

California Fruit & Nut Review



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MAY CROP COMMENTS

Cultural activities in tree fruit orchards continued throughout the month of May. Growers irrigated, thinned fruit, and applied disease and pest control treatments in vineyards and orchards. The picking and packing of stone fruit continued throughout the month. Sweet Scarlet, Ivory Princess, Queen Crest and Spring Crest peaches, Earliglo and Mayfire nectarines, Red Beaut plums, Castlebrite and Poppy apricots, and pluots were picked and packed. The cherry harvest continued with Brooks, Garnet, Tulare, Kings, Ranier, and Bing the primary varieties picked. Bloom in wine, raisin, and table grape vineyards was widespread by the middle of May. Vineyards showed plenty of new fruit clusters as the bloom period finished and berry development began. By month's end, the fruit development was excellent due to the beneficial weather.

Choice grape leaves were picked in a few vineyards for gourmet food use. Table grapes were harvested in the Coachella Valley with Perlette, Flame Seedless, and Black Beauty Seedless the primary varieties picked. Kiwi fruit vines were still in shoot elongation by the middle of May. Strawberry and blueberry harvesting continued, yielding very good quality fruit overall. However, the condition of strawberry plants in many parts of the Central Valley was declining due to warm weather. Bloom continued in many pomegranate orchards, and developing fruit were showing on many trees. Apples and pears were sprayed for codling moths. Avocado and olive bloom neared completion by month's end. Almond, pistachio, and walnut orchards were irrigated and treated for mites as necessary. Steady nut development continued under ideal growing conditions. The almond crop was reported to be large, with the nut meat already set. Steady fruit development continued in citrus orchards. Navel orange picking neared completion by the end of May. The Valencia orange harvest remained active throughout the month, but was slowed in response to competition from the stone fruit harvests. Lemons were harvested in central and Southern California. Ruby and Rio Red grapefruit harvests were active in the desert, while the Star Ruby grapefruit harvest was active in the southern coastal areas.

FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Update
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004		
NUT CROPS	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled) ^{1/}	550,000	550,000	1,890	2,000	1,040,000	1,100,000	6	June 30, 2004
Pecans	2,600	---	1,380	---	3,600	---		October 12, 2004
Pistachio (In-Shell)	---	---	---	---	88,000	---		
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	28,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Total	88,000	---	1,320	---	116,000	---		January 2005
Walnuts (In-Shell) ^{2/}	213,000	---	1.53	---	325.0	---		September 2, 2004
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples	26,000	---	8.85	---	230.0	---		August 12, 2004
Apricots	16,500	16,000	5.61	5.63	92.5	90.0	-3	July 12, 2004
Cherries	27,000	26,000	2.30	2.50	62.0	65.0	5	January 2004
Grapes, Raisin ^{3/}	255,000	---	8.24	---	2,100.0	---		July 12, 2004
Grapes, Table	89,000	---	7.75	---	690.0	---		July 12, 2004
Grapes, Wine	479,000	---	6.05	---	2,900.0	---		July 12, 2004
Grapes, All ^{3/}	823,000	---	6.91	---	5,690.0	---		July 12, 2004
Olives	36,000	---	3.28	---	118.0	---		August 12, 2004
Peaches, Clingstone	31,000	32,500	17.30	17.70	536.0	575.0	7	July 12, 2004
Peaches, Freestone	39,000	37,000	10.20	10.80	399.0	400.0	N/C	July 12, 2004
Pears, Bartlett	13,000	13,000	15.20	16.50	198.0	215.0	9	July 12, 2004
Pears, Other	4,300	---	6.98	---	30.0	---		August 12, 2004
Prunes (Dried Weight)	72,000	70,000	2.44	1.00	176.0	70.0	-60	January 2004
BERRIES								
Strawberries	29,600	33,200	620	570	18,352	18,924	3	July 9, 2004
CITRUS CROP ^{4/}	2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04		
			Cartons		1,000 Cartons			
Grapefruit	13,000	12,500	862	864	11,200	10,800	-4	July 12, 2004
Lemons	49,000	49,000	980	939	48,000	46,000	-4	July 12, 2004
Oranges, Navel	127,500	128,000	643	609	82,000	78,000	-5	July 12, 2004
Oranges, Valencia	64,000	52,000	641	577	41,000	30,000	-27	July 12, 2004
Tangerines ^{5/}	9,200	9,500	543	505	5,000	4,800	-4	July 12, 2004

^{1/} Almond Objective Measurement Report will be released June 30, 2004 at 12:00 p.m.

^{2/} Walnut Objective Measurement Report will be released September 2, 2004 at 12:00 p.m.

^{3/} The Raisin Industry Diversion Program (RID) had zero acres for 2003.

^{4/} Grapefruit -- 33.5 lbs. per carton; Lemons -- 38.0 lbs. per carton; Oranges -- 37.5 lbs. per carton; Tangerines -- 37.5 lbs. per carton.

^{5/} Includes tangelos, tangerines and tangors.

Apricots - The 2004 California apricot crop forecast is 90.0 thousand tons, down 3 percent from the 2003 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 16,000 acres. Weather during bloom was excellent with warm temperatures experienced throughout the apricot-producing areas of the State. This resulted in an excellent quality crop with a good set. Harvest for fresh use began at the end of April, while harvest for processed production commenced on June 3, approximately two weeks ahead of last year.

Cherries, Sweet - The 2004 California sweet cherry crop, at 65.0 thousand tons, is up 5 percent from the 2003 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated to be 26,000. Adequate chilling hours and ideal weather conditions during bloom and the production period have resulted in a great year for cherry growers. Harvest began in late April and will continue through the second week in June. Fruit quality is reported to be excellent.

Peaches - The 2004 California Clingstone peach crop forecast is 575 thousand tons, unchanged from the May forecast, but up 7 percent from the 2003 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 32,500 acres. California experienced an adequate number of chilling hours, thus benefitting the Clingstone crop. Overall, the bloom was reported to be good on all varieties. The crop is reported to be in excellent condition with good size and uniform growth. Harvest is expected to commence in the Kingsburg area by the end of the second week in June, approximately ten days ahead of last year. The 2004 California Freestone peach crop forecast is 400 thousand tons, down 2 percent from the May forecast, but up slightly from the 2003 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 37,000 acres. Bloom was delayed by cool, wet weather in February, but a warm dry spring made up for the delayed start. The Freestone peach harvest continues with excellent fruit quality. The early season varieties were sizing smaller than average, while the middle-to-late season varieties are sizing normally.

Pears, Bartlett - The initial forecast of the 2004 Bartlett pear crop in California is 215 thousand tons, up 7 percent from last season. Bearing acreage is estimated to be 13,000. Bartlett development is continuing normally, with harvesting to begin late this month. Ideal growing conditions and good cultural practices are expected to result in an ample crop this year.

Prunes - The 2004 California prune crop forecast is 70 thousand dried tons, down 60 percent from last year's crop. Bearing acreage is estimated to be 70,000. The crop suffered significant damage from a mid-March hot spell. The heat occurred when trees were in full bloom, which caused blossoms to mature too quickly for the pollination process to complete. If the forecast is realized, this year's crop would be the smallest on record since official estimates began in 1920, while the yields would be the lowest since 1972.

FRUIT PRODUCTION FOR SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

Crop and State	2002	2003	2004 Forecast
	Tons		
APRICOTS			
California	85,000	92,500	90,000
CHERRIES, SWEET			
California	55,500	62,000	65,000
Oregon	31,000	38,000	43,000
Washington	87,000	116,000	135,000
Total 1/	173,500	216,000	243,000
PEACHES			
California Total	960,000	935,000	975,000
Clingstone 2/	562,000	536,000	575,000
Freestone	398,000	399,000	400,000
Georgia	45,000	60,000	50,000
South Carolina	80,000	50,000	70,000
Total	1,085,000	1,045,000	1,095,000
PEARS, BARTLETT			
California	232,000	201,000	215,000
Oregon	58,000	61,000	62,000
Washington	158,000	196,000	175,000
Total	448,000	458,000	452,000
PRUNES (Dried Wt.)			
California 3/	172,000	181,000	70,000

1/ Forecast for Idaho, Michigan, Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, and Utah will be released on June 24, 2004.
 2/ California Clingstone is over the scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.
 3/ Revised 2003 data.

FLORIDA CITRUS

Florida's May weather in the citrus areas was dry with moderate temperatures early in the month and hot near the month's end. Several cool fronts passed through the State early in the month bringing overnight temperatures into the upper 50's in some northern locations. Daytime highs reached to the upper 80's early in the month, but by the last week were in the mid to upper 90's with very low humidity. The cool fronts brought very little rainfall this month with virtually none reported in some locations. Near the end of the month, scattered showers occurred in some east coast locations. By the end of the month, even with extensive irrigation, growers and caretakers report the need for rain in all areas. Some trees are showing temporary afternoon wilt. Others in non-irrigated groves on deep sandy soils are in extreme wilt. Most trees are, however, in generally good condition.

Early-mid season harvest is complete. Valencia oranges were at peak weekly harvest levels of 8.00 million boxes until near the end of the month. Grapefruit harvest for fresh shipments continued to decrease as export shipments come to an end for the season. Harvest for processing grapefruit declined during the month and was mostly complete by month's end. Honey tangerine and Temple harvests are complete.

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 2/	103,000	123,000	108,000
Navel & Misc. 2/	64,000	82,000	78,000
Valencia 2/	39,000	41,000	30,000
Florida	460,000	406,000	490,000
Texas 2/	3,480	3,140	3,360
Arizona 2/	1,040	940	1,080
ALL U.S. ORANGES	567,520	533,080	602,440
GRAPEFRUIT 3/			
California 2/	11,800	11,200	10,800
Florida	93,400	77,400	81,600
Texas 2/	11,800	11,300	10,800
Arizona 2/	320	260	200
ALL U.S. GRAPEFRUIT	117,320	100,160	103,400
LEMONS 2/ 4/			
California	36,600	48,000	46,000
Arizona	5,600	6,000	6,000
ALL U.S. LEMONS	42,200	54,000	52,000
TANGERINES 5/			
California 2/ 6/	4,400	5,000	4,800
Florida 7/	13,200	11,000	13,000
Arizona 2/ 6/	1,240	860	1,200
ALL U.S. TANGERINES	18,840	16,860	19,000

1/ ORANGES: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 45 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.
 2/ Estimate for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.
 3/ GRAPEFRUIT: Arizona, 1 carton=32 lbs.; California, 1 carton = 33.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 40 lbs.
 4/ LEMONS: All, 1 carton = 38 lbs.
 5/ TANGERINES: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 47.5 lbs.
 6/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.
 7/ Data for 2001-02 includes Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, Dancy, and Honey varieties. Data for 2002-04 includes Fallglo, Sunburst, and Honey varieties only.

TREE NUTS (SHELLED BASIS) PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION, 1976-77 TO DATE

Season ^{1/}	Almonds	Hazelnuts	Pecans	Walnuts	Macadamias	Pistachios	Other ^{2/}	Total ^{3/}
	Pounds							
1976-77	0.42	0.07	0.33	0.51	0.02	0.04	0.51	1.90
1977-78	0.45	0.06	0.37	0.48	0.02	0.04	0.28	1.70
1978-79	0.39	0.08	0.39	0.37	0.02	0.04	0.42	1.71
1979-80	0.37	0.04	0.46	0.42	0.03	0.04	0.38	1.74
1980-81	0.42	0.05	0.43	0.50	0.03	0.05	0.32	1.79
1981-82	0.50	0.05	0.45	0.52	0.03	0.04	0.33	1.92
1982-83	0.59	0.07	0.49	0.47	0.04	0.05	0.46	2.16
1983-84	0.58	0.05	0.48	0.52	0.04	0.07	0.52	2.25
1984-85	0.68	0.06	0.54	0.48	0.04	0.11	0.47	2.37
1985-86	0.81	0.07	0.47	0.48	0.05	0.12	0.45	2.45
1986-87	0.53	0.03	0.54	0.49	0.05	0.11	0.47	2.21
1987-88	0.59	0.06	0.54	0.46	0.05	0.09	0.41	2.20
1988-89	0.65	0.07	0.50	0.50	0.05	0.12	0.40	2.29
1989-90	0.62	0.05	0.46	0.45	0.06	0.08	0.51	2.23
1990-91	0.74	0.07	0.49	0.45	0.06	0.11	0.50	2.42
1991-92	0.61	0.06	0.46	0.45	0.05	0.08	0.44	2.15
1992-93	0.59	0.08	0.35	0.46	0.05	0.10	0.57	2.21
1993-94	0.60	0.10	0.52	0.38	0.05	0.13	0.55	2.33
1994-95	0.57	0.07	0.48	0.44	0.06	0.13	0.49	2.25
1995-96	0.47	0.09	0.38	0.38	0.05	0.12	0.42	1.91
1996-97	0.48	0.02	0.47	0.32	0.06	0.06	0.51	1.93
1997-98	0.51	0.07	0.46	0.36	0.07	0.14	0.53	2.13
1998-99	0.56	0.05	0.49	0.38	0.07	0.15	0.52	2.22
1999-00	0.75	0.10	0.39	0.51	0.08	0.18	0.53	2.52
2000-01	0.56	0.07	0.47	0.44	0.07	0.21	0.47	2.28
2001-02	0.82	0.08	0.48	0.41	0.07	0.20	0.69	2.75
2002-03 ^{4/}	1.00	0.07	0.41	0.45	0.06	0.22	0.82	3.04

^{1/} Beginning August of first year indicated for almonds and walnuts, September for pistachios, and July for all others.

^{2/} Includes the following nuts: Brazil, pignolias, chestnuts, cashews, and mixed nuts.

^{3/} Some figures may not add due to rounding.

^{4/} Preliminary estimates.

SOURCE: Food and Rural Economics Division, ERS, USDA.

REVISED 2003 ACREAGE ESTIMATES

The table to the right contains revised acreage estimates for 2003 almonds, grapes, prunes, and walnuts. These estimates are based on a statistical sample initiated to provide an unbiased indication of State acreage and to measure the incompleteness in the data base maintained by this office.

More detailed acreage reports for these crops are available on our web site at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ca> (listed under Publications).

ACREAGE ESTIMATES, 2003 CROP

Crop	Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
	Acres		
Almonds	550,000	60,000	610,000
Grapes, All	819,000	63,000	882,000
Raisin	255,000	5,000	260,000
Table	85,000	8,000	93,000
Wine	479,000	50,000	529,000
Prunes	72,000	8,000	80,000
Walnuts	213,000	27,000	240,000

To receive the detailed **2003 GRAPE ACREAGE BULLETIN** released June 4, 2004, you may access our publications free-of-charge on our web site at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ca> (listed under Publications). You may access the entire bulletin, as well as individual tables, in several formats including PDF and XLS.

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2002

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