

California Fruit & Nut Review



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Stone fruit growers were busy in May thinning their fruit as many trees had a heavy set. Almond tree limbs had to be propped up due to the heavy nut set. Strawberry picking in the central valley continued.

MAY CROP COMMENTS

A cool, but dry spring has slowed maturity of fruit and nut crops. Many crops are two weeks behind normal maturity levels. Harvest activity did begin during May for fresh use grapes in the Coachella Valley. Major varieties picked included Perlette and Flame Seedless. Good quality has been reported. In other areas of the State, grape growers were applying sulfur and insecticides to control mildew and insects.

Picking of Valencia oranges and lemons in Southern California was active during May with good to excellent quality reported. Growers in the San Joaquin Valley were trying to salvage any Valencia oranges (approximately 55 percent of State's acreage) left after December's freeze. Most of any salvageable fruit went to juice. Tree damage from the freeze was minimal and a good bloom was reported this spring for next season's crop.

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		
NUT CROPS	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled)	460,000	475,000	1,130	1,600	520,000	760,000	46	July 8, 1999 Sept. 10, 1999
Pecans	2,600	---	692	---	1,800	---		
Pistachio (In-Shell)	---	---	---	---	138,000	---	225	Aug. 27, 1999
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	50,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	188,000	---		
Total	65,900	---	2,850	---	188,000	---		
			Tons		1,000 Tons			
Walnuts (In-Shell)	193,000	---	1.18	---	227.0	---		Sept. 3, 1999
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples	37,600	---	10.70	---	400.0	---	11	Aug. 12, 1999 July 12, 1999
Apricots	19,500	19,000	5.79	6.58	113.0	125.0		
Cherries	17,500	17,500	0.88	2.86	15.4	50.0		January 2000
Grapes, Raisin	275,000	---	7.13	---	1,960.0	---		July 12, 1999
Grapes, Table	83,000	---	7.29	---	605.0	---		July 12, 1999
Grapes, Wine	385,000	---	6.49	---	2,500.0	---		July 12, 1999
Grapes, All	743,000	---	6.82	---	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	522.1	525.0	5	July 12, 1999 July 12, 1999
Peaches, Freestone	36,100	37,000	9.80	10.00	353.7	370.0		
Pears, Bartlett	15,000	15,000	17.20	19.00	258.0	285.0	10	Aug. 12, 1999
Pears, Other	4,300	---	6.98	---	30.0	---		Aug. 12, 1999
Prunes (Dried Weight)	83,000	83,000	1.30	2.17	108.0	180.0	67	January 2000
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 CROP 1/	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 2/	8,800	8,600	546	395	4,800	3,400	-29	July 12, 1999

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.

Apricots - Apricot production for 1999 is forecast to be 125,000 tons, up approximately 11 percent from the 1998 crop. Bearing acres are estimated at 19,000. Set was very heavy this year, following one of the best blooms experienced in years. Many growers are concerned about small sizes. The crop is at least ten days later than average. Some growers noticed light frost damage.

Cherries, Sweet - This year's sweet cherry crop is forecast at 50,000 tons, up 225 percent from the 1998 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 17,500, and the yield calculates to 2.86 tons per acre. Orchards received rain on a regular but moderate basis with a good amount of chill hours. The rains which occurred in the first week of June caused little or no damage.

Peaches - The 1999 California *Freestone peach* crop is forecast at 370,000 tons, up 5 percent from last year's crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 37,000, and the yield calculates to 10 tons per acre. California's *Clingstone peach* crop is forecast at 525,000 tons this year, up slightly from 1998. Bearing acreage is estimated at 29,800, and the yield calculates to 17.62 tons per acre. In contrast to last season, there has been an adequate amount of chilling hours over the winter season. Temperatures have been on the cool side most of the spring and crop development is running behind normal. Frost and hail damage has been reported in several areas.

Bartlett Pears - The forecast for the 1999 Bartlett pear crop is 285,000 tons, up 10 percent from last year. Bearing acres are estimated to be 15,000. The Bartlett pear areas have experienced a cool spring. As a result, maturity is about ten days behind normal. Quality and fruit size are reported to be good.

Prunes - Prune production this year is forecast at 180,000 tons, up 67 percent from the 1998 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 83,000, and the yield calculates to 2.17 tons per acre. Flowering of the prune crop was delayed by cool, wet conditions, while set was impacted by below normal temperatures and strong winds. Fortunately, most orchards had a heavy bloom and a good set was realized. The crop is generally one to two weeks later than normal throughout the State.

FRUIT PRODUCTION FOR SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

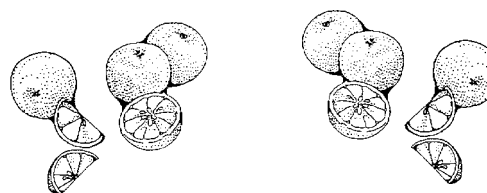
Crop and State	1997	1998	1999 Forecast
	Tons		
APRICOTS			
California	132,000	113,000	125,000
CHERRIES, SWEET			
California	49,200	15,400	50,000
Oregon	50,000	55,000	53,000
Washington	95,000	96,000	80,000
Total ^{1/}	194,200	166,400	183,000
PEACHES			
California Total	943,500	875,750	895,000
Freestone	369,500	353,650	370,000
Clingstone ^{2/}	574,000	522,100	525,000
Georgia	80,000	35,000	65,000
South Carolina	80,000	70,000	80,000
Total	1,103,500	980,750	1,040,000
PEARS, BARTLETT			
California	282,000	258,000	285,000
Oregon	75,000	65,000	66,000
Washington	205,000	145,000	165,000
Total	562,000	468,000	516,000
PRUNES (Dried Wt.)			
California	214,000	108,000	180,000

^{1/} Forecast for Idaho, Michigan, Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, and Utah will be released on June 24, 1999.

^{2/} California Clingstone is over the scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.

FLORIDA CITRUS

Florida's citrus groves were dry for most of May, however, a few days of hard rains and thunderstorms had occurred. Growers irrigated most of the month. The spring drought helped cause this year's prolonged blooming cycle. By the last of the month, several groves were still in full, open bloom. The bloom this year has lasted since late February continuing through May. Most groves that were well cared for and continually irrigated bloomed during February, March, and April. New crop fruit is making regular progress depending on bloom-date. Harvest of Valencia oranges slowed during the month as supplies started to run low. Harvest of all grapefruit was virtually over by the end of May. Movement of Temples and Honey tangerines also ended by the end of the month. Caretakers have been very active cutting cover crops and post bloom nutritional spraying. Abandoned groves and dead trees are being pushed out and burned. Growers are resetting older groves that have skips and vacancies.



CITRUS FRUIT PRODUCTION BY STATE AND U.S.

Crop and 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	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 and 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.

TREE NUTS (SHELLED BASIS) PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION, 1976-77 TO DATE

Season ^{1/}	Almonds	Hazelnuts	Pecans	Walnuts	Macadamias	Pistachios	Other ^{2/}	Total ^{3/}
	Pounds							
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	2.42
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	0.61	0.10	0.53	0.38	0.05	0.13	0.56	2.35
1994-95	0.58	0.07	0.49	0.45	0.06	0.14	0.50	2.28
1995-96	0.48	0.09	0.39	0.39	0.06	0.12	0.43	1.94
1996-97	0.49	0.02	0.50	0.31	0.06	0.06	0.53	1.97
1997-98 ^{4/}	0.51	0.07	0.45	0.45	0.04	0.13	0.54	2.19

^{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.

APPLE CROP LOST \$13.5 MILLION TO WILDLIFE DAMAGE

In 1998, wildlife damage to apple production in the U.S. amounted to \$13.5 million or 1 percent of value of production. Approximately \$4.0 million was spent by producers to prevent wildlife damage to their apple crop. The most frequently reported wildlife causing damage to the apple crop were starlings (16%), deer (14%), mice and voles (10%), and robins (9%). The most frequently reported methods used to prevent wildlife damage were pyrotechnics (21%), flagging (15%), repellents (15%), frightening devices (14%), and fencing (14%).

GRAPE CROP LOST \$23.1 MILLION TO WILDLIFE DAMAGE

In 1998, wildlife damage to grape production in the U.S. amounted to \$23.1 million or 1 percent of value of production. Approximately \$5.4 million was spent by producers to prevent wildlife damage to their grape crop. The most frequently reported wildlife causing damage to the grape crop were starlings (14%), ground squirrels (9%), blackbirds (8%), deer (8%), and coyotes (7%). The most frequently reported methods used to prevent wildlife damage were fencing (24%), flagging (18%), pyrotechnics (18%), frightening devices (13%), and repellents (7%).

WILDLIFE DAMAGE TO APPLES, 1998

State	Utilized Production	Price Per Pound	Value Of Utilized Production	Total Value Lost From Wildlife Damage	Total Expenditures On Wildlife Damage Prevention
	1,000 Lbs.	Dollars	\$1,000		
CA	800,000	0.166	133,150	3,257	404
MI	930,000	0.087	81,300	1,396	576
NY	1,010,000	0.112	113,590	1,619	846
PA	404,000	0.121	48,905	466	275
WA	5,900,000	0.104	613,100	4,166	1,133
Other States ^{1/}	1,553,200	0.152	236,335	2,600	780
US ^{1/}	10,597,200	0.116	1,226,380	13,504	4,014

^{1/} U.S. and other states' "dollar value lost" and "prevention expenditures" totals were expanded based on data from the surveyed states.

WILDLIFE DAMAGE TO GRAPES, 1998

State	Utilized Production	Price Per Pound	Value Of Utilized Production	Total Value Lost From Wildlife Damage	Total Expenditures On Wildlife Damage Prevention
	Tons	Dollars	\$1,000		
CA	5,065,000	448	2,269,910	19,725	4,767
MA	71,000	251	17,798	250	54
NY	125,000	305	38,146	1,143	254
PA	54,000	267	14,404	138	62
WA	222,000	482	107,004	1,460	195
Other States ^{1/}	55,005	819	45,044	419	99
US ^{1/}	5,592,005	446	2,492,306	23,135	5,431

^{1/} U.S. and other states' "dollar value lost" and "prevention expenditures" totals were expanded based on data from the surveyed states.

REVISED 1998 ACREAGE ESTIMATES

The table to the right contains revised acreage estimates for 1998 almonds, grapes, prunes, and walnuts. These estimates are based on a statistical sample initiated to provide an unbiased indication of State acreage and to measure the incompleteness in the data base maintained by this office. It is not comparable with past acreage surveys.

More detailed acreage reports for these crops are available on our web site at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ca> (listed under CASS Publications).

ACREAGE ESTIMATES, 1998 CROP

Crop	Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
	Acres		
Almonds	460,000	113,000	573,000
Grapes, All			
Raisin	275,000	6,000	281,000
Table	83,000	15,000	98,000
Wine	385,000	122,000	507,000
Prunes	83,000	26,000	109,000
Walnuts	193,000	28,000	221,000

To receive the detailed **1998 GRAPE ACREAGE BULLETIN** that was released June 10, 1999, please inform us by mailing a request to:

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
P.O. Box 1258
Sacramento, CA 95812

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