

California Fruit & Nut Review



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ALMONDS

California's almond production is expected to be 675 million pounds in 2000, down 19 percent from last year's record crop of 830 million pounds. Bearing acres are estimated at 500 thousand acres.

The forecast is based on calls made to a sample of almond growers from April 26 - May 3. Responses were received from 300 growers, of which 270 were usable. The acreage from the usable reports accounted for 20 percent of the total bearing acreage.

The 2000 season began with growers anticipating a lighter set after the record-setting crop of last year. The set has been quite variable with some varieties having a heavy set, while others were very light. Rain did hamper the bloom in some areas, but warm temperatures in April helped get the crop back on track. The trees look good with no damage from insects or disease reported. However, growers are concerned that rain throughout northern California on May 6-8 could increase the chance for disease. Yields are expected to be down 22 percent from last year. The crop is about two weeks ahead of last year and slightly ahead of normal.

APRIL CROP COMMENTS

Warm and sunny weather during April accelerated grape, nut, and tree fruit crop progress. Grape vineyards began leafing out as growers were irrigating and applying sulfur for mildew control. Nut trees were leafing out and growers applied fungicides. Thinning was active in stone fruit trees with picking beginning in early variety nectarines and Freestone peaches. Harvest of cherries began in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Strawberry picking was active in the Central Valley. Navel orange harvest was winding down with approximately 90 percent of the crop picked by May 1. The Valencia orange harvest was active in all citrus growing areas. Most of the current crop has gone to export. Lemon, grapefruit, and tangerine picking was also active. Beehives were moved into citrus groves in preparation for bloom of the new citrus crop.

FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Update
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000		
NUT CROPS	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled)	480,000	500,000	1,730	1,350	830,000	675,000	-19	June 29, 2000
Pecans	2,600	---	923	---	2,400	---		Sept. 12, 2000
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	104,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	18,000	---		
Total	71,000	---	1,730	---	123,000	---		Sept. 1, 2000
			Tons		1,000 Tons			
Walnuts (In-Shell)	193,000	---	1.47	---	283.0	---		Sept. 1, 2000
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples	35,000	---	11.80	---	412.5	---		Aug. 11, 2000
Apricots	19,000	---	4.47	---	85.0	---		June 9, 2000
Cherries	18,500	---	3.95	---	73.0	---		June 9, 2000
Grapes, Raisin	275,000	---	7.68	---	2,113.0	---		July 12, 2000
Grapes, Table	85,000	---	7.76	---	660.0	---		July 12, 2000
Grapes, Wine	410,000	---	6.59	---	2,700.0	---		July 12, 2000
Grapes, All	770,000	---	7.11	---	5,473.0	---		July 12, 2000
Olives	35,300	---	4.11	---	145.0	---		Aug. 11, 2000
Peaches, Clingstone	29,800	29,400	17.75	18.71	529.5	550.0	4	June 9, 2000
Peaches, Freestone	37,000	39,000	10.20	10.26	377.5	400.0	6	June 9, 2000
Pears, Bartlett	15,000	---	19.50	---	292.0	---		June 9, 2000
Pears, Other	4,300	---	6.98	---	30.0	---		Aug. 11, 2000
Prunes (Dried Weight)	83,000	---	2.14	---	178.0	---		June 2, 2000
BERRIES			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
Strawberries	24,600	27,600	615	590	15,155	16,284	7	Dec. 12, 2000
CITRUS CROPS 1/	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	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 2/	8,600	8,600	348	488	3,000	4,200	40	July 12, 2000

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.

PEACHES

The 2000 Freestone peach crop is forecast at a record 400 thousand tons, up 6 percent from 1999. The current Freestone crop is running ahead of last year by at least two weeks. Weather conditions have been near ideal for the peach crop. Favorable weather, comprising a wet spring and adequate chilling hours, has provided a sound fruit set, good sizing, and good quality.

The 2000 Clingstone peach crop is forecast at 550 thousand tons, up 4 percent from last year. Weather conditions have been nearly perfect for Clingstone peaches. The wet spring combined with adequate chilling hours provided a good fruit set and strongly promoted fruit growth and quality.

FLORIDA CITRUS

April was a very dry month. During the month, there were only a few rainy days that produced around an inch of rain. Virtually all growers and caretakers have been irrigating around the clock to maintain good tree condition. Most of the new fruit crop is only about the size of a pea to a marble and making good progress, in spite of the dry weather. The trees are shedding some of the little fruit that they can't carry for next season, which is normal for this time of year. Early and mid-season orange harvest ended around mid-April. Movement of Valencia oranges for processing is very active with the additional labor from orange picking crews who have finished early. Harvest of grapefruit for both fresh and processing is slowing as supplies are running low in all areas. Temple harvest was nearly completed by the end of April. Few Honey tangerines remain to be picked. Caretakers have been busy mowing, chopping and discing cover crops, applying herbicides, post nutritional spraying, and hedging and topping harvested groves.

CITRUS FRUIT PRODUCTION

Crop and State	1997-98	1998-99	Forecast 1999-00
	1,000 Cartons		
ORANGES: 1/			
California, All	138,000	72,000	134,000
Navel & 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	3,400
Arizona	2,000	2,300	1,800
UNITED STATES TOTAL	631,050	449,160	595,200
GRAPEFRUIT: 2/			
California	16,000	15,000	16,000
Florida	99,100	94,100	98,200
Texas	9,600	12,200	11,400
Arizona	1,600	1,500	1,700
UNITED STATES TOTAL	126,300	122,800	127,300
LEMONS: 3/			
California	42,000	32,400	40,000
Arizona	5,200	6,900	6,200
UNITED STATES TOTAL	47,200	39,300	46,200
TANGERINES: 4/			
California 5/	4,800	3,000	4,200
Florida	10,400	9,900	13,800
Arizona	1,200	1,900	1,800
UNITED STATES TOTAL	16,400	14,800	19,800

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

5/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.