. Rain and cool weather during the blooming period have had a negative effect on production.



**FRUIT PRODUCTION FOR SELECTED STATES AND U.S.**

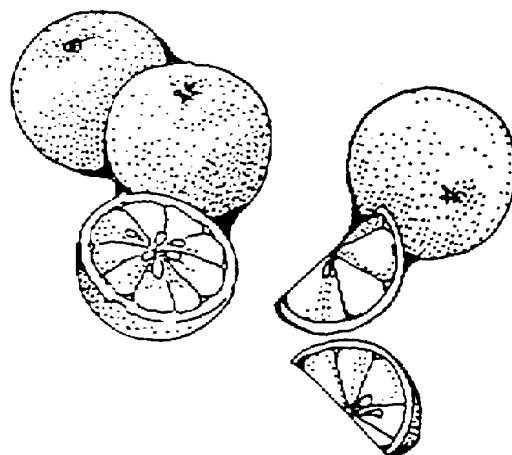
Crop & State	1996	1997	1998 Forecast
	--- Tons ---		
<b>APRICOTS</b>			
California	76,000	132,000	125,000
<b>CHERRIES (Sweet)</b>			
California	24,600	49,200	15,000
Oregon	32,000	50,000	50,000
Washington	69,000	92,000	91,000
Total <sup>1/</sup>	125,600	191,200	156,000
<b>PEACHES</b>			
California Total	883,500	943,500	820,000
Freestone	337,000	369,500	325,000
Clingstone <sup>2/</sup>	546,500	574,000	495,000
Georgia	5,000	80,000	35,000
South Carolina	4,000	80,000	70,000
Total	892,500	1,103,500	925,000
<b>PEARS (BARTLETT)</b>			
California	287,000	282,000	270,000
Oregon	45,000	75,000	60,000
Washington	105,000	205,000	150,000
Total	437,000	562,000	480,000
<b>PRUNES (DRIED WEIGHT)</b>			
California	223,000	214,000	170,000

<sup>1/</sup> Forecast for Idaho, Michigan, Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, and Utah will be released on June 18, 1998.

<sup>2/</sup> California Clingstone is over the scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.

### FLORIDA CITRUS

May was one of the hottest and driest months on record for Florida's citrus belt. Only two to four days of varying rain occurred in most areas with totals generally in the 1.0 to 2.5 inches for the month. Growers and caretakers were using all types of irrigation to help maintain stable tree condition. New crop fruit was generally through dropping as most trees had adjusted to the size crop they could carry for next season. New foliage growth was slow during the past month due to hot temperatures. Harvesting labor was getting very scarce the last few weeks of May as some fruit pickers had moved to harvest vegetables and other crops. Virtually all of the fruit harvested during the past month has been processed as most of the fresh fruit packing houses have closed for the season. Caretakers have been very active during May cutting cover crops and applying herbicides. Most post bloom nutritional sprays have been completed. Some growers and caretakers continue hedging, topping, and cutting up debris.



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

Crop & State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 Forecast
- 1,000 Cartons -			
<b>ORANGES <sup>1/</sup></b>			
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	3,060
Arizona	3,300	2,000	2,000
ALL U.S. ORANGES	527,780	585,240	649,060
<b>GRAPEFRUIT <sup>2/</sup></b>			
California	16,200	16,400	18,000
Florida	104,700	111,600	99,000
Texas	9,100	10,600	9,600
Arizona	2,400	1,800	1,600
ALL U.S. GRAPEFRUIT	132,400	140,400	128,200
<b>LEMONS <sup>3/</sup></b>			
California	42,000	40,000	44,000
Arizona	10,200	5,200	5,200
ALL U.S. LEMONS	52,200	45,200	49,200
<b>TANGERINES <sup>4/</sup></b>			
California <sup>5/</sup>	5,200	5,200	4,800
Florida	9,000	12,600	10,400
Arizona	2,000	1,100	1,000
ALL U.S. TANGERINES	16,200	18,900	16,200

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

<sup>2/</sup> GRAPEFRUIT: Arizona and California, 1 carton=33.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 40 lbs.

<sup>3/</sup> LEMONS: All, 1 carton = 38 lbs.

<sup>4/</sup> TANGERINES: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 47.5 lbs.

<sup>5/</sup> Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.

**TREE NUTS (SHELLED BASIS) PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION, 1975-76 TO DATE**

Season <u>1/</u>	Almonds	Hazelnuts	Pecans	Walnuts	Macadamias	Pistachios	Other <u>2/</u>	Total <u>3/</u>
	----- Pounds -----							
1975-76	0.35	0.08	0.39	0.50	0.02	0.03	0.57	1.94
1976-77	0.42	0.07	0.33	0.51	0.02	0.04	0.51	1.91
1977-78	0.45	0.06	0.37	0.48	0.02	0.04	0.28	1.71
1978-79	0.39	0.08	0.39	0.37	0.02	0.04	0.42	1.71
1979-80	0.37	0.04	0.46	0.42	0.03	0.04	0.38	1.74
1980-81	0.42	0.05	0.43	0.50	0.03	0.05	0.32	1.79
1981-82	0.50	0.05	0.45	0.52	0.03	0.04	0.33	1.92
1982-83	0.59	0.07	0.49	0.47	0.04	0.05	0.46	2.16
1983-84	0.58	0.05	0.48	0.52	0.04	0.07	0.52	2.25
1984-85	0.68	0.06	0.54	0.48	0.04	0.11	0.47	2.37
1985-86	0.81	0.07	0.47	0.48	0.05	0.12	0.45	2.45
1986-87	0.53	0.03	0.54	0.49	0.05	0.11	0.47	2.21
1987-88	0.59	0.06	0.54	0.46	0.05	0.09	0.41	2.20
1988-89	0.65	0.07	0.50	0.50	0.05	0.12	0.40	2.29
1989-90	0.62	0.05	0.46	0.45	0.06	0.08	0.51	2.23
1990-91	0.74	0.07	0.49	0.45	0.06	0.11	0.50	2.43
1991-92	0.61	0.06	0.46	0.45	0.05	0.08	0.44	2.16
1992-93	0.59	0.08	0.35	0.47	0.05	0.10	0.58	2.22
1993-94	0.49	0.10	0.53	0.38	0.05	0.13	0.56	2.24
1994-95	0.56	0.07	0.49	0.45	0.06	0.14	0.50	2.26
1995-96	0.49	0.09	0.39	0.39	0.06	0.10	0.43	1.93
1996-97 <u>4/</u>	0.48	0.05	0.50	0.35	0.06	0.12	0.53	2.21

1/ Beginning August of first year indicated for walnuts, September for pistachios, and July for all others.

2/ Includes the following nuts: Brazil, pignolias, chestnuts, cashews, and mixed nuts.

3/ Some figures may not add due to rounding.

4/ Preliminary estimates.

**SOURCE:** Commodity Economics Division, ERS, USDA.