

# California Fruit & Nut Review



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## APRIL CROP COMMENTS

Low nighttime temperatures in early April caused some frost damage to grapes, nuts, and fruit in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys. Damage appears to be isolated and not widespread. The extent of the hurt fruit and nuts was still being evaluated by month's end. Hailstorms also caused some damage. Most of the month was dry, but maturity and development of the fruit were retarded by cooler than normal April temperatures. Growers were busy with weed control, irrigation, and thinning stone fruit. Fungicides were applied to grapes, stone fruit, and almonds. Grapefruit picking was active during April with good quality and

color. Lemons were harvested in the coastal areas of Southern California with good quality reported. The lemons in the San Joaquin Valley were devastated by the December freeze. Virtually no lemons have been picked there since. Navel orange growers salvaged as much fruit as they could after December from the San Joaquin Valley, but a lot went to juice. Picking of Navel oranges ended by late April in the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California. A good quality crop was harvested from Southern California, which has only about 10 percent of the State's Navel acreage. Valencia orange picking in Southern California was active during April with a good quality crop reported. Harvest was also active in the San Joaquin Valley, but not very many Valencia oranges were salvageable due to the December freeze. Many that were picked went to juice.

## FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Update
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999		
<b>NUT CROPS</b>	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled)	454,000	475,000	1,150	1,600	520,000	760,000	46	June 25, 1999
Pecans	2,600	---	692	---	1,800	---		Sept. 10, 1999
Pistachio (In-Shell)	---	---	---	---	138,000	---		
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	50,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Total	65,900	---	2,850	---	188,000	---		Aug. 27, 1999
			Tons		1,000 Tons			
Walnuts (In-Shell)	193,000	---	1.18	---	227.0	---		Sept. 3, 1999
<b>FRUIT CROPS</b>								
Apples	37,600	---	10.70	---	400.0	---		Aug. 12, 1999
Apricots	19,500	---	5.79	---	113.0	---		June 11, 1999
Cherries	17,500	---	0.88	---	15.4	---		June 11, 1999
Grapes, Raisin	270,000	---	7.26	---	1,960.0	---		July 12, 1999
Grapes, Table	83,000	---	7.29	---	605.0	---		July 12, 1999
Grapes, Wine	400,000	---	6.25	---	2,500.0	---		July 12, 1999
Grapes, All	753,000	---	6.73	---	5,065.0	---		July 12, 1999
Olives	35,300	---	2.55	---	90.0	---		Aug. 12, 1999
Peaches, Clingstone	30,400	29,800	17.15	17.62	522.0	525.0	1	June 11, 1999
Peaches, Freestone	36,100	37,000	9.80	10.00	353.7	370.0	5	June 11, 1999
Pears, Bartlett	15,000	---	17.20	---	258.0	---		June 11, 1999
Pears, Other	4,300	---	6.98	---	30.0	---		Aug. 12, 1999
Prunes (Dried Weight)	81,000	---	1.33	---	108.0	---		June 4, 1999
<b>BERRIES</b>	1,998	1,999	1,998	1,999	1,998	1,999		
			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
Strawberries	24,200	24,700	580	600	14,036	14,820	6	Dec. 10, 1999
<b>CITRUS CROPS <sup>1/</sup></b>	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 <sup>2/</sup>	8,800	8,600	546	395	4,800	3,400	-29	July 12, 1999

<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.

**PEACHES:** The 1999 California **Freestone** peach crop is forecast at 370,000 tons, up 5 percent from 1998. Bearing acreage is estimated at 37,000 acres, and the yield calculates to 10.0 tons per acre. In contrast to last season, adequate chilling hours occurred over the winter season. Temperatures were mostly cool during spring and crop development is running behind normal due to the cool weather. Frost damage from low night time temperatures in early April has been reported in several areas. The 1999 California **Clingstone** peach crop is forecast at 525,000 tons, up slightly from last year. Bearing acreage is estimated at 29,800 acres, and the yield calculates to 17.62 tons per acre. Frost damage in Yuba and Sutter counties appears to have been more prevalent than earlier reports indicated. Peach Rust continues to be a problem for growers who encountered early spring rains.

**ALMONDS:** California's almond production is expected to be 760 million pounds in 1999, up 46 percent from last year's crop of 520 million pounds. The forecast is based on calls made to a sample of almond growers from April 26-30. Responses were received from 259 growers of which 224 reports were usable. The acreage from the usable reports accounted for 17 percent of the total bearing acreage. The 1999 season began with growers anticipating a record crop. Pollination and tree development were described as very good to excellent. Although freezing temperatures in early April caused locally variable production losses, average yields are expected to be up 39 percent from last year. Cool temperatures have caused crop development to be about one week behind normal.

**FLORIDA CITRUS:** Florida's citrus belt was generally hot and dry during April. A few days of light scattered rains occurred the last week of the month. However, rainfall amounts were far from sufficient for growers to discontinue around the clock irrigation. Many wells have run dry and there have been reports on both coasts of salt water intrusion causing the water source to be unusable for most citrus operations. The bloom cycle has been slowed by the general drought. Most trees completed bloom by the middle of April. There are, however, several groves still in full bloom the first of May. The current prolonged dry conditions have also limited new growth on most older trees. Some weaker trees in those non-irrigated groves have lost all of their leaves and a few have even died. Harvest of Valencia oranges was very active during April. Most of these oranges have gone to the processors.

Movement of all seedless grapefruit slowed during the month as supplies were running low. Harvest of Temples and Honey tangerines was completed by the end of the month. Caretakers were kept very busy irrigating and cutting cover crops that were competing for surface soil moisture.

**CITRUS FRUIT PRODUCTION**

Crop and State	1996-97	1997-98	Forecast 1998-99
	1,000 Cartons		
<b>ORANGES: 1/</b>			
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	376,000
Texas	2,840	3,050	2,940
Arizona	2,000	2,000	2,400
<b>ALL U.S. ORANGES</b>	<b>585,240</b>	<b>631,050</b>	<b>449,340</b>
<b>GRAPEFRUIT: 2/</b>			
California	16,400	18,000	17,000
Florida	111,600	99,100	96,200
Texas	10,600	9,600	11,200
Arizona	1,800	1,600	1,400
<b>ALL U.S. GRAPEFRUIT</b>	<b>140,400</b>	<b>128,300</b>	<b>125,800</b>
<b>LEMONS: 3/</b>			
California	45,200	44,000	36,000
Arizona	5,200	5,200	7,000
<b>ALL U.S. LEMONS</b>	<b>50,400</b>	<b>49,200</b>	<b>43,000</b>
<b>TANGERINES: 4/</b>			
California 5/	5,200	4,800	3,400
Florida	12,600	10,400	9,900
Arizona	1,100	1,200	1,800
<b>ALL U.S. TANGERINES</b>	<b>18,900</b>	<b>16,400</b>	<b>15,100</b>

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

2/ Arizona, 1 carton=32 lbs.; California, 1 carton = 33.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 40 lbs.

3/ All, 1 carton = 38 lbs.

4/ California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 47.5 lbs.

5/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.