

# California Fruit & Nut Review



Frequency: Monthly, except November  
Released: August 14, 2003

(USPS 598-290)  
VOL. 23 NO. 8



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

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## JULY GENERAL COMMENTS

Fruit growers conducted summer cultural activities that included weed control, fungicide applications, and irrigation of trees and vines. A steady harvest of stone fruit varieties continued as hot weather accelerated fruit maturity. Elegant Lady, Diamond Princess and Summer Sweet peaches, Ruby Diamond, Summer Bright and Diamond Ray nectarines, Dinosaur Egg pluots, and Blackamber plums were picked and packed. Some stone fruit orchards experienced heat and humidity related problems with higher than normal fruit drop and some pit burn. Picking of Clingstone peaches continued. Table grape harvesting was underway in most locations. Fruit color and maturity in table grapes were generally good. Fruit cracking caused by high heat and humidity was noted in a number of vineyards by month's end. Zante Currant, Summer Royal, Flame Seedless, Thompson Seedless, and Perlette were among the varieties picked. Fieldwork in raisin, wine, and table grape vineyards included cane cutting, irrigation,

and treatments to control insect pests. Harvesting of Gala apples commenced in the San Joaquin Valley by the end of July. Bartlett pears were harvested, with good quality reported. The Asian pear harvest commenced in the Selma District by mid-Month. Pomegranates were sizing well and being irrigated. Boysenberries, raspberries, blackberries, blueberries and figs were harvested. Strawberry fields were prepared for fall planting. Olive orchards were irrigated and treated to control insect pests. Avocados were sizing and developing normally. Almonds were maturing steadily. Hull split was prevalent in most orchards and floors were being prepared for harvest by the end of July. Walnuts were developing rapidly in the hot and humid weather. Walnut and pistachio orchards were undergoing irrigation and treatments for codling moth and red mite. Citrus orchards were irrigated, fertilized, and treated for pests. The Valencia orange harvest remained slow. Valencia growers in the Central Valley report good exterior quality and color, though problems with re-greening appear to be on the rise. Picking of lemons was active in Ventura County. Fruit quality has declined as the season is nearing completion in this area. Marsh Ruby, Marsh Whites and Star Ruby grapefruit varieties were picked in the southern coast areas. Overall quality of the Marsh Ruby is good. Exterior color was behind earlier in the period but is improving rapidly with the warmer weather. The Marsh White exterior quality is fair to good with nearly every fruit having some type of defect. Star Ruby exterior quality is good to excellent.

## FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Update
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003		
<b>NUT CROPS</b>	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled) <sup>1/</sup>	530,000	530,000	2,060	1,890	1,090,000	1,000,000	-8	January 2004
Pecans	2,600	---	1,380	---	3,600	---		October 10, 2003
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	242,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	61,000	---		
Total	83,000	88,000	3,650	2,050	303,000	180,000	-41	January 2004
			Tons		1,000 Tons			
Walnuts (In-Shell) <sup>2/</sup>	200,000	---	1.41	---	282.0	---		September 3, 2003
<b>FRUIT CROPS</b>								
Apples	26,000	26,000	9.04	9.81	235.0	255.0	9	January 2004
Apricots <sup>1/</sup>	17,000	16,500	5.00	5.15	85.0	85.0	N/C	January 2004
Cherries <sup>1/</sup>	26,000	27,000	2.13	2.22	55.5	60.0	8	January 2004
Grapes, Raisin <sup>3/</sup>	246,000	255,000	11.50	9.80	2,833.0	2,500.0	-12	October 10, 2003
Grapes, Table	88,000	89,000	8.40	8.31	739.0	740.0	N/C	October 10, 2003
Grapes, Wine	486,000	479,000	6.48	6.37	3,149.0	3,050.0	-3	October 10, 2003
Grapes, All <sup>3/</sup>	820,000	823,000	8.20	7.64	6,721.0	6,290.0	-6	October 10, 2003
Olives	36,000	36,000	2.86	3.19	103.0	115.0	12	January 2004
Peaches, Clingstone <sup>1/</sup>	31,000	31,300	18.10	18.40	562.0	575.0	5	January 2004
Peaches, Freestone <sup>1/</sup>	39,000	39,000	10.20	9.87	398.0	385.0	-3	January 2004
Pears, Bartlett	13,500	12,500	17.20	17.60	232.0	220.0	-5	January 2004
Pears, Other	4,300	4,300	6.98	6.98	30.0	30.0	N/C	January 2004
Plums, Dried <sup>1/</sup>	74,000	72,000	2.31	2.64	171.0	190.0	11	January 2004
<b>BERRIES</b>			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
Strawberries <sup>1/</sup>	28,500	29,600	595	600	16,957	17,760	5	December 11, 2003
<b>CITRUS CROPS <sup>1/ 4/</sup></b>	2001-02	2002-03	2001-02	2002-03	2001-02	2002-03		
			Cartons		1,000 Cartons			
Grapefruit, All	14,000	13,000	857	862	12,000	11,200	-7	September 18, 2003
Lemons	49,500	49,000	768	939	38,000	46,000	21	September 18, 2003
Oranges, Navel	128,000	127,500	531	627	68,000	80,000	18	September 18, 2003
Oranges, Valencia	66,500	64,000	617	688	41,000	44,000	7	September 18, 2003
Tangerines <sup>5/</sup>	9,000	9,200	489	543	4,400	5,000	14	September 18, 2003

<sup>1/</sup> Forecast carried forward from July.

<sup>2/</sup> Walnut Objective Measurement Report will be released September 3, 2003 at 12:00 p.m.

<sup>3/</sup> The Raisin Industry Diversion Program (RID) had 27,000 acres enrolled for 2002, but zero acreage in 2003. RID acreage is deducted from bearing acreage.

<sup>4/</sup> Grapefruit -- 33.5 lbs. per carton; Lemons -- 38.0 lbs. per carton; Oranges -- 37.5 lbs. per carton; Tangerines -- 37.5 lbs. per carton.

<sup>5/</sup> Includes tangelos, tangerines and tangors.

**NON-CITRUS FRUIT**

**Apples** - California's 2003 apple crop forecast is 255 thousand tons, up 9 percent from 2002. Acreage is estimated at 26.0 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 9.81 tons per acre. A mild spring with little hail or other weather-related problems paved the way for a promising California apple crop. Apples are sizing and developing well, and harvest should yield a high percentage of clean, unmarked fruit. Cool conditions during late spring and early summer held back the crop a bit, causing harvest to begin one week later than normal. Gala harvesting began around the 20th of July in the San Joaquin Valley.

**Grapes** - Wine-type variety grape production for California is forecast at 3.05 million tons, unchanged from the July forecast, but down 3 percent from 2002. Quality is expected to be very good. High temperatures have reduced berry growth resulting in more skin contact and richer flavor. The table-type grape production is expected to total 740 thousand tons, unchanged from the July forecast, but up slightly from last year. Table grape harvest was in full swing in the San Joaquin Valley. Varieties picked and packed included Flame Seedless, Black Marroo, Black Emerald and Princess. Fruit color and maturity in table grapes were generally good, although fruit cracking caused by high heat and humidity was noted in some vineyards. The California raisin-type variety grape forecast is 2.50 million tons, unchanged from the July forecast, but down 12 percent from 2002. Raisin type grapes for fresh use were harvested in the San Joaquin Valley. The primary varieties included Thompson Seedless and Zante Currant. Fieldwork in preparation for raisin harvest was underway in some vineyards with cultivation and terracing.

**Pears** - The forecast of the 2003 Bartlett pear crop in California is 220 thousand tons, down 5 percent from 2002. Harvesting is underway in some areas with small fruit sizes noted. Overall fruit quality is good, though some hail damage has been noted. Harvesting should begin in Lake County around the middle of August. Crop development has been slow, and volumes are expected to be light. However, the overall quality of the crop is good, with little hail damage. The 2002 other pear forecast for California is 30.0 thousand tons, unchanged from 2002. Harvesting of Red and Seckel pears is now underway. No significant problems with the crop have been noted as yet.

**FLORIDA CITRUS**

Rainfall in July was above average in many citrus-growing areas as a result of heavy bands of thunderstorms moving north from the Gulf of Mexico. The northern interior areas received the most rainfall with some areas recording more than nine inches for the month. Removal of excess water was a priority in areas with heavier soils. Many growers and caretakers were able to discontinue use of irrigation equipment as a result of the rains. Temperatures were near normal levels with highs in the middle 90s. Trees in well-cared-for groves were in very good condition. A good summer flush of new growth was observed on trees of all ages. New crop fruit progressed very well with good sizes reported. Caretakers were very active mowing, chopping, and discing cover crops. Hedging and topping slowed during the month. Summer sprays and fertilizers were applied. Dead trees were pushed out and burned. New resets were planted in larger groves with permanent irrigation. Herbicides were applied to weeds and vines were cut out of trees where growing out of control.

**GRAPE PRODUCTION FOR SELECTED STATES AND U.S.**

Crop and State	2001	2002	2003 Forecast
	Tons		
California:			
All Varieties	5,979,000	6,721,000	6,290,000
Raisin Varieties	2,215,000	2,833,000	2,500,000
Table Varieties	713,000	739,000	740,000
Wine Varieties	3,051,000	3,149,000	3,050,000
Michigan	28,900	42,700	80,000
New York	149,000	156,000	205,000
Pennsylvania	61,500	53,200	70,000
Washington	283,000	332,000	345,000
Other States <sup>1/</sup>	68,200	59,100	67,400
United States	6,569,600	7,364,000	7,057,400

<sup>1/</sup> Includes Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, and Virginia.

### CALIFORNIA OLIVE FORECAST, 2003

California's 2003 olive crop forecast is 115 thousand tons, up 12 percent compared to last year's 103 thousand tons. The bearing acreage remains at 36.0 thousand acres. The yield, at 3.19 tons per acre, is 12 percent more than the previous year. The olive crop is alternate bearing, with this year representing the high year of production. Production, however, is expected to be lower than originally anticipated. The cool, wet spring delayed bloom in most locations. Temperatures then increased, resulting in an uneven bloom and spotty set.

The Manzanillo and Sevillano varieties are expected to produce 74 percent and 13 percent, respectively, of the total production. The remaining 13 percent are expected to come from all other varieties. The majority of the total production will be utilized for canning. It is estimated that approximately 105 thousand tons will be canned with the remaining 10.0 thousand used for olive oil and other specialty products.

