

California Fruit & Nut Review



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those that were went to juice. Picking was active in the south coast area with only light frost damage reported. Harvest of lemons in the desert area was near the end by April 1 with good quality reported. The tangerine crop was significantly hurt in the San Joaquin Valley from the freeze. Very little fruit picked after the freeze was useable for the fresh market. Most was graded out to juice. Tangerines harvested in Southern California were of good quality and color with almost no frost damage. Navel orange growers in the San Joaquin Valley (90 percent of State's Navel orange acreage) tried to salvage any fruit that was useable after the December freeze. Some Navel oranges were sent to the fresh market, but many went to juice processors. In Southern California Navel orange picking went well. No freeze damage occurred there and a good quality crop was picked. Harvest is near the end in all areas of the State. Picking of the Valencia orange crop began in late February in the desert area with good quality reported. Growers in Southern California will begin their Valencia orange harvest soon. Quality is reported good there, also. In the San Joaquin Valley, the adverse effects of the December freeze became more apparent as spring arrived. Most of the fruit did not recover from the freeze, but some are expected to be picked for juice.

MARCH CROP COMMENTS

Many orchards and vineyards made significant crop progress during March. Stone fruit trees bloomed during the month and early season varieties were leafing out by April 1. Thinning of early varieties was active by late March. Some growers applied fungicides to prevent fungal disease. Almond trees bloomed and leafed out, while growers tried to control fungi and anthracnose. Grape growers were busy with weed control. Strawberry picking was active with good quality reported. Grapefruit growers in Southern California were picking a good quality crop during March. Color was excellent with a clean and smooth texture although fruit sizes were small. Reports from the San Joaquin Valley indicate the December freeze did not hurt the grapefruit as much as other citrus crops. Lemons in the San Joaquin Valley were devastated by the freeze. Very few lemons were picked after the freeze and

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		
NUT CROPS	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled) ^{1/}	442,000	454,000	1,720	1,150	759,000	520,000	-32	May 11, 1999
Pecans	2,600	2,600	1,154	692	3,000	1,800	-40	Sept. 10, 1999
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---		137,000	138,000		
Shelling Stock	---	0	---		43,000	50,000		
Total	65,400	65,900	2,750	2,850	180,000	188,000	4	Aug. 27, 1999
			Tons		1,000 Tons			
Walnuts (In-Shell)	193,000	193,000	1.39	1.18	269.0	227.0	-16	Sept. 3, 1999
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples	38,500	37,600	12.50	10.70	481.0	400.0	-17	Aug. 12, 1999
Apricots	20,000	19,500	6.60	5.79	132.0	113.0	-14	June 11, 1999
Cherries	17,000	17,500	2.89	0.88	49.2	15.4	-69	June 11, 1999
Grapes, Raisin	270,000	270,000	10.68	7.26	2,883.0	1,960.0	-32	July 12, 1999
Grapes, Table	81,000	83,000	10.19	7.29	825.0	605.0	-27	July 12, 1999
Grapes, Wine	374,000	400,000	7.86	6.25	2,940.0	2,500.0	-15	July 12, 1999
Grapes, All	725,000	753,000	9.17	6.73	6,648.0	5,065.0	-24	July 12, 1999
Olives	35,300	35,300	2.95	2.55	104.0	90.0	-14	Aug. 12, 1999
Peaches, Clingstone	31,000	30,400	18.50	17.15	574.0	522.0	-9	May 12, 1999
Peaches, Freestone	35,200	36,100	10.50	9.80	369.5	353.7	-4	May 12, 1999
Pears, Bartlett	15,600	15,000	18.10	17.20	282.0	258.0	-9	June 11, 1999
Pears, Other	4,400	4,300	6.82	6.98	30.0	30.0	nc	Aug. 12, 1999
Prunes (Dried Weight)	82,000	81,000	2.61	1.33	214.0	108.0	-50	June 4, 1999
BERRIES	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999		
			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
Strawberries	24,200	24,700	580	600	14,036	14,820	6	Dec. 10, 1999
CITRUS CROPS ^{2/}	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99		
			Cartons		1,000 Cartons			
Grapefruit	16,800	16,600	1,072	1,024	18,000	17,000	-6	July 12, 1999
Lemons	48,700	48,500	904	742	44,000	36,000	-18	July 12, 1999
Oranges, Navel	123,000	125,000	716	272	88,000	34,000	-61	July 12, 1999
Oranges, Valencia	73,200	72,000	683	472	50,000	34,000	-32	July 12, 1999
Tangerines ^{3/}	8,800	8,600	546	395	4,800	3,400	-29	July 12, 1999

^{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 *Navel orange* forecast is 34.0 million cartons, down 11 percent from January and down 61 percent from last season. The Navel orange growers in the San Joaquin Valley (90 percent of State's acreage) tried to salvage any fruit that was usable after the December freeze. Some Navel oranges were sent to fresh market, but many went to juice processors. In southern California, picking went well. No freeze damage occurred and a good quality crop was picked. Harvest is near the end in all areas of the State.

Valencia Oranges: The *Valencia orange* forecast is 34.0 million cartons, down 11 percent from January and down 32 percent from last season's production total. Picking of the Valencia orange crop began in late February in the desert area with good quality reported. Growers in southern California will begin their Valencia orange harvest soon, with good quality reported. In the San Joaquin Valley, the adverse effects of the December freeze became more apparent as spring arrived. Most of the fruit did not recover from the freeze, but some are expected to be picked for juice.

Grapefruit: The 1998-99 California *grapefruit* forecast is estimated at 17.0 million cartons, down 6 percent from last season's production, but up 6 percent from the January forecast. In the Central Valley, the damage that occurred from December's freeze appeared to have been overemphasized. While the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys experienced cooler temperatures than last year, most of the desert areas were warmer. As a result, grapefruit color and quality is excellent with a smooth and clean texture.

Lemons: The 1998-99 California *lemon* forecast is 36.0 million cartons, down 18 percent from the 1997-98 production of 44.0 million cartons, but unchanged from the January 1999 forecast. Lemon growers in District I (Central Valley) were heavily affected by the freeze during the latter part of December. Several growers reported that some lemons could be salvaged for juice. However, it is likely that lemons in the Central Valley that hadn't already been picked before the freeze were a complete loss to the fresh market. In District II (South Coastal Area), volumes of picks have been increasing, with light frost damage being observed in some lots. However, these lemons were within tolerance and no rejections were reported due to any frost damage. In District III (Desert Area), picking is near completion, with good quality reported. Defects included wind scar, sunburn, flat sides, and oil spotting.

Tangerines: The 1998-99 California *tangerine* forecast is 3.40 million cartons, up 6 percent from the January 1999 forecast of 3.20 million cartons, but down 29 percent from the 1997-98 production of 4.80 million cartons. In the Central Valley, the extremely cold temperatures during the latter part of December caused severe freeze damage to the tangerines. Heavy ice marks caused much of the fruit to be graded out to juice. In the Southern growing region, volume of picks remained low at this time. Eating quality and color have been excellent. Problems caused by frost have been minimal.

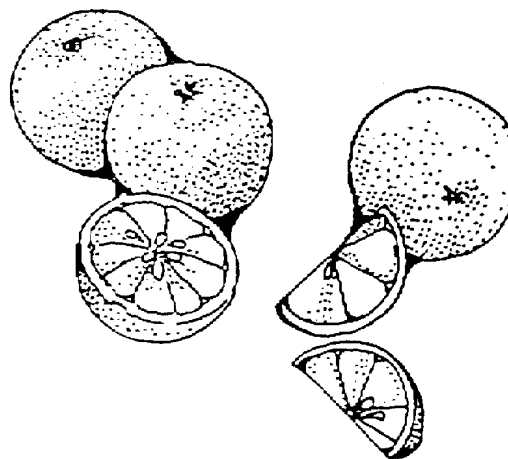
FLORIDA CITRUS

The weather throughout Florida's citrus belt during March was generally dry with cool nights and mild to warm days. Rain is badly needed in all areas. Growers and caretakers have been irrigating with all types of equipment. New growth and bloom-bud development progressed slowly during the month. The dry weather and the cool nights have prolonged this year's bloom cycle. Full, open bloom was generally reached the last of the month. Some groves are lagging with very little bloom showing and a few had petal-drop by mid-month. These conditions are normal for such a dry winter and spring. Harvest of early and mid-season oranges was completed by the middle of March. Picking crews rapidly moved into the Valencia oranges and all types of grapefruit. Temples and Honey tangerines are still being harvested for both fresh and process use. Caretakers were very active during the month cutting cover crops, spraying, hedging, and topping. Dead tree removal continued along with some pushing out of abandoned and unprofitable groves.

CITRUS FRUITS PRODUCTION BY STATE AND U.S.

Crop & State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 Forecast
	1,000 Cartons		
ORANGES: 1/			
California, All	128,000	138,000	68,000
Navel & Misc.	80,000	88,000	34,000
Valencia	48,000	50,000	34,000
Florida	452,400	488,000	380,000
Texas	2,840	3,050	2,880
Arizona	2,000	2,000	2,400
ALL U.S. ORANGES	585,240	631,050	453,280
GRAPEFRUIT: 2/			
California, All	16,400	18,000	17,000
Florida	111,600	99,100	98,000
Texas	10,600	9,600	10,800
Arizona	1,800	1,600	1,400
ALL U.S. GRAPEFRUIT	140,400	128,300	127,200
LEMONS: 3/			
California	45,200	44,000	36,000
Arizona	5,200	5,200	7,000
ALL U.S. LEMONS	50,400	49,200	43,000
TANGERINES: 4/			
California 5/	5,200	4,800	3,400
Florida	12,600	10,400	9,700
Arizona	1,100	1,200	1,800
ALL U.S. TANGERINES	18,900	16,400	14,900

- 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.



Strawberries: The 1999 California *strawberry* production is forecast at 14.8 million cwt., up 5 percent from the revised 1998 crop. Harvested acreage is estimated at 24,700 acres, up 2 percent from 1998. The yield is 600 cwt. per acre. A cold spring has slightly delayed production. The harvest from southern California has been good. The whitefly infestation problems for the Oxnard area appear to be under control. Aside from this, conditions are ideal and fruit size is large.

FRESH FRUIT: UNITED STATES PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION, 1978 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												
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	0.5	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	14.3	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	19.0	0.1	1.4	27.4	0.3	0.1
1996	12.8	2.2	2.9	1.2	5.9	25.0	19.0	0.1	1.6	28.0	0.4	0.1
1997	14.1	2.5	2.8	1.2	6.3	26.8	18.5	0.1	1.4	27.7	0.6	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												
1978	3.1	N/A	0.2	6.1	2.3	1.4	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	81.0	
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	84.3	
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	62.4	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	1.7	0.2	1.3	2.9	68.5	92.8	
1987	7.1	0.3	0.6	6.1	3.5	1.6	0.2	1.9	3.1	73.4	97.3	
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	1.5	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	99.9	
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	73.7	97.8	
1996	6.9	0.6	1.4	4.5	3.1	1.9	0.6	1.5	4.4	74.0	98.9	
1997	8.1	0.5	1.5	5.7	3.5	2.4	0.5	1.5	4.2	76.0	102.8	

1/ All non-citrus fruit data are on calendar-year basis, except for apples (year begins in August of 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 1997 figures.

3/ Some figures may not add due to rounding.

4/ Reporting began in 1982.

SOURCE: Economic Research Service, USDA.