

California Fruit & Nut Review



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JULY GENERAL COMMENTS

Growers were busy harvesting their crops during July. Fresh grape picking ended in the Coachella Valley and finally began in the San Joaquin Valley. Heat and humidity have caused growers to be concerned about bunch rot. Vineyards were treated for mildew, fungus, worms, and mites. Stone fruit harvest was active during July with nectarines, Freestone peaches, and plums being picked. Problems with brown rot, mold, and split pits continued to plague growers. Early variety Clingstone peach

harvest began. Maturity is behind normal for most crops due to the cool, rainy spring. Strawberry harvest was active with improved quality. Almond growers applied insecticides to control mites and Navel orange worms. By the end of July, they were preparing orchards for harvest by mowing and applying herbicides between the trees. Walnut growers whitewashed trees for sunburn protection. Valencia orange harvest slowed due to normal competition from stone fruits. Quality has been reported as good to excellent. Picking of grapefruit in the non-desert areas was active in July with good quality reported. The harvest of lemons in the San Joaquin Valley and southern coastal areas continued with good quality. The June drop of new crop citrus extended well into July.

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		
NUT CROPS	- 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	—		Sept. 4, 1998
Walnuts (In-Shell)	177,200	177,200	1.58	1.44	269.0	255.0	-5	Sept. 4, 1998
FRUIT CROPS	-- Acres --		-- Tons --		-- 1,000 Tons --			
Apples	38,500	35,700	12.80	12.80	481.0	458.0	-5	January 1999
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	-70	January 1999
Grapes, Raisin	270,000	270,000	10.66	8.52	2,877.0	2,300.0	-20	October 9, 1998
Grapes, Table	76,700	80,000	10.76	9.38	825.0	750.0	-9	October 9, 1998
Grapes, Wine	329,000	350,000	8.94	7.43	2,940.0	2,600.0	-12	October 9, 1998
Grapes, All	675,700	700,000	9.83	8.07	6,642.0	5,650.0	-15	October 9, 1998
Olives	35,300	35,300	2.95	2.69	104.0	95.0	-9	January 1999
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	January 1999
Pears, Other	4,600	4,400	6.25	6.82	30.0	30.0		January 1999
Prunes (Dried Weight)	79,500	80,100	2.69	2.12	214.0	170.0	-21	January 1999
BERRIES	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
CITRUS CROP ^{1/}	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	4,000	10	Sept. 23, 1998
Oranges, Navel	124,000	125,000	646	704	80,000	88,000	10	Sept. 11, 1998
Oranges, Valencia	75,000	75,000	640	800	48,000	60,000	25	Sept. 23, 1998
Tangerines ^{2/}	8,700	8,800	598	545	5,200	4,800	-8	Sept. 23, 1998

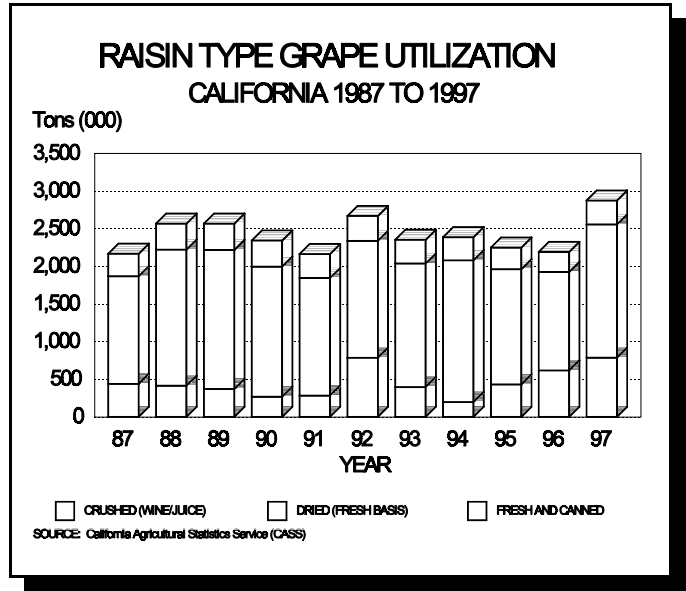
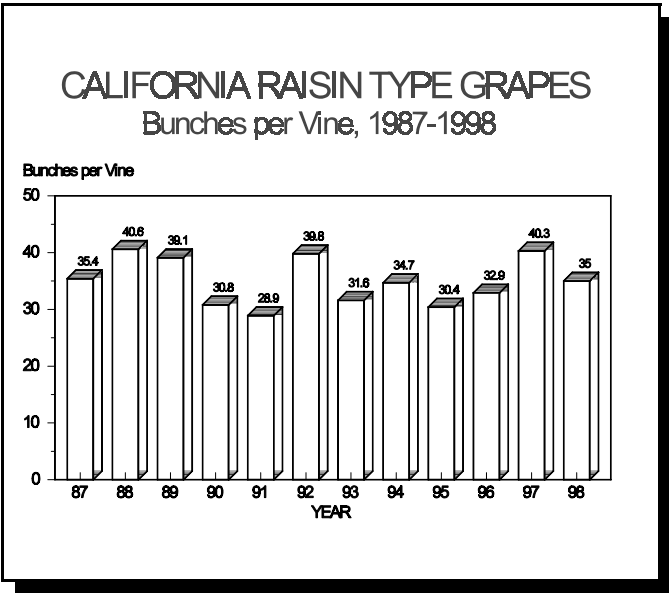
^{1/} Grapefruit - 33.5 lbs. per carton, Lemons - 38.0 lbs. per carton, Oranges - 37.5 lbs. per carton, Tangerines - 37.5 lbs. per carton.

^{2/} Includes tangelos, tangerines and tangors.

RAISIN TYPE GRAPE PRODUCTION UP

The California raisin type grape variety forecast is 2.30 million tons, down 20 percent from last year. Based on the objective measurement survey, bunches per vine totaled 35.0 compared to 40.3 recorded in 1997. Bunch length, width, and thickness are down. The acreage harvested will be 270 thousand, equal to last

year. Thompson Seedless variety grapes are currently being picked for fresh use in the San Joaquin Valley. Maturity is well behind normal. Growers are concerned about mildew and bunch rot. Picking for raisin and wine use may not begin until late August or early September.



CALIFORNIA RAISIN GRAPE OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT SURVEY RESULTS AND OFFICIAL ESTIMATES, 1987-98

Year	Number Vines Sampled	Avg. No. Bunches Per Vine	Number Normal Bunches Measured	Avg. Normal Bunch Length	Average Normal Bunch Width	Average Normal Bunch Thickness	Official Estimate		
							Bearing Acres	Yield Per Acre	Production
					<i>mm</i>			<i>Tons</i>	<i>(000) Tons</i>
1987	328	35.4	1,364	200	106	80	275,000 <u>a/</u>	8.35 <u>a/</u>	2,170
1988	319	40.6	1,560	212	109	81	274,000 <u>a/</u>	10.30 <u>a/</u>	2,570
1989	285	39.1	1,248	215	110	86	271,000	9.48	2,570
1990	319	30.8	1,202	212	113	91	270,000	8.69	2,345
1991	346	28.9	1,165	217	105	87	266,000 <u>a/</u>	8.80 <u>a/</u>	2,165
1992	317	39.8	1,443	230	116	95	267,000 <u>a/</u>	10.50 <u>a/</u>	2,670
1993	248	31.6	952	222	106	91	266,000 <u>a/</u>	9.57 <u>a/</u>	2,354
1994	330	34.7	1,342	229	105	85	270,000	8.85	2,389
1995	294	30.4	1,054	227	113	87	268,000 <u>a/</u>	9.27 <u>a/</u>	2,252
1996	362	32.9	1,396	217	102	85	270,000	8.10	2,186
1997	376	40.3	1,763	235	104	87	268,000	9.70	2,600
1998	313	35.0	1,245	203	99	82	270,000	8.52	2,300

a/ The following acreage was enrolled in the Raisin Industry Diversion (RID) Program in the year specified: 1987, 15,000 acres; 1988, 25,000 acres; 1991, 20,000 acres; 1992, 12,500 acres; 1993, 20,000 acres; 1995, 25,000 acres. These acres were deducted from bearing acres for yield calculations.

GRAPE PRODUCTION FORECAST FOR SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES, 1996-98

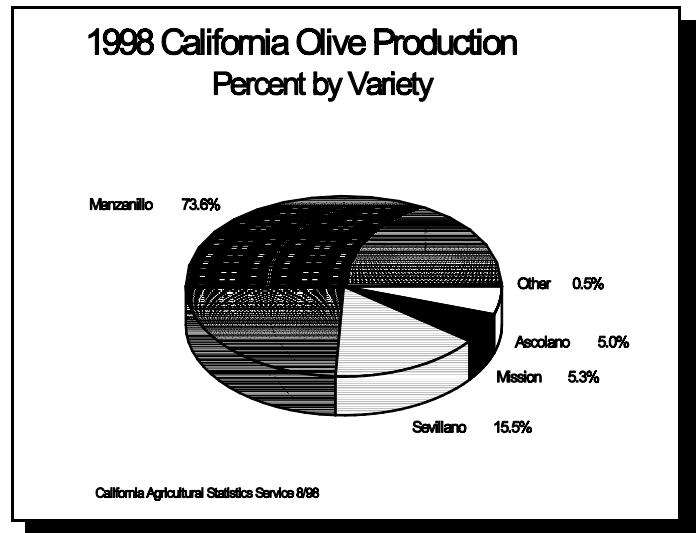
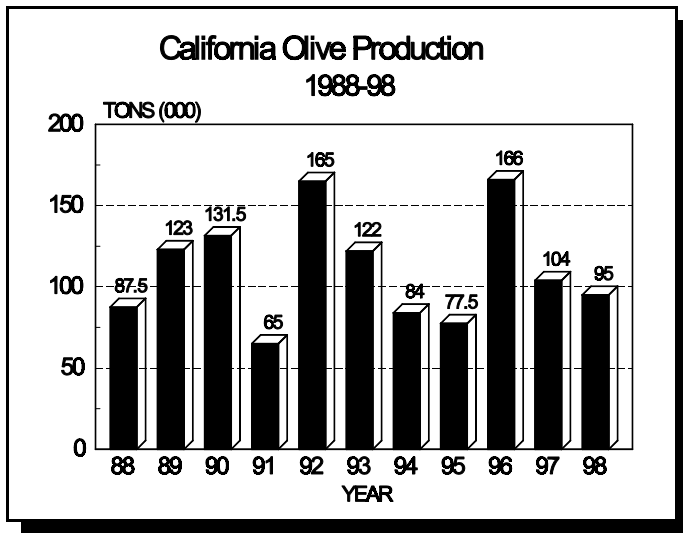
Crop and State	1996	1997	Forecast 1998
California		--- Tons ---	
All Varieties	5,009,000	6,642,000	5,650,000
Raisin Varieties	2,192,000	2,877,000	2,300,000
Table Varieties	592,000	825,000	750,000
Wine Varieties	2,225,000	2,940,000	2,600,000
Michigan	65,000	61,000	73,000
New York	189,000	139,000	134,000
Pennsylvania	83,000	58,000	50,000
Washington	144,000	319,000	255,000
Other States ^{1/}	64,300	63,400	70,850
U.S. TOTAL	5,554,300	7,282,400	6,232,850

^{1/} Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, and South Carolina.

1998 CALIFORNIA OLIVE FORECAST

The 1998 olive crop is forecast at 95,000 tons, down 9 percent from the 1997 production of 104,000 tons. Bearing acres are estimated at 35,300. Cool and damp weather throughout the spring has resulted in a crop that is three weeks to a month behind normal. Thus far, fruit size appears to be normal in most orchards. The Manzanillo variety accounts for about 74

percent of the total production. Growers expected the Manzanillo variety production to increase about 10 percent from last year. Growers expected the production of Sevillano and Ascolano varieties, which account for about 21 percent of production, to drop by 42 and 46 percent, respectively.



Apples - Production of *apples* is forecast to be 457.5 thousand tons, down 5 percent from 1997. The cool spring caused harvest of early apple varieties to begin the first week of August, two to three weeks later than normal. This also resulted in less fruit per tree for some varieties, although average fruit size is expected to be slightly larger than normal.

Grapes - *Winegrape* production this year is estimated at 2.60 million tons, down 12 percent from last year. The maturity of the crop is two to three weeks behind normal. Harvest may not begin until late August or early September in the San Joaquin Valley. Production of *table grapes* this year is expected to be 750 thousand tons, down 9 percent from last year. *Raisin grape* production this year, forecast at 2.30 million tons, is down 20 percent from last year.

Pears - *Bartlett* pear production is forecast to be down 4 percent to 270 thousand tons. Harvest is slowly underway with approximately 10 percent of the crop picked. Some scab is reported, but overall quality is good. *Other* pears are expected to yield 30.0 thousand tons, unchanged from 1997.

FLORIDA CITRUS

Florida's citrus growers were relieved to have near normal weather conditions during July. Regular afternoon rains and thunderstorms occurred in virtually all citrus producing counties of this state. Surface soil moisture is generally getting back to adequate condition after the early summer drought and record high temperatures of this past May and June. Some caretakers are still periodically running their irrigation equipment to maintain optimum growing conditions. An abundance of new growth has occurred on all trees that have been receiving good grove care. New crop fruit is making good progress considering the stress that was caused by the extreme heat and dry conditions the first of the summer. Some groves that had their maintenance discontinued were looking very poor with only a partial crop of fruit at best. Some caretakers are pushing out old grapefruit trees that have become uneconomical to maintain. Many young grapefruit trees are being grafted and/or budded to other more desirable and marketable varieties. Very little harvesting was done during July. A few small processing plants were running limited late bloom and scattered fruit for the fresh squeeze business. Caretakers have generally been active cutting cover crops, fertilizing, spraying, and replanting following pushing of dead trees.