

# California Fruit & Nut Review



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## ALMOND PRODUCTION

The initial forecast for the 2001 California almond production is a record 875 million pounds. This is up 24 percent from last year's revised production of 703 million pounds. Estimated bearing acreage for 2001 is 525 thousand. This forecast is based on calls made April 23 - May 3 to a sample of almond growers. Of the 415 growers sampled, 249 reports were usable. Acreage from the usable reports accounted for 16 percent of the total bearing acreage.

With the cyclical nature of almonds, the 2001 season began with growers expecting a much heavier set than last year. Yields were expected to return to 1999's level. However, weather conditions have been less than ideal, resulting in reduced expectations for the 2001 crop. Low temperatures and rain during the critical bloom period decreased the ability of bees to successfully pollinate many orchards across the State. Also, high winds blew over some trees, particularly in older orchards. Despite the poor weather conditions, yields are expected to be up 19 percent from last year, but 4 percent below 1999's record yield. The crop progress appears to be near normal, maybe slightly behind in certain areas.

## APRIL CROP COMMENTS

Fruit and nut growers were busy irrigating, fertilizing, cultivating and applying fungicides and herbicides. Thinning was active in stone fruit trees. Grapevines and fruit trees in many areas experienced frost or hail damage during the first part of April. Nighttime temperatures dropped below freezing and damaged some young grape shoots in Sonoma, Lake, Napa, and Mendocino counties. Grapes and stone fruit in Madera and Fresno counties also suffered damage from frost and hail. Apple orchards were blooming, while olives continued to develop bloom buds throughout most of April. Strawberry picking was active in the southern part of the State. Navel orange harvest was winding down with less than 10 percent of the crop remaining to be picked by May 1. The Valencia orange harvest was active in all citrus growing areas. Some Valencia oranges in the Fresno area were hit by hail. Lemon and grapefruit picking were also active. Bees were active in citrus groves in central California by month's end.

## FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Update
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001		
<b>NUT CROPS</b>	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled) 1/	500,000	525,000	1,410	1,670	703,000	875,000	24	June 28, 2001
Pecans	2,600	---	1,077	---	2,800	---		October 12, 2001
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	190,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	53,000	---		
Total 2/	74,600	---	3,260	---	243,000	---		August 31, 2001
Walnuts (In-Shell) 2/	193,000	---	1.24	---	239.0	---		August 31, 2001
			Tons		1,000 Tons			
<b>FRUIT CROPS</b>								
Apples	31,000	---	11.80	---	365.0	---		August 10, 2001
Apricots	19,000	---	4.89	---	93.0	---		June 12, 2001
Cherries	19,000	---	2.10	---	39.9	---		June 12, 2001
Grapes, Raisin	281,000	---	9.77	---	2,744.0	---		July 11, 2001
Grapes, Table	91,000	---	8.16	---	743.0	---		July 11, 2001
Grapes, Wine	465,000	---	6.88	---	3,200.0	---		July 11, 2001
Grapes, All	837,000	---	7.99	---	6,687.0	---		July 11, 2001
Olives	36,000	---	1.47	---	53.0	---		June 12, 2001
Peaches, Clingstone	28,200	28,800	18.90	17.40	532.0	500.0	-6	June 12, 2001
Peaches, Freestone	38,000	39,000	10.50	9.90	400.5	385.0	-4	June 12, 2001
Pears, Bartlett	15,000	---	19.10	---	286.0	---		June 12, 2001
Pears, Other	4,300	---	6.98	---	30.0	---		August 10, 2001
Prunes (Dried Weight)	86,000	---	2.56	---	220.0	---		June 1, 2001
<b>BERRIES</b>			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
Strawberries	27,600	26,400	550	535	15,180	14,124	-7	December 11, 2001
<b>CITRUS CROPS 3/</b>	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	July 11, 2001
Lemons	48,500	48,500	808	907	39,200	44,000	12	July 11, 2001
Oranges, Navel	126,000	127,000	635	535	80,000	68,000	-15	July 11, 2001
Oranges, Valencia	73,500	73,500	653	626	48,000	46,000	-4	July 11, 2001
Tangerines 4/	8,600	8,600	535	605	4,600	5,200	13	July 11, 2001

1/ Almond Objective Measurement Report will be released June 28, 2001 at 12:00 p.m.

2/ Pistachio and Walnut Objective Measurement Reports will be released August 31, 2001 at 12:00 p.m.

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

4/ Includes tangelos, tangerines and tangors.

**PEACHES:** The 2001 *Freestone peach* crop is forecast at 770 million pounds, down 4 percent from the previous year. Bearing acreage is estimated at 39,000 acres, resulting in a yield of 19,744 pounds per acre. The 2001 *Clingstone peach* crop forecast is 1,000 million pounds, down 6 percent from the previous year. Bearing acreage is estimated at 28,800 acres with a yield of 34,722 pounds per acre. After experiencing a good bloom, frost and hailstorms during the first part of April caused sporadic damage to the peach crop across the State. Significant hail damage was reported to Freestone orchards in Fresno County, with the damage more prominent in the fresh market crop than processed. The Clingstone crop set looks good in the Extra Earlies and Earlies, while lighter sets have been reported in the Lates and Extra Lates. Growers are continuing to evaluate their orchards to assess the overall impact of frost and hail damage to their crop.

**AVOCADOS:** The 2000-01 *avocado* crop production forecast is 208,000 tons, up 29 percent from the previous year. Bearing acreage is estimated at 59,000 with a yield of 3.53 tons per acre.

**FLORIDA CITRUS:** April was a very dry month in Florida's citrus belt with only a few days of showers and thunderstorms. On several occasions, high winds accelerated evaporation of the very little surface moisture that had accumulated from those short rains. Growers and caretakers have been irrigating around the clock to keep trees in good condition during this all important fruit setting period. Most well cared for groves have a lot of new foliage and varying quantities of new crop fruit. Groves that had very little irrigation had yellowing leaves and very little new crop fruit. Picking crews completed early and mid-season variety orange harvests by the first of the month. Valencia harvest was very active by mid-April. By month's end, harvest was at its peak of over seven million boxes per week. Most of the Valencias are being processed. Movement of all grapefruit continued actively throughout the month for both fresh and processed utilization. Temple harvest was completed at mid-month. Harvest of Honey tangerines was slowing by month's end as supplies were running low. Caretakers were active cutting cover crops prior to harvest and for fire protection. Hedging and topping have been reported in all areas. Very little burning of grove debris is being done due to current dry conditions. Post bloom nutritional sprays continue.

**CITRUS FRUIT PRODUCTION**

Crop and State	1998-99	1999-00	Forecast 2000-01
	1,000 Cartons		
<b>ORANGES: 1/</b>			
California, All	72,000	128,000	114,000
Navel & Misc.	42,000	80,000	68,000
Valencia	30,000	48,000	46,000
Florida	372,000	466,000	448,000
Texas	2,860	3,480	4,420
Arizona	2,300	2,200	2,000
<b>UNITED STATES TOTAL</b>	<b>449,160</b>	<b>599,680</b>	<b>568,420</b>
<b>GRAPEFRUIT: 2/</b>			
California	14,600	14,000	14,400
Florida	94,100	106,800	98,000
Texas	12,200	11,860	13,400
Arizona	1,500	900	1,300
<b>UNITED STATES TOTAL</b>	<b>122,400</b>	<b>133,560</b>	<b>127,100</b>
<b>LEMONS: 3/</b>			
California	32,400	39,200	44,000
Arizona	6,900	6,200	6,400
<b>UNITED STATES TOTAL</b>	<b>39,300</b>	<b>45,400</b>	<b>50,400</b>
<b>TANGERINES: 4/</b>			
California 5/	3,000	4,600	5,200
Florida	9,900	14,000	11,200
Arizona	1,900	1,700	1,300
<b>UNITED STATES TOTAL</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>20,300</b>	<b>17,700</b>

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.