

# California Fruit & Nut Review



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## JUNE CROP COMMENTS

Maturity of fruit and nut crops advanced during June with warmer, drier weather. However, a hail storm did cause damage to some fruit and nut orchards in Fresno and Tulare counties. Grape growers applied sulfur to their vineyards to control the nagging mildew problem. Other vineyard activities included discing for weed control and spraying insecticides for leafrollers. In the Coachella Valley, grapes for fresh use were picked, with Perlettes, Flame Seedless, and Thompson Seedless the primary varieties. San Joaquin Valley

stone fruit growers were busy picking nectarines, plums, Freestone peaches, and apricots. Maturity was approximately three weeks behind normal. Growers were concerned about brown rot, mold, and split pits. Strawberry harvest was active in June, with improved quality. Navel orange harvest was completed during June, while Valencia orange picking slowed due to normal competition from stone fruits. Approximately one-third of the crop has been picked, with the quality reported as good to excellent. Picking of grapefruit in the non-desert areas was active in June, with good quality reported. The harvest of lemons continued in the San Joaquin Valley and South Coast areas, with grades reported as good.

## FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next 1998 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	1,270	757,000	540,000	-29	January 1999
Pecans	2,500	---	920	---	2,300	---		Sept. 11, 1998
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	137,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	43,000	---		
Total	65,400	---	2,750	---	180,000	---		August 28, 1998
Walnuts (In-Shell)	177,200	177,200	1.58	1.44	269.0	255.0	-5	Sept. 4, 1998
<b>FRUIT CROPS</b>	- Acres -		- Tons -		- 1,000 Tons -			
Apples	38,500	---	12.50	---	481.0	---		August 12, 1998
Apricots	19,100	18,900	6.91	6.61	132.0	125.0	-5	January 1999
Cherries	13,700	13,800	3.59	1.09	49.2	15.0	-72	January 1999
Grapes, Raisin <sup>1/</sup>	270,000	270,000	10.66	9.26	2,877.0	2,500.0	-13	August 12, 1998
Grapes, Table	76,700	80,000	10.76	9.38	825.0	750.0	-9	August 12, 1998
Grapes, Wine	329,000	350,000	8.94	8.00	2,940.0	2,800.0	-5	August 12, 1998
Grapes, All <sup>1/</sup>	675,700	700,000	9.83	8.64	6,642.0	6,050.0	-9	August 12, 1998
Olives	35,300	---	2.95	---	104.0	---		August 12, 1998
Peaches, Clingstone	31,000	30,300	18.50	17.30	574.0	525.0	-9	January 1999
Peaches, Freestone	35,200	32,400	10.50	10.03	369.5	325.0	-12	January 1999
Pears, Bartlett	18,200	18,000	15.50	15.00	282.0	270.0	-4	August 12, 1998
Pears, Other	4,600	---	6.25	---	30.0	---		August 12, 1998
Prunes (Dried Weight)	79,500	80,100	2.69	2.12	214.0	170.0	-21	January 1999
<b>BERRIES</b>	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998		
	- Acres -		- Cwt. -		- 1,000 Cwt. -			
Strawberries	22,600	24,300	590	514	13,334	12,490	-6	Dec. 11, 1998
<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, All	18,600	18,600	882	968	16,400	18,000	10	Sept. 23, 1998
Lemons	46,500	47,300	860	930	40,000	44,000	10	Sept. 23, 1998
Oranges, Navel	124,000	125,000	646	704	80,000	88,000	10	Sept. 23, 1998
Oranges, Valencia	75,000	75,000	640	800	48,000	60,000	25	Sept. 23, 1998
Tangerines <sup>3/</sup>	8,700	8,800	598	545	5,200	4,800	-8	Sept. 23, 1998

<sup>1/</sup> The Raisin Industry Diversion Program (RID) had zero acreage enrolled for both 1997 and 1998.

<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.

**Apricots** - Estimated at 125 thousand tons, the 1998 crop is expected to be 5 percent below last year, and unchanged from last month's forecast.

**Grapes** - *Wine grape* production this year is estimated at 2.80 million tons, down 5 percent from last year's record crop. Growers are optimistic about this year's production despite an extraordinarily cool and wet spring. Production of *table grapes* this year is expected to be 750 thousand tons, down 9 percent from 1997's record crop. *Raisin grape* production this year, forecast at 2.50 million tons, is down 13 percent from 1997.

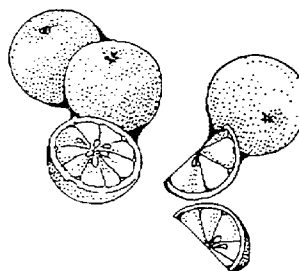
**Peaches** - *Freestone peach* production this year is forecast at 325 thousand tons, down 12 percent from last year's crop, with a yield of 10 tons per acre. This year's *Clingstone peach* crop is expected to be 525 thousand tons, down 9 percent from the 1997 crop, with a yield of 17.3 tons per acre.

**Walnuts** - Walnut production is 5 percent below the 1997 record level, with the production forecast at 255 thousand tons. Bearing acreage is estimated at 177.2 thousand acres. Decreased yields are expected due to heavy rains during the blooming period. The crop progress is about two to three weeks later than normal.

**Grapefruit** - 1997-98 grapefruit production is expected to be 10 percent above last season, with a forecast of 18.0 million cartons.

**Lemons** - The 1997-98 lemon forecast is 44.0 million cartons. This is unchanged from the April forecast and up 10 percent from the 1996-97 production level of 40.0 million cartons.

**Oranges** - At 88.0 million cartons, the 1997-98 *Navel orange* forecast is up 10 percent from last season. Fruit has good quality with large fruit size. The *Valencia orange* forecast, at 60.0 million cartons, is 25 percent above the previous season.



**CITRUS FRUITS PRODUCTION:  
1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 Forecast, by State and U.S.**

Crop & State	1995-96	1996-97	Forecast 1997-98
- 1,000 Cartons -			
<b>ORANGES: 1/</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	488,000
Texas	1,880	2,840	3,060
Arizona	3,300	2,000	2,000
ALL U.S. ORANGES	527,780	585,240	641,060
<b>GRAPEFRUIT: 2/</b>			
California, All	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	11,500	12,400	11,200
<b>LEMONS: 4/</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: 5/</b>			
California 6/	5,200	5,200	4,800
Florida	9,000	12,600	10,400
Arizona	2,000	1,100	1,200
ALL U.S. TANGERINES	16,200	18,900	16,400

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

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

3/ California Clingstone is over the scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.

4/ LEMONS: All, 1 carton = 38 lbs.

5/ TANGERINES: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 47.5 lbs.

6/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.

**FRUIT PRODUCTION:  
1996, 1997 and 1998 Forecast for Selected States & U.S.**

Crop & State	1996	1997	Forecast 1998
--- Tons ---			
<b>APRICOTS</b>			
California	76,000	132,000	125,000
Utah 1/	300	---	200
Washington	3,000	6,000	5,000
U.S. Total	79,300	138,000	130,200
<b>CHERRIES (Sweet)</b>			
California	24,600	49,200	15,000
Michigan	22,000	27,000	30,000
Oregon	32,000	50,000	50,000
Washington	69,000	92,000	91,000
Other States 2/	6,700	4,550	6,900
U.S. Total	154,300	222,750	192,900
<b>PEACHES</b>			
California--All	883,500	943,500	850,000
Freestone	337,000	369,500	325,000
Clingstone 3/	546,500	574,000	525,000
Illinois	1,000	6,250	7,500
Michigan	20,000	30,500	26,000
New Jersey	39,000	32,500	37,500
Pennsylvania	37,500	37,500	42,500
Virginia	7,000	4,500	11,000
Washington	5,500	22,500	23,500
8 So. States 4/	13,900	199,650	158,500
Other States 5/	50,750	48,650	59,500
U.S. Total	1,058,150	1,325,550	1,216,000

1/ No significant production in 1997 due to freeze damage.

2/ ID, MT NY, PA, and UT.

3/ California Clingstone is over the scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.

4/ AL, AR, GA, LA, NC, OK, SC, and TX.

5/ CO, CT, DE, ID, IN, KS, KY, MD, MA, MO, NY, OH, OR, TN, UT, and WV.

**Florida Citrus:** June was one of the hottest and driest months on record. Several days during the month set single day high temperature records. In only one or two years since records have been kept has there been so little rain during the month. Many recording stations in the citrus belt received less than two inches of rain during June. Growers and caretakers irrigated around the clock to keep groves and new trees alive and in good condition. Non-irrigated groves showed signs of stress, yellowing, wilting, and leaf loss. Some groves on the sand hills without irrigation may lose a lot of foliage and some new crop fruit. Only a few new reset trees may die of the drought and they will probably be

replanted. Valencia orange harvest slowed by the end of the month as supplies were running out. Several small juice plants are still accepting oranges. Grapefruit harvest was completed by the end of June, as most processors were through running grapefruit. Wildfires in northern Brevard County did not reach any commercial groves and no reports of loss have been received. Caretakers were very busy cutting and removing cover crops for fire protection. A few growers were spraying and fertilizing. Hedging and topping continue in most areas when equipment is available.

### 1998 CALIFORNIA ALMOND FORECAST

California's 1998 almond production is forecast at 540 million meat pounds, down 2 percent from May's subjective forecast and down 29 percent from last year's crop. This is based on 425,000 bearing acres. The Nonpareil variety is forecast at 260 million meat pounds, down 28 percent from last season. The Nonpareil variety represents 48 percent of total almond production.

approximately two weeks. There has been some concern about shrivels, blanks, and other kernel malformations associated with uneven set. The most common nonstandard grade observed in the field has been doubles. The average nut set per tree is 5,314, down 30 percent from 1997. The Nonpareil average nut set of 5,129 represents a 34 percent decrease from last year's set. The average kernel weight for all varieties sampled was 1.76 grams, up 11 percent from last year. A total of 95.8 percent of the nuts sized were sound.

Statewide bloom reports ranged from fair to good with cool Spring temperatures and intermittent rains throughout the State. The crop was delayed by

**TABLE 1: COMPARISON OF NUT ESTIMATES AND ORCHARDS SAMPLED BY DISTRICT AND VARIETY, JUNE OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT SURVEY COUNTS**

District and Variety	1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998	
	Nuts Per Tree	Orchards Sampled	Nuts Per Tree	Orchards Sampled	Nuts Per Tree	Orchards Sampled	Nuts Per Tree	Orchards Sampled	Nuts Per Tree	Orchards Sampled	Nuts Per Tree	Orchards Sampled
<b>ALL DISTRICTS</b> (All Varieties)	5,871	767	8,183	766	3,792	798	5,482	872	7,567	887	5,314	979
<b>BY DISTRICTS</b>												
<u>District I</u> Sacramento Valley	6,801	173	9,498	176	4,926	176	6,739	175	8,544	190	6,257	200
<u>District II</u> San Joaquin Valley	5,652	587	7,830	586	3,471	622	5,194	693	7,347	691	5,116	772
<b>BY VARIETIES</b>												
California Types <u>1/</u>	5,901	129	9,081	134	3,635	151	6,510	174	7,597	171	5,497	201
Carmel <u>2/</u>	5,317	85	8,749	86	3,384	99	5,993	116	7,862	107	5,645	118
Merced	6,332	30	8,848	32	2,841	32	4,450	31	6,020	20	4,664	24
Mission	6,117	70	6,909	69	4,534	72	6,320	78	6,831	78	5,722	79
Ne Plus Ultra	4,808	29	9,785	26	2,557	29	3,486	28	7,215	30	2,116	27
Nonpareil	5,849	447	7,869	431	3,851	430	4,963	464	7,714	485	5,129	491

1/ For survey purposes, the California classification includes the following varieties: Aldrich, Ballico, Carmel, Davey, Fritz, Harvey, Le Grand, Mono, Monterey, Norman, Price Cluster, Ruby, Tokoyo and Yosemite.

2/ Carmel breakdown was first provided in 1988. Carmel variety is also included in California Types.