

# California Fruit & Nut Review



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## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Fruit and Nut Summary .....	1-3
Almond Objective Measurement Forecast .....	3

## JUNE CROP COMMENTS

Fruit growers conducted summer cultural activities that included weed control, fungicide application, cultivation, and irrigation in orchards and vineyards. Thinning of late season stone fruit varieties continued, as well as summer pruning in a number of harvested orchards. Picking of many fruit crops was active throughout the month. Rich Lady, Brittney Lane, and Country Sweet peaches, Black Amber and Santa Rosa plums, Zee Grand and Honey Blaze nectarines, and Flavorosa pluots were picked and packed. Picking of Clingstone peaches began in the Kingsburg area on June 9, ten days earlier than last year's starting date. Apricot harvesting was complete in Fresno and Tulare counties by the end of June, but was still underway in other locations. Cherry harvest was complete in most areas by the second week of June. Fruit development advanced steadily in wine, raisin, and table grape vineyards. Irrigation, cultivation, foliar feeding, cane cutting, and some fungicide treatments

were the cultural operations underway in vineyards. Table grapes were harvested in the Coachella Valley. Flame Seedless, Perlette, Black Beauty Seedless, and Thompson Seedless were the primary varieties harvested. Excellent fruit color and good maturity were noted. Fruits were maturing steadily in apple, persimmon, and pomegranate orchards. Thinning of persimmons and pomegranates continued. The Central Valley's strawberry harvest was mostly complete by month's end, but a few late season fields continued to produce fruit. Strawberries were harvested in the central coast region. Blackberry, raspberry, blueberry, and boysenberry harvests were ongoing. Olive growers treated their orchards to control the olive fruit fly. Irrigation, cultivation, and weed and pest control treatments were ongoing in many nut orchards. Walnut, pistachio, and almond trees were heavy with nuts. Early Codling Moth controls were applied in walnut orchards. Nut development continued at a steady pace. Citrus groves were irrigated due to the warm and dry weather conditions. Fertilization and weed control treatments continued. The Navel orange season was all but over by early June. Picking of Valencia oranges was slow. Puff was affecting packouts of the larger fruit. Star Ruby grapefruit harvesting was winding down. Lemons were harvested 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		
<b>NUT CROPS</b>	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled)	550,000	550,000	1,890	1,960	1,040,000	1,080,000	4	January 2005 October 12, 2004
Pecans	2,600	---	1,380	---	3,600	---		
Pistachio (In-Shell)	---	---	---	---	88,000	---		January 2005
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	28,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Total <u>1/</u>	88,000	---	1,350	---	119,000	---		
Walnuts (In-Shell) <u>1/ 2/</u>	213,000	---	1.53	---	326.0	---		September 2, 2004
<b>FRUIT CROPS</b>								
Apples	26,000	---	8.85	---	230.0	---		August 12, 2004
Apricots	16,500	16,000	5.61	5.63	92.5	90.0	-3	January 2005
Cherries <u>1/</u>	25,000	26,000	2.75	2.50	68.8	65.0	-6	January 2005
Grapes, Raisin <u>3/</u>	255,000	244,000	8.43	8.40	2,149.0	2,050.0	-5	August 12, 2004
Grapes, Table <u>1/</u>	85,000	83,000	8.61	9.04	732.0	750.0	2	August 12, 2004
Grapes, Wine	479,000	473,000	6.07	6.13	2,909.0	2,900.0	N/C	August 12, 2004
Grapes, All <u>1/ 3/</u>	819,000	800,000	7.07	7.13	5,790.0	5,700.0	-2	August 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	January 2005
Peaches, Freestone <u>1/</u>	37,000	37,000	11.20	10.50	413.0	390.0	-6	January 2005
Pears, Bartlett <u>1/</u>	13,000	13,000	16.70	16.70	217.0	217.0	N/C	August 12, 2004
Pears, Other <u>1/</u>	4,300	---	12.80	---	55.0	---		August 12, 2004
Prunes (Dried Weight) <u>1/</u>	72,000	70,000	2.51	1.00	181.0	70.0	-61	January 2005
<b>BERRIES</b>								
Strawberries	29,600	33,200	620	590	18,352	19,588	7	January 2005
<b>CITRUS CROP <u>4/</u></b>	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	September 23, 2004
Lemons	49,000	49,000	980	735	48,000	36,000	-25	September 23, 2004
Oranges, Navel	127,500	130,000	643	585	82,000	76,000	-7	September 23, 2004
Oranges, Valencia	64,000	52,000	641	577	41,000	30,000	-27	September 23, 2004
Tangerines <u>5/</u>	9,200	9,500	543	505	5,000	4,800	-4	September 23, 2004

1/ Revised 2003.

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 enrolled 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.

**Grapes** - The California all grape forecast on 800 thousand bearing acres is 5.70 million tons, down 2 percent from last year. Specifically, the wine grape forecast on 473 thousand bearing acres is 2.90 million tons, down slightly from last season's crop. The expected table grape production on 83.0 thousand acres is 750 thousand tons, up 2 percent from 2003, while the raisin grape production on 244 thousand bearing acres is forecast at 2.05 million tons, down 5 percent from last year. A colder than average winter, combined with record-breaking high temperatures in March, provided a normal season for table grapes. The warm spring weather also got raisin and wine grapes off to a fast start. A normal, average size crop is expected for table grapes, whereas average to below average crops are expected for most varieties of wine and raisin grapes due to low bunch counts.

**Apricots** - California's apricot production is forecast at 90.0 thousand tons, unchanged from the June forecast, but down 3 percent from the 2003 crop. Bearing acres are estimated to be 16.0 thousand. Weather during bloom was excellent with warm temperatures experienced throughout the apricot producing areas of the State. Cool temperatures during harvest resulted in good size. Harvesting will be finished by mid-July.

**Peaches** - The 2004 California Freestone peach crop forecast is 390 thousand tons, down 2 percent from both the June forecast and the 2003 crop. Bearing acres are estimated at 37.0 thousand. Freestone peach harvest is progressing well with approximately 40 percent of the harvest completed as of July 1. Flavor is reported to be excellent. The 2004 California Clingstone peach crop forecast is 575 thousand tons, unchanged from the June forecast, but up 7 percent from the 2003 crop. Bearing acres are estimated at 32.5 thousand. Picking began in the Kingsburg area on June 9, ten days earlier than last year's starting date. Quality is reported to be very good.

**FRUIT PRODUCTION FORECAST, BY STATE AND U.S.**

Crop and State	2002	2003	Forecast 2004
	Tons		
<b>APRICOTS</b>			
California	85,000	92,500	90,000
Utah	140	180	350
Washington	4,900	4,900	5,200
U.S. TOTAL	90,040	97,580	95,550
<b>CHERRIES, SWEET</b>			
California <sup>1/</sup>	55,500	62,000	65,000
Michigan	2,700	13,000	30,000
Oregon	31,000	38,000	43,000
Washington	87,000	116,000	130,000
Other States <sup>2/</sup>	5,155	7,960	8,550
U.S. TOTAL	181,355	236,960	276,550
<b>PEACHES</b>			
California			
Freestone	398,000	413,000	390,000
Clingstone <sup>3/</sup>	562,000	536,000	575,000
Georgia	45,000	55,000	55,000
Michigan	7,000	23,500	21,500
New Jersey	31,000	35,000	35,000
Pennsylvania	30,000	36,500	27,000
South Carolina	80,000	50,000	70,000
Washington	23,000	19,500	20,000
Other States <sup>4/</sup>	91,500	91,000	112,700
U.S. TOTAL	1,267,500	1,259,500	1,306,200

- <sup>1/</sup> Forecast carried forward from *Crop Production Report* released June 10, 2004.
- <sup>2/</sup> ID, MT NY, PA, and UT.
- <sup>3/</sup> California Clingstone is over the scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.
- <sup>4/</sup> AL, AR, CO, CT, ID, IL, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, MO, NC, NY, OH, OK, OR, TN, TX, UT, VA, and WV.

**Grapefruit** - The 2003-04 California grapefruit forecast is estimated at 10.8 million cartons, unchanged from the April forecast, but down 4 percent from last season. Marsh Ruby grapefruit harvest continued in the desert area. Overall, fruit quality is generally fair to good. Texture is smooth, and color is fair to good. The Star Ruby variety was harvested in the southern coastal counties. Exterior quality is excellent, with good color and flavor. Texture is smooth in the smaller sizes, but slightly pebbly in the larger sizes.

**Lemons** - The 2003-04 California lemon forecast is 36.0 million cartons, down 22 percent from the April forecast and down 25 percent from the 2002-03 production. Harvest remains active in the southern coastal region. A heat wave in April lowered the earlier production forecasts.

**Oranges** - The 2003-04 California Navel orange forecast is 76.0 million cartons, down 7 percent from the 2002-03 production. Harvesting of the 2003-04 crop is essentially complete. The crop's size profile appears larger than last season, but fruit set was reported to be significantly lower. During the spring, higher demand prompted growers to pick under wet conditions, leading to rind breakdown and other quality problems. The Valencia orange forecast is 26.0 million cartons, down 37 percent from last season's crop. Valencia harvesting continued at a slow, but steady pace. Puff and re-greening were among the quality problems noted in recent weeks.

**CITRUS FRUIT PRODUCTION FORECAST, BY STATE AND U.S.**

Crop and State	2001-02	2002-03	Forecast 2003-04
	1,000 Cartons		
<b>ORANGES: <sup>1/</sup></b>			
California, All	103,000	123,000	102,000
Navel and Misc.	64,000	82,000	76,000
Valencia	39,000	41,000	26,000
Florida	460,000	406,000	484,000
Texas	3,480	3,140	3,300
Arizona	1,040	940	940
U.S. TOTAL	567,520	533,080	590,240
<b>GRAPEFRUIT: <sup>2/</sup></b>			
California	11,800	11,200	10,800
Florida	93,400	77,400	81,600
Texas	11,800	11,300	11,400
Arizona	320	260	280
U.S. TOTAL	117,320	100,160	104,080
<b>LEMONS: <sup>3/</sup></b>			
California	36,600	48,000	36,000
Arizona	5,600	6,000	6,000
U.S. TOTAL	42,200	54,000	42,000
<b>TANGERINES: <sup>4/</sup></b>			
California <sup>5/</sup>	4,400	5,000	4,800
Florida <sup>6/</sup>	13,200	11,000	13,000
Arizona <sup>5/</sup>	1,240	860	1,380
U.S. TOTAL	18,840	16,860	19,180

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

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**FLORIDA CITRUS**

Rainfall during June was variable with some areas receiving adequate amounts, but others receiving very little. The rains were spread throughout the month with the lower west coast and interior areas receiving most of the precipitation, while the lower interior areas received varying amounts. Many growers and caretakers continue to use irrigation to supplement surface moisture. Temperatures reached into the 90's followed by afternoon storms on many days. Most of the trees in well-cared-for groves are in good condition. The summer flush of new growth has appeared on younger trees and in some older groves. New crop fruit is progressing well with good sizes reported. Harvest of Valencia oranges declined through most of June with all but two processing plants

closed by the end of the month. Grapefruit harvest was finished by July 1 as most of the fresh fruit packing houses were closing. Honey tangerine harvest was over for the year by the beginning of June. Caretakers were active during June mowing, chopping, and discing cover crops that grew vigorously because of the rains. Hedging and topping slowed during the month. Summer fertilizer treatments are currently being applied. Dead trees are being pushed out and burned. New resets are being planted in larger groves with permanent irrigation. Summer herbicides are being applied to control weed growth. Growers are cutting vines out of their trees.



**CALIFORNIA ALMOND OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT FORECAST, 2004**

California's 2004 almond production is forecast at 1.08 billion meat pounds, down 2 percent from May's subjective forecast, but up 4 percent from last year's crop. The forecast is based on 550 thousand bearing acres. Production for the Nonpareil variety is forecast at 390 million meat pounds, up 3 percent from last year's deliveries. The Nonpareil variety represents 36 percent of California's total almond production.

The almond bloom started in mid-February, but growers thought the heavy rain and wind would affect bee activity and pollination. However, the bloom was very intense with both the variety and pollinators blooming together, which may have helped the set. The bloom was strong and stayed on the trees for much longer than normal. This may have been because of the cool, damp weather. Even the strong winds and heavy rain in late February didn't appear to affect the set. Very warm weather the first three weeks of March advanced crop development and the crop is currently ten days to two weeks ahead of normal. The kernel size appears to be about normal. The younger trees seem to have a very good set. Overall, the crop appears to be fairly uniform throughout the State and growers expect to have a good crop.

**TABLE 1: COMPARISON OF NUT ESTIMATES AND ORCHARDS SAMPLED BY DISTRICT AND VARIETY, JUNE OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT SURVEY COUNTS**

District and Variety	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	Nuts Per Tree	Orchards Sampled	Nuts Per Tree	Orchards Sampled	Nuts Per Tree	Orchards Sampled	Nuts Per Tree	Orchards Sampled	Nuts Per Tree	Orchards Sampled	Nuts Per Tree	Orchards Sampled
<b>ALL DISTRICTS</b> (All Varieties)	7,568	838	5,298	686	6,672	798	8,100	786	7,002	777	7,162	749
<b>BY DISTRICTS</b>												
<u>District I</u>												
Sacramento Valley	8,158	188	6,167	126	7,189	165	7,849	141	7,648	149	6,527	131
<u>District II</u>												
San Joaquin Valley	7,440	645	5,111	559	6,537	633	8,128	645	6,849	628	7,290	618
<b>BY VARIETIES</b>												
Butte 1/	---	---	---	---	---	---	8,741	99	8,904	110	8,788	112
California Types 2/	7,602	167	5,332	140	6,850	167	7,615	177	6,815	183	6,665	172
Carmel 3/	6,716	99	5,275	84	6,832	99	7,146	99	6,727	97	6,380	90
Mission	6,844	58	4,975	31	5,928	41	8,235	29	8,055	28	6,719	26
Nonpareil	8,054	403	4,959	359	6,449	386	8,043	373	6,110	358	6,676	335
Padre 1/	---	---	---	---	---	---	8,268	48	9,729	57	9,414	54

1/ Butte and Padre variety breakdowns were initiated in 2002.

2/ For survey purposes, the California classification includes the following varieties: Aldrich, Ballico, Carmel, Davey, Fritz, Harvey, Le Grand, Mono, Monterey, Norman, Price Cluster, Ruby, Tokoyo and Yosemite.

3/ Carmel variety is also included in California Types.