

California Fruit & Nut Review



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In the central valley, harvest of Satsuma tangerines was progressing well. In the desert growing region, Fairchild tangerines look very good. Fruit conditions have been good, while color and eating quality have been excellent. Defects reported from all tangerine growing areas include wind scar and sunburn.

DECEMBER CROP COMMENTS

Growers were busy with normal winter cultural activities during December such as weed control, fertilizing, and pruning. Growers also had to irrigate their orchards due to lack of precipitation. Preparation for replanting of some trees was also active. Harvest of pecans, kiwifruit, and persimmons continued. Picking of table grapes and apples was completed. Strawberry growers were weeding fields. Precipitation has been well below normal in the citrus growing areas, which has adversely affected the individual citrus fruit sizes. Harvest of the Navel orange crop progressed during December with approximately one-fifth of the crop picked by January 1. Quality is reported good, but the small size of the individual fruit is a concern to growers. The new Valencia orange crop is maturing well with a good set reported. Picking should begin in the desert area in late February. Grapefruit harvest was active in the desert area with small sizes reported. Picking of lemons was active in the desert, central valley, and south coast areas. Overall good quality was reported, but also some windscar, tip injuries, and coarse texture.

FLORIDA CITRUS

Most of December was mild and dry with fall like weather. However, the first few days of the month were cold with temperatures in the mid 30's and a Christmas chill in the upper 30's lasted for two to three days, but the last week of 1999 was warm and dry. Rain is needed in all areas of Florida's citrus belt. Growers and caretakers are utilizing all types of irrigation equipment to maintain good tree and fruit condition. Some trees on high sand-hill groves are showing afternoon leaf-curl due to the current dry conditions. Most of the early and mid-season fruit have good on-tree color break. Harvesting crews were very active throughout the month moving fruit to the fresh fruit packing houses and processing plants. A normal seasonal slowdown occurred during the Christmas holidays. Caretakers in all areas have been busy cutting cover crops prior to the harvesting operations. Some sprays for fresh fruit and a few winter fertilizations have been applied in most areas.

FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Forecast
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999		
NUT CROPS	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled)	460,000	480,000	1,130	1,730	520,000	830,000	60	January 20, 2000
Pecans	2,600	2,600	654	885	1,700	2,300	35	January 20, 2000
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	138,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	50,000	---		
Total	65,900	68,000	2,850	1,620	188,000	110,000	-41	January 20, 2000
Walnuts (In-Shell)	193,000	193,000	Tons		1,000 Tons			
			1.18	1.45	227.0	280.0	23	January 20, 2000
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples	37,000	35,000	11.00	11.80	407.5	412.5	1	January 20, 2000
Apricots	20,000	19,000	5.65	6.58	113.0	125.0	11	January 20, 2000
Cherries	17,500	17,500	0.88	2.86	15.0	50.0	233	January 20, 2000
Grapes, Raisin 1/	275,000	275,000	7.85	8.18	2,158.0	2,250.0	4	January 20, 2000
Grapes, Table	83,000	85,000	7.77	8.82	645.0	750.0	16	January 20, 2000
Grapes, Wine	385,000	410,000	6.68	7.07	2,570.0	2,900.0	13	January 20, 2000
Grapes, All	743,000	770,000	7.23	7.66	5,373.0	5,900.0	10	January 20, 2000
Olives	35,300	35,300	2.55	3.54	90.0	125.0	39	January 20, 2000
Peaches, Clingstone	30,400	29,800	17.19	18.46	522.5	550.0	5	January 20, 2000
Peaches, Freestone	36,100	37,000	9.80	9.32	355.0	345.0	-3	January 20, 2000
Pears, Bartlett	15,000	15,000	17.20	19.00	277.0	285.0	3	January 20, 2000
Pears, Other	4,300	4,300	6.98	6.98	30.0	30.0		January 20, 2000
Prunes (Dried Weight)	83,000	83,000	1.30	2.17	108.0	180.0	67	January 20, 2000
BERRIES	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999		
Strawberries	24,200	24,700	Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
			580	600	14,040	14,820	6	January 20, 2000
CITRUS CROPS 2/	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00		
			Cartons		1,000 Cartons			
Grapefruit	16,600	16,600	904	964	15,000	16,000	7	April 11, 2000
Lemons	48,500	48,500	668	866	32,400	42,000	30	April 11, 2000
Oranges, Navel	128,000	130,000	328	616	42,000	80,000	91	April 11, 2000
Oranges, Valencia	73,500	73,500	462	735	34,000	54,000	59	April 11, 2000
Tangerines 3/	8,600	8,600	348	535	3,000	4,600	53	April 11, 2000

1/ The Raisin Industry Diversion Program (RID) was not used in 1998 or 1999.

2/ Grapefruit -- 33.5 lbs. per carton; Lemons -- 38.0 lbs. per carton; Oranges and Tangerines -- 37.5 lbs. per carton.

3/ Includes tangelos, tangerines and tangors.

Oranges - The 1999-2000 California *Navel orange* forecast is 80.0 million cartons, unchanged from October and up 90 percent over last season's freeze-damaged crop. Harvest of the Navel orange crop is progressing with approximately one-fifth of the crop picked by January 1. Quality is reported good, but the small size of the individual fruit is a concern to growers. Precipitation is well below normal to date and rain is needed to facilitate growth. The 1999-2000 California *Valencia orange* forecast is 54.0 million cartons, unchanged from October's forecast and up 59 percent from last season's crop. The new Valencia crop is maturing well with a good set reported. Picking should begin in the desert area in late February.

Grapefruit - The 1999-2000 California grapefruit forecast is estimated at 16.0 million cartons. This is up 7 percent from the 1998-99 production and unchanged from the October forecast. Yield calculations remain at 964 cartons per acre. Temperatures have been slightly above normal with little to no rainfall. Fruit sizes are small and growth has been sluggish. However, fruit set is reported to be good.

Lemons - The 1999-2000 California *lemon* forecast is 42.0 million cartons. This is up 30 percent from the 1998-99 production of 32.4 million cartons and up 2 percent from the October 1999 forecast of 41.0 million cartons. In the South Coastal growing region, volume of picks remains low at this time. Fruit quality remains good with few problems due to the grade or condition. In the Central Valley, quality has been fair to excellent with slight decay in some lots. In the desert area, pick volumes continue to be strong and quality is good. Statewide defects include windscar, tip injuries, and coarse texture.

Tangerines - The 1999-2000 California tangerine forecast is 4.60 million cartons. This is up 53 percent from last season's freeze damaged crop of 3.00 million cartons and unchanged from the October 1999 forecast. In the Central Valley, harvest of Satsuma tangerines is progressing well. In the desert growing region, Fairchild tangerines look very good. Fruit condition has been good, while color and eating quality have been excellent. Statewide defects include windscar and sunburn.

CITRUS FRUIT PRODUCTION BY STATE AND U.S.

Crop and State	1997-98	1998-99	Forecast 1999-00
	1,000 Cartons		
ORANGES: 1/			
California, All	138,000	76,000	134,000
Navel & Misc.	88,000	42,000	80,000
Valencia	50,000	34,000	54,000
Florida	488,000	371,400	438,000
Texas	3,050	2,860	3,200
Arizona	2,000	2,300	2,100
ALL U.S. ORANGES	631,050	452,560	577,300
GRAPEFRUIT: 2/			
California	16,000	15,000	16,000
Florida	99,100	94,100	92,000
Texas	9,600	12,200	11,000
Arizona	1,600	1,500	1,600
ALL U.S. GRAPEFRUIT	126,300	122,800	120,600
LEMONS: 3/			
California	42,000	32,400	42,000
Arizona	5,200	6,900	6,200
ALL U.S. LEMONS	47,200	39,300	48,200
TANGERINES: 4/			
California 5/	4,800	3,000	4,600
Florida	10,400	9,900	13,200
Arizona	1,200	1,900	2,200
ALL U.S. TANGERINES	16,400	14,800	20,000

1/ ORANGES: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.;

Florida, 1 carton = 45 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.

2/ GRAPEFRUIT: California and Arizona, 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.

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