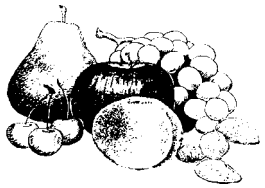
California Fruit & Nut Review



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CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

MARCH CROP COMMENTS

Warm and sunny spring weather during March allowed growers to work in their orchards and vineyards. Activities included planting new trees and vines, weed control, and applying fungicides to stone fruit and almond trees. Early in March, almond trees completed blooming. By the end of the month, stone fruit and grape vines were leafing out. Strawberry fields in the San Joaquin Valley were blooming and setting fruit. Navel orange picking continued during March with approximately two-thirds of the crop picked by April 1. Reported quality was generally good, but growers were concerned about puff and crease. Picking of Valencia oranges in the desert area continued with good quality reported. Substantial rainfall in January and February enhanced growth through March for both Navel and Valencia oranges. The harvest of lemons in the desert area was near completion by April 1. Heavy winds scarred some fruit. With sunny, warm weather in March, picking accelerated in the San Joaquin Valley. In the south coastal region, the season is approximately four to six weeks later than normal due to heavy rain in January and February. Statewide, fruit quality was reported good. The dry March weather aided picking of grapefruit in Southern California. Statewide, fruit size growth was good. In the San Joaquin Valley, harvest of Satsuma tangerines was active in March with good quality reported. In southern California, Fairchild tangerines were reported in good condition. Overall color and eating quality were good, but some wind scar and sunburn were reported.

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) 1/	460,000	480,000	1,130	1,730	520,000	830,000	60	May 11, 2000
Pecans	2,600	2,600	654	923	1,700	2,400	41	Sept. 12, 2000
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	138,000	104,000		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	50,000	18,000		
Total	68,000	71,000	2,760	1,730	188,000	123,000	-35	Sept. 1, 2000
	---	---	Tons		1,000 Tons			
Walnuts (In-Shell)	193,000	193,000	1.18	1.47	227.0	283.0	25	Sept 1, 2000
FRUIT CROPS	Acres		Tons		1,000 Tons			
Apples	37,000	35,000	11.60	11.80	430.0	412.5	-4	Aug. 11, 2000
Apricots	20,000	19,000	5.65	4.47	113.0	85.0	-25	June 9, 2000
Cherries	17,500	18,500	0.87	3.95	15.2	73.0	380	June 9, 2000
Grapes, Raisin	275,000	275,000	7.55	7.68	2,077.0	2,113.0	2	July 12, 2000
Grapes, Table	83,000	85,000	7.75	7.76	643.0	660.0	3	July 12, 2000
Grapes, Wine	385,000	410,000	6.68	6.59	2,570.0	2,700.0	5	July 12, 2000
Grapes, All	743,000	770,000	7.12	7.11	5,290.0	5,473.0	4	July 12, 2000
Olives	35,300	35,300	2.55	4.11	90.0	145.0	61	Aug. 11, 2000
Peaches, Clingstone	30,400	29,800	17.20	17.75	522.5	529.5	1	June 9, 2000
Peaches, Freestone	36,100	37,000	9.45	10.20	340.5	377.5	11	June 9, 2000
Pears, Bartlett	15,000	15,000	18.50	19.50	277.0	292.0	5	June 9, 2000
Pears, Other	4,300	4,300	6.98	6.98	30.0	30.0		Aug. 11, 2000
Prunes (Dried Weight)	83,000	83,000	1.30	2.14	108.0	178.0	65	June 2, 2000
BERRIES	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000		
	Acres		Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
Strawberries	24,600	27,600	615	590	15,155	16,284	7	Dec. 12, 2000
CITRUS CROPS 2/	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00		
	Acres		Cartons		1,000 Cartons			
Grapefruit	16,600	16,600	904	964	15,000	16,000	7	July 12, 2000
Lemons	48,500	48,500	668	825	32,400	40,000	23	July 12, 2000
Oranges, Navel	128,000	130,000	328	616	42,000	80,000	91	July 12, 2000
Oranges, Valencia	73,500	73,500	408	735	30,000	54,000	80	July 12, 2000
Tangerines 3/	8,600	8,600	348	488	3,000	4,200	40	July 12, 2000

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 80.0 million cartons, unchanged from January and up 90 percent from last season's freeze-damaged crop. Harvest of the Navel orange crop progressed in March with approximately two-thirds of the crop picked by April 1. Reported quality is generally good, but growers are concerned about puff and crease. Substantial rainfall in January and February enhanced fruit growth.

Valencia Oranges - The *Valencia orange* forecast is 54.0 million cartons, unchanged from January's forecast and up 80 percent from last season's freeze-damaged crop. Harvest of the Valencia orange crop is underway in the desert area with good quality reported.

Grapefruit - The California *grapefruit* forecast is estimated at 16.0 million cartons. This is up 7 percent from the 1998-99 production and unchanged from the January forecast. In February, all varieties of grapefruit reversed their four-month trend of sluggish fruit growth. With the cooperation of favorable weather conditions, all varieties showed tremendous increases in fruit size. Small fruit sizes are still apparent in Marsh Whites, but Star Rubies and Marsh Rubies show good fruit size. Aided by a dry March in Southern California, picking of grapefruit was active.

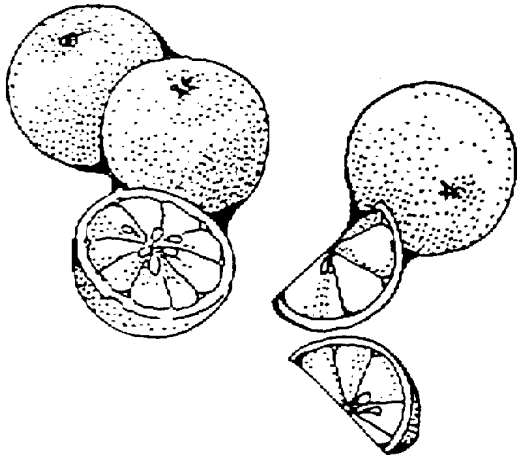
Lemons - The 1999-2000 California *lemon* forecast is 40.0 million cartons. This is up 23 percent from the 1998-99 production of 32.4 million cartons, but down 5 percent from the January 2000 forecast of 42.0 million cartons. In the Central Valley, considerable loss of harvest-time occurred due to heavy precipitation during late February and early March. Fruit colors are mostly light green and silver. In the south coastal growing-region, the season is approximately four to six weeks later than normal, with precipitation hampering the harvest activity. In the Desert area, the 1999-2000 season is nearly complete. Heavy winds this period may have caused slight damage. Statewide, fruit quality is good with few grade and condition problems.

Tangerines - The 1999-2000 California *tangerine* forecast is 4.20 million cartons. This is up 40 percent from last season's freeze-damaged crop of 3.00 million cartons, but down 9 percent from the January 2000 forecast. In the Central Valley, harvest of Satsumas continues with good results. In the Desert region, the condition of Fairchild tangerines is good, with excellent color and eating quality. Statewide defects include wind scar and sunburn.

CITRUS FRUITS PRODUCTION BY STATE AND U.S.

Crop and State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00 Forecast
	1,000 Cartons		
ORANGES: 1/			
California, All	138,000	72,000	134,000
Navel and Misc.	88,000	42,000	80,000
Valencia	50,000	30,000	54,000
Florida	488,000	372,000	456,000
Texas	3,050	2,860	3,600
Arizona	2,000	2,300	1,800
ALL U.S. ORANGES	631,050	449,160	595,400
GRAPEFRUIT: 2/			
California, All	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	1,700
ALL U.S. GRAPEFRUIT	126,300	122,800	120,700
LEMONS: 3/			
California	42,000	32,400	40,000
Arizona	5,200	6,900	6,200
ALL U.S. LEMONS	47,200	39,300	46,200
TANGERINES: 4/			
California 5/	4,800	3,000	4,200
Florida	10,400	9,900	13,600
Arizona	1,200	1,900	1,800
ALL U.S. TANGERINES	16,400	14,800	19,600

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.



FLORIDA CITRUS

March was a very dry month in virtually all citrus producing counties. Only two or three rainy days produced up to an inch of rain in most areas. Growers and caretakers irrigated around the clock to maintain good tree condition. New growth and bloom buds were present most of the month in all areas. Valencia and Navel orange trees bloomed the heaviest and longest, which is normal for these two types of citrus. Most all trees have had a good bloom period this year. Some groves have already had petals drop, while others are in full open bloom. Harvest of early and mid-season oranges was over for all practical purposes by the end of March. Movement of Valencia oranges for processing is increasing with the additional labor from the completed early orange-picking crews. Harvest of grapefruit for both fresh and processing is very active with most of the fruit coming from the lower east coast. Most Temples are being processed, while Honey tangerines are being packed for fresh use. Caretakers have been cutting cover crops, post nutritional spraying and hedging, and topping harvested groves.

Strawberries - The 2000 California *strawberry* production is forecast at a record 16.3 million cwt., up 7 percent from the 1999 crop of 15.2 million cwt. Harvested acreage is estimated at 27.6 thousand, 12 percent higher than the acreage estimated for 1999. The resulting yield is 590 cwt. per acre. Relatively warm temperatures during December and January in Southern California helped to get strawberry production off to a good start. Rainfall during the latter part of February substantially slowed strawberry production. However, the weather improved during early March allowing production to increase.

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	Cran-berries
	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	14.2	2.6	2.8	1.2	6.3	27.0	18.4	0.1	1.6	27.6	0.6	0.1
1998	14.9	2.2	2.5	1.4	6.1	27.1	19.2	0.1	1.8	28.6	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	Straw-berries		
	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	72.8	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	5.9	3.4	2.1	0.3	1.3	3.6	73.8	99.8
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	73.6	97.7
1996	6.9	0.6	1.4	4.4	3.1	1.9	0.6	1.5	4.4	73.9	98.8
1997	8.0	0.5	1.5	5.6	3.5	2.4	0.5	1.5	4.2	76.1	103.1
1998	7.3	0.6	1.5	4.8	3.4	2.8	0.5	1.2	4.1	76.3	103.6

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 the year begins in November; grapefruit in September; lemons in August of prior year; and limes in April of year shown.
2/ Preliminary 1998 figures.
3/ Some figures may not add due to rounding.
4/ Reporting began in 1982.

SOURCE: Economic Research Service, USDA.