

California Fruit & Nut Review



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FLORIDA CITRUS

December was a very cold and dry month. Below freezing temperatures for two or more days were experienced in the northern parts of the citrus belt. Temperatures were not low enough to cause serious damage to the current fruit crop. Most fruit in the northern counties had been harvested before the cold temperatures arrived. In the coldest locations, where there was still fruit on the trees, harvesting crews rapidly moved any cold damaged fruit to the processors. Very little tree damage has occurred due to the quasi-dormant condition of most citrus during December. A few of the coldest low spots may have a little leaf drop from the frost on the coldest mornings. Very few rains occurred during the month. Most of the growers and caretakers have been irrigating to maintain good tree condition and to try to improve fruit sizes. Lakes, ponds, and water reservoirs are at very low levels with some too dry for irrigation use. Harvesting crews have been very active during December. By the end of the month, some juice plants were so overloaded with fruit waiting to be processed that they were limiting the loads delivered from the field. Most of the fresh fruit packing houses were very busy the first three weeks of the month packing for the Christmas holidays. Caretakers have been active cutting cover crops prior to harvesting and for fire protection. Some hedging and topping of harvested groves continued in the coastal and southern counties.

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 the lack of precipitation. Cold nights were beneficial for the dormancy of fruit trees and grape vines. Preparation for replanting of some trees was also active. Harvest of pecans, kiwifruit, and persimmons continued. Picking of table grapes and apples was completed. Digging of strawberry nursery plants was underway. Precipitation has been well below normal in the citrus growing areas. Rain is needed to improve fruit sizes. Harvest of the Navel orange crop progressed during December with approximately one-fourth of the crop picked by January 1. Quality is reported good, but growers are concerned about puff and crease. 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 good quality and size reported. Picking of lemons was active in the desert, central valley, and south coast areas. Overall, the quality, size, and color were reported as good. In the Central Valley, harvest of Satsuma tangerines was near completion. Current varieties being picked are Minneolas and Fairchilds.

FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Forecast
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000		
NUT CROPS	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled)	480,000	500,000	1,730	1,280	830,000	640,000	-23	January 23, 2001
Pecans	2,600	2,600	731	885	1,900	2,300	21	January 23, 2001
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	105,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	18,000	---		
Total	71,000	74,600	1,730	2,783	123,000	207,600	69	January 23, 2001
Walnuts (In-Shell)	191,000	193,000	1.48	1.27	283.0	245.0	-13	January 23, 2001
			Tons		1,000 Tons			
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples	35,000	31,000	11.80	11.80	412.5	365.0	-12	January 23, 2001
Apricots	19,000	19,000	4.47	5.00	85.0	95.0	12	January 23, 2001
Cherries	18,500	19,000	4.30	2.37	79.5	45.0	-38	January 23, 2001
Grapes, Raisin 1/	279,000	281,000	7.59	10.14	2,117.0	2,850.0	35	January 23, 2001
Grapes, Table	87,000	91,000	8.70	8.79	757.0	800.0	6	January 23, 2001
Grapes, Wine	424,000	465,000	6.28	6.88	2,662.0	3,200.0	20	January 23, 2001
Grapes, All	790,000	837,000	7.01	8.18	5,536.0	6,850.0	24	January 23, 2001
Olives	35,300	36,000	4.11	2.22	145.0	75.0	-48	January 23, 2001
Peaches, Clingstone	29,800	29,400	17.80	19.10	529.5	560.0	6	January 23, 2001
Peaches, Freestone	38,000	39,000	10.04	10.77	381.5	420.0	10	January 23, 2001
Pears, Bartlett	15,000	15,000	20.70	18.70	311.0	280.0	-10	January 23, 2001
Pears, Other	4,300	4,300	6.98	6.98	30.0	30.0		January 23, 2001
Prunes (Dried Weight)	83,000	86,000	2.14	2.33	178.0	200.0	12	January 23, 2001
BERRIES	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000		
			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
Strawberries	24,600	27,600	615	590	15,155	16,284	7	January 23, 2001
CITRUS CROPS 2/	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01		
			Cartons		1,000 Cartons			
Grapefruit	16,600	15,400	843	935	14,000	14,400	3	April 10, 2001
Lemons	48,500	48,500	808	866	39,200	42,000	7	April 10, 2001
Oranges, Navel	126,000	127,000	634	535	80,000	68,000	-15	April 10, 2001
Oranges, Valencia	73,500	73,500	735	680	54,000	50,000	-7	April 10, 2001
Tangerines 3/	8,600	8,600	535	512	4,600	4,400	-4	April 10, 2001

1/ The Raisin Industry Diversion Program (RID) was not used in 1999 or 2000.

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 2000-01 California *Navel Orange* forecast is 68.0 million cartons, unchanged from October, but 15 percent below last season's crop. Harvest of the Navel orange crop is progressing with approximately one-fourth of the crop picked by January 1. Quality is reported good, but growers are concerned about puff and crease. Fruit size is large, but precipitation is well below normal to-date and is needed to facilitate growth. The 2000-01 California *Valencia Orange* forecast is 50.0 million cartons, unchanged from October's forecast, but down 7 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.

Lemons -The 2000-01 California lemon forecast remains at 42.0 million cartons, up 7 percent from last year. Bearing acreage remains at 48,500, while the yield is 866 cartons per acre. Harvest is active in the Central Valley with some harvest occurring in the Desert and Coastal regions. Size, quality, and color are very good.

Tangerines -The 2000-01 California tangerine crop is forecast at 4.40 million cartons, up 10 percent from the October forecast, but down 4 percent from last year's production. Bearing acreage remains at 8,600 and the yield is 512 cartons per acre. Satsuma harvest is nearly done, while the Minneola and Fairchild harvests remain active. The Mandarin harvest is expected to begin in February. Most of the supply is coming from the Central Valley with little coming from the Desert Regions. Fruit size and quality are exceptionally good.

Grapefruit -The 2000-01 California grapefruit forecast is estimated at 14.4 million cartons, unchanged from the October forecast. Bearing acreage remains at 15,400, while the yield is 935 cartons per acre. Fruit set is somewhat light compared to last season's. Size and quality are extremely good. Virtually all of the fruit is coming from the desert.

CITRUS FRUIT PRODUCTION BY STATE AND U.S.

Crop and State	1998-99	1999-00	Forecast 2000-01
	1,000 Cartons		
ORANGES: 1/			
California, All	72,000	134,000	118,000
Navel & Misc.	42,000	80,000	68,000
Valencia	30,000	54,000	50,000
Florida	372,000	466,000	458,000
Texas	2,860	3,480	4,200
Arizona	2,300	2,200	2,100
ALL U.S. ORANGES	449,160	605,680	582,300
GRAPEFRUIT: 2/			
California	14,600	14,000	14,400
Florida	94,100	106,800	100,000
Texas	12,200	11,860	13,000
Arizona	1,500	1,000	1,200
ALL U.S. GRAPEFRUIT	122,400	133,660	128,600
LEMONS: 3/			
California	32,400	39,200	42,000
Arizona	6,900	6,200	6,800
ALL U.S. LEMONS	39,300	45,400	48,800
TANGERINES: 4/			
California 5/	3,000	4,600	4,400
Florida	9,900	14,000	12,400
Arizona	1,900	1,700	1,600
ALL U.S. TANGERINES	14,800	20,300	18,400

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.

**For information on jobs collecting agricultural data,
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