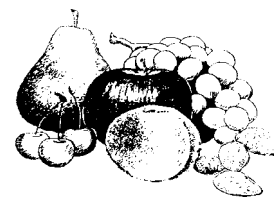


California Fruit & Nut Review



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CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

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enhanced fruit size. Overall quality was reported as excellent. Lemon harvesting was steady, with most volume coming out of the Central Valley and desert areas. Pummelo harvesting continued in the Central Valley. Oro Blanco grapefruit were harvested in the Central and Coachella valleys.

FLORIDA CITRUS

December weather was mostly dry with moderate days and nights during the majority of the month. On several mornings about mid-month, temperatures reached the high 20's and low 30's for very short durations. No damage or loss was reported. Most stations reported variable amounts of rainfall, from trace amounts to about eight inches in isolated areas. Some growers returned to irrigation on an irregular basis, while others stopped irrigation to induce light tree stress to protect from any later cold weather. Citrus crops and trees in all areas are making excellent progress with no major problems reported. Good to excellent fruit sizes are reported. Growers are conducting typical winter cultural practices including weed and cover crop control, dead tree removal and replacement, and hedging in southern areas. By the end of the month, all fresh fruit packing houses were packing Navel, Hamlin and Pineapple oranges, Temples, white and colored grapefruit, and Sunburst and Honey tangerines. All processors are open to receive packinghouse eliminations and field run early oranges. Harvest labor is reported adequate to harvest the large early-mid crop.

DECEMBER FRUIT COMMENTS

Seasonal cultural activities such as pruning, soil amendments, weed control, and cover crop planting continued in tree fruit orchards and grape vineyards. Dormant spraying of stone fruit orchards continued in the southern areas. Removal of orchards and vineyards continued throughout the State, and brush and stumps were piled for burning or chipping. Late picking of Christmas Rose, Emperor, and Red Globe table grapes neared completion. Kiwifruit and pomegranate harvests were complete by the middle of December. Freezing temperatures during the middle of the month ended the persimmon harvest. Ground was prepared for new blueberry plantings in the Selma District. Bare root and strawberry nursery stock digging began. Walnut orchards were gleaned. Pecan harvesting continued throughout the month. Freezing weather ensured the dormancy in pistachio orchards. Some Zutano avocados were picked as maturity improved. Cool temperatures helped external color of early citrus varieties. The Navel and Mandarin orange harvests continued throughout the month. Rain during December slowed Navel picking, but

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		
NUT CROPS	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled)	530,000	530,000	2,060	1,890	1,090,000	1,000,000	-8	January 23, 2004
Pecans	2,600	2,600	1,460	1,420	3,800	3,700	-3	January 23, 2004
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 23, 2004
Walnuts (In-Shell)	200,000	205,000	Tons		1,000 Tons		12	January 23, 2004
			1.41	1.54	282.0	315.0		
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples	26,000	26,000	9.04	9.81	235.0	255.0	9	January 23, 2004
Apricots	17,000	16,500	5.00	5.15	85.0	85.0	N/C	January 23, 2004
Cherries	26,000	27,000	2.13	2.22	55.5	60.0	8	January 23, 2004
Grapes, Raisin 1/	246,000	255,000	11.50	9.02	2,833.0	2,300.0	-19	January 23, 2004
Grapes, Table	88,000	89,000	8.40	7.75	739.0	690.0	-7	January 23, 2004
Grapes, Wine	486,000	479,000	6.48	6.26	3,149.0	3,000.0	-5	January 23, 2004
Grapes, All	820,000	823,000	8.20	7.28	6,721.0	5,990.0	-11	January 23, 2004
Olives	36,000	36,000	2.86	3.19	103.0	115.0	12	January 23, 2004
Peaches, Clingstone	31,000	31,300	18.10	18.80	562.0	590.0	5	January 23, 2004
Peaches, Freestone	39,000	39,000	10.20	9.87	398.0	385.0	-3	January 23, 2004
Pears, Bartlett	13,500	12,500	17.20	17.60	232.0	220.0	-5	January 23, 2004
Pears, Other	4,300	4,300	6.98	6.98	30.0	30.0	N/C	January 23, 2004
Plums, Dried 2/	74,000	72,000	2.31	2.64	171.0	190.0	11	January 23, 2004
BERRIES			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
Strawberries	28,500	29,600	595	600	16,957	17,760	5	January 29, 2004
CITRUS CROPS 3/	2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04		
			Cartons		1,000 Cartons			
Grapefruit	13,000	12,500	862	832	11,200	10,400	-7	April 8, 2004
Lemons	49,000	49,000	980	939	48,000	46,000	-4	April 8, 2004
Oranges, Navel	127,500	128,000	643	609	82,000	78,000	-5	April 8, 2004
Oranges, Valencia	64,000	62,500	656	608	42,000	38,000	-10	March 10, 2004
Tangerines 4/	9,200	9,500	543	526	5,000	5,000	N/C	April 8, 2004

1/ 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.

2/ Forecast carried forward from June 2003.

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.

Oranges - The 2003-04 California Navel orange forecast is 78.0 million cartons, unchanged from October, but 5 percent below last season's crop. Recent rainfall has slowed harvesting, which has kept supply proportional to demand. Export demand has been good. Significantly lighter fruit sets have been observed in many areas, but the crop has exhibited good shape, texture, and color. Sugar content is expected to be enhanced from the high temperatures experienced over the summer. The 2003-04 Valencia orange forecast is 38.0 million cartons, down 5 percent from the October forecast and 10 percent below last season's crop. The Valencia crop has developed normally thus far, with no major problems reported. However, acreage pullouts continue due to market pressures and expanding development, with some Valencia growers planting Navels instead.

Grapefruit - The 2003-04 California grapefruit forecast is estimated at 10.4 million cartons, down 5 percent from October and 7 percent below last year. Pummelo harvest was active in the Central Valley. Defects were scars, peel, minor grooving, and scale. Oro Blanco harvest was active in the Central and Coachella valleys. Quality was very good with smooth texture in all sizes.

Lemons - The 2003-04 California lemon forecast is 46.0 million cartons, unchanged from October, but down 4 percent from last season. Harvest is active in the desert, Central Valley, and south coastal areas. The bulk of the volume is coming out of the desert area. Overall quality is good to excellent. Recent rains have slowed down picking crews in some locations.

Tangerines - The 2003-2004 California tangerine crop forecast is 5.00 million cartons, unchanged from the October forecast and last season's final estimate. Satsumas are being harvested in the San Joaquin Valley, while Fairchilds are being harvested from the desert region. Shape is normal, and overall quality is good to excellent.

CITRUS FRUIT PRODUCTION BY STATE AND U.S.

Crop and State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 Forecast
	1,000 Cartons		
ORANGES: 1/			
California, All	103,000	124,000	116,000
Navel & Misc.	64,000	82,000	78,000
Valencia	39,000	42,000	38,000
Florida	460,000	406,000	500,000
Texas	3,480	3,140	3,060
Arizona	1,040	940	940
ALL U.S. ORANGES	567,520	534,080	620,000
GRAPEFRUIT: 2/			
California	11,800	11,200	10,400
Florida	93,400	77,400	80,000
Texas	11,800	11,300	10,600
Arizona	320	260	200
ALL U.S. GRAPEFRUIT	117,320	100,160	101,200
LEMONS: 3/			
California	36,600	48,000	46,000
Arizona	5,600	6,000	6,400
ALL U.S. LEMONS	42,200	54,000	52,400
TANGERINES: 4/			
California 5/	4,400	5,000	5,000
Florida 6/	13,200	11,000	13,400
Arizona 5/	1,240	860	1,200
ALL U.S. TANGERINES	18,840	16,860	19,600

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.

6/ Varieties included are Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, Dancy and Honey for 2001-02, but 2002-03 include Fallglo, Sunburst and Honey.

**For information on jobs collecting agricultural data,
please call 1-800-851-1127.**