

California Fruit & Nut Review



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ALMOND PRODUCTION

The initial forecast for the 2002 California almond production is a record 940 million pounds. This is up 13 percent from last year's revised production of 830 million pounds. Estimated bearing acreage for 2002 is 530 thousand. This forecast is based on calls made April 23-May 3 to a sample of almond growers. Of the 411 growers sampled, 214 reports were usable. Acreage from the usable reports accounted for 18 percent of the total bearing acreage.

The almond crop got off to a great start this year. Weather conditions were nearly ideal during the critical bloom and pollination period. However, an early March freeze in the Sacramento Valley caused major damage to trees in Colusa, Glenn, and Yolo counties. Crop damage estimates varied significantly with a few growers reporting total losses. The largest loss was in Colusa County, where an estimated 90 percent of the trees were effected. Despite the freeze, yields are expected to be up 12 percent from last year. Crop progress appears to be slightly behind normal due to the recent cool weather.

APRIL CROP COMMENTS

Seasonal cultural activities such as weed control, fungicide application, cultivation, and irrigation continued in orchards and vineyards. Warm weather helped to boost fruit size and development of all tree fruit varieties. Fruit growers were thinning fruit, as what appears to be a bountiful crop weighed down tree branches. Good color development was observed in apricot, peach, plum, nectarine and cherry orchards by the end of the month. Vigorous shoot growth and cluster development occurred in grape vineyards; growers irrigated, cultivated, and applied fungicides and herbicides. Olive pruning activities neared completion by the middle of April as bloom was developing. Most varieties of apples, Asian pears, and prunes were in full bloom by mid-month. Almond orchards were fully leafed and showed good crop development by month's end. Walnut and pecan trees continued to leaf. Walnuts were sprayed for blight. Strawberry fields were harvested throughout the month. Honeybee colonies were moved into citrus groves at the beginning of April, as bloom was underway. The Navel orange harvest began to wind down, while the Valencia orange harvest was active in all citrus growing areas. Grapefruit picking was ongoing in the desert and in the San Joaquin Valley. Lemons were picked in the San Joaquin and the coastal areas.

FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Update
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002		
NUT CROPS	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled) 1/	525,000	530,000	1,580	1,770	830,000	940,000	13	June 27, 2002
Pecans	2,600	---	1,310	---	3,400	---		October 11, 2002
Pistachio (In-Shell)	---	---	---	---	127,000	---		
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	34,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	161,000	---		September 5, 2002
Total 2/	78,000	---	2,060	---	161,000	---		
Walnuts (In-Shell) 3/	196,000	---	Tons		1,000 Tons			September 5, 2002
			1.56	---	305.0	---		
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples	29,000	---	9.50	---	275.0	---		August 12, 2002
Apricots	18,000	---	4.28	---	77.0	---		June 12, 2002
Cherries	20,000	---	2.77	---	55.3	---		June 12, 2002
Grapes, Raisin 4/	280,000	---	8.92	---	2,133.0	---		July 11, 2002
Grapes, Table	91,000	---	7.66	---	697.0	---		July 11, 2002
Grapes, Wine	480,000	---	6.46	---	3,100.0	---		July 11, 2002
Grapes, All 4/	851,000	---	7.32	---	5,930.0	---		July 11, 2002
Olives	36,000	---	3.72	---	134.0	---		August 12, 2002
Peaches, Clingstone	28,800	30,700	16.50	16.30	476.0	500.0	5	June 12, 2002
Peaches, Freestone	39,000	39,000	9.91	10.60	386.5	415.0	7	June 12, 2002
Pears, Bartlett	14,000	---	16.90	---	237.0	---		June 12, 2002
Pears, Other	4,300	---	6.98	---	30.0	---		August 12, 2002
Prunes (Dried Weight) 5/	86,000	---	1.72	---	148.0	---		June 6, 2002
BERRIES			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
Strawberries	26,400	28,500	525	490	13,860	13,965	1	December 10, 2002
CITRUS CROPS 6/	2000-01	2001-02	2000-01	2001-02	2000-01	2001-02		
			Cartons		1,000 Cartons			
Grapefruit	15,400	15,000	844	831	13,000	12,800	-2	July 11, 2002
Lemons	49,500	49,500	917	889	45,400	44,000	-3	July 11, 2002
Oranges, Navel	128,000	128,000	563	500	72,000	64,000	-11	July 11, 2002
Oranges, Valencia	66,500	66,500	632	692	42,000	46,000	10	July 11, 2002
Tangerines 7/	8,800	9,000	477	523	4,200	4,600	10	July 11, 2002

1/ Almond Objective Measurement Report will be released June 27, 2002 at 12:00 p.m.

2/ Pistachio Objective Measurement Report will be released August 29, 2002 at 12:00 p.m.

3/ Walnut Objective Measurement Report will be released September 5, 2002 at 12:00 p.m.

4/ The Raisin Industry Diversion Program (RID) had 41,000 acres for 2001.

5/ Prune Forecast Report will be released June 6, 2002 at 12:00 p.m.

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

7/ Includes tangelos, tangerines and tangors.

AVOCADOS: The 2001-02 avocado crop production forecast is 188 thousand tons, down 12 percent from the previous year. Bearing acreage is estimated at 58.0 thousand with a yield of 3.24 tons per acre. Several adverse conditions have hindered the California avocado crop thus far. After a cold snap in January, thousands of acres in the Fallbrook area and other parts of Southern California were damaged by fire. However, the high winds driving the flames proved the most devastating to the crop.

PEACHES: The 2002 **Freestone** peach crop is forecast at 415 thousand tons, up 7 percent from the 2001 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 39.0 thousand acres resulting in a yield of 10.60 tons per acre. The 2002 **Clingstone** peach crop forecast is 500 thousand tons, up 5 percent from the previous year. Bearing acreage is estimated at 30.7 thousand acres with a yield of 16.30 tons per acre. Freestone peach growers in California experienced excellent weather conditions during bloom resulting in a heavy set. Harvest of Freestone peaches began around the middle of April. Clingstone peach growers did not experience any weather difficulties during bloom. Set is reported to be lighter in the Sacramento Valley than in the northern San Joaquin Valley. Harvest is expected to begin around the middle of June.

FLORIDA CITRUS: April was a very dry and hot month in Florida's citrus belt. Most of the larger citrus-producing areas reported below average rainfall and around the clock irrigation. This year's bloom cycle was finished around the first week of the month. Then, the trees started shelling off or dropping a lot of the little green fruit that the trees cannot carry next fruit season. This is a normal process. Harvest of early and mid-season oranges was finished by the second week of April. Picking of late season Valencia oranges was very active throughout the month with most of the fruit going to the juice plants. Movement of both white and colored grapefruit continued to be very active during April with most of this fruit coming from the lower east. Fresh grapefruit shipments are slowing as good clean usable supplies are running low. Temple and Honey tangerine harvests are both nearly completed with the processors taking most of these fruits during the month. Caretakers are very busy mowing, chopping, and discing cover crops to help conserve moisture. Hedging and topping of harvested groves has been reported in all areas. Growers are pushing, removing, and burning dead and dying trees. Burn permits are currently being limited due to the dry conditions. Some resets are being planted in the larger groves with adequate irrigation systems.

CITRUS FRUIT PRODUCTION

Crop and State	1999-00	2000-01	Forecast 2001-02
	1,000 Cartons		
ORANGES: 1/			
California, All	128,000	114,000	110,000
Navel & Misc.	80,000	72,000	64,000
Valencia	48,000	42,000	46,000
Florida	466,000	446,600	452,000
Texas	3,320	4,470	3,500
Arizona	2,200	1,800	1,300
UNITED STATES TOTAL	599,520	566,870	566,800
GRAPEFRUIT: 2/			
California	14,400	13,000	12,800
Florida	106,800	92,000	94,000
Texas	11,860	14,400	14,200
Arizona	900	500	400
UNITED STATES TOTAL	133,960	119,900	121,400
LEMONS: 3/			
California	38,000	45,400	44,000
Arizona	6,200	7,200	6,200
UNITED STATES TOTAL	44,200	52,600	50,200
TANGERINES: 4/			
California 5/	5,000	4,200	4,600
Florida	14,000	11,200	13,200
Arizona	1,700	1,300	1,300
UNITED STATES TOTAL	20,700	16,700	19,100

- 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.