

California Fruit & Nut Review



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Seedless, Thompson Seedless, and Princess. Wine grape harvesting commenced in some San Joaquin Valley vineyards as fruit maturity reached satisfactory levels. Bins of harvested grapes were trucked to wineries for processing. Champagne grape harvesting began in parts of Northern California. Field work in raisin, wine, and table grape vineyards included irrigation, cultivation, and fungicide applications. Harvesting of Gala apples and Asian pears commenced in the San Joaquin Valley by the end of July. Bartlett pears were harvested, with good quality reported. Persimmons and pomegranates continued to show good progress with fruit size increasing steadily and some color showing on fruit. Blackberry and blueberry harvesting neared completion in Tulare County by the middle of July. Strawberry harvesting continued along the central coast. Figs were harvested in the San Joaquin Valley. Olive orchards were irrigated and treated to control fruit flies. The kiwifruit crop was generally normal, but with small fruit sizes.

JULY GENERAL COMMENTS

Fruit growers conducted summer cultural activities that included weed control, fungicide applications, and irrigation of trees and vines. Picking and packing in stone fruit orchards continued at a steady rate. Varieties picked included Elegant Lady, Summer Lady, Sweet Dream, Zee Lady and Summer Sweet peaches, Arctic Queen and Summer Fire nectarines, Friar and Fortune plums, and Flavor Grenade and Flavor Queen pluots. Picking of Clingstone peaches continued. Harvesting crews remained busy throughout the month in table grape vineyards as more varieties reached maturity. Among the varieties harvested were Flame

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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)	550,000	550,000	1,890	1,960	1,040,000	1,080,000	4	January 2005
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	---	1,350	---	119,000	---		January 2005
Walnuts (In-Shell) 1/	213,000	---	1.53	---	326.0	---		September 2, 2004
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples 2/	26,000	26,000	8.65	8.46	225.0	220.0	-2	January 2005
Apricots	16,500	16,000	5.61	5.63	92.5	90.0	-3	January 2005
Cherries	25,000	26,000	2.75	2.50	68.8	65.0	-6	January 2005
Grapes, Raisin 3/ 4/	255,000	244,000	8.43	8.40	2,149.0	2,050.0	-5	October 12, 2004
Grapes, Table 3/	85,000	83,000	8.61	9.04	732.0	750.0	2	October 12, 2004
Grapes, Wine 3/	479,000	473,000	6.07	6.13	2,909.0	2,900.0	N/C	October 12, 2004
Grapes, All 3/ 4/	819,000	800,000	7.07	7.13	5,790.0	5,700.0	-2	October 12, 2004
Olives	36,000	32,000	3.28	2.66	118.0	85.0	-28	January 2005
Peaches, Clingstone	31,000	32,500	17.30	17.70	536.0	575.0	7	January 2005
Peaches, Freestone	37,000	37,000	11.20	10.50	413.0	390.0	-6	January 2005
Pears, Bartlett	13,000	13,000	16.70	17.70	217.0	230.0	6	January 2005
Pears, Other	4,300	4,000	12.80	12.00	55.0	48.0	-13	January 2005
Plums, Dried	72,000	70,000	2.51	1.00	181.0	70.0	-61	January 2005
BERRIES			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
Strawberries	29,600	33,200	620	590	18,352	19,588	7	January 2005
CITRUS CROPS 5/	2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04		
			Cartons		1,000 Cartons			
Grapefruit, All	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 6/	9,200	9,500	543	505	5,000	4,800	-4	September 23, 2004

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

2/ Revised 2003 data.

3/ Forecast carried forward from July.

4/ The Raisin Industry Diversion Program (RID) had zero acres enrolled for 2003 and 2004.

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

6/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.

JULY GENERAL COMMENTS
(Continued from Page 1)

Almond harvesting commenced in the San Joaquin Valley by month's end. Treatments to control ants were made in some orchards. In other locations, almond hull split continued, and growers prepared their orchards for harvest. Crop maturity progressed at a steady rate in walnut, pecan, and pistachio orchards. Walnuts were treated for codling moth, husk fly, and San Jose scale. Citrus orchards were irrigated, fertilized, and treated for pests. The citrus crop was sizing and developing normally, but intense heat in late July was expected to cause some fruit drop and sunburn in younger fruits. The Valencia orange harvest remained slow. Rind puff was observed in some larger sized fruit. Picking of lemons was active in Ventura County. Overall quality remained very good. Marsh Ruby, Marsh White, and Star Ruby grapefruit varieties were picked in the southern coastal areas. Flavor and eating quality was very good in the Marsh Ruby variety. Texture is smooth in all sizes of the March White variety. Star Ruby quality is good to excellent.

FRUIT ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION

Apples - California's 2004 apple crop forecast is 220,000 tons, down 2 percent from 2003. Acreage is estimated at 26,000 acres, resulting in a yield of 8.45 tons per acre. The 2004 apple crop got off to an early start. Harvesting began eight days earlier than normal for the Gala variety. Growers began harvesting the week of July 19 in the San Joaquin Valley. The warm weather received during the spring was responsible for the advanced crop. The spring heat wave, however, caused the fruit to be smaller. Color on the Gala variety is very good, while the overall quality of the Granny Smith variety is excellent.

Grapes - The 2004 grape harvest got off to one of the earliest starts ever with many vineyards reported to be 2-4 weeks ahead of normal. Grapes matured early due to weather conditions and a light crop. Wine-type variety grape production for California is forecast at 2.90 million tons, unchanged from the July forecast, but down slightly from 2003. Bins of harvested grapes were trucked to wineries for processing. Some wineries in parts of Northern California started pressing grapes for Champagne. The table-type grape production is expected to total 750,000 tons, unchanged from the July forecast, but 2 percent above last year. Table grape harvest was in full-swing in Kern and Fresno counties. Flame Seedless, Red Globe, Princess, and Black Seedless were the primary table-type varieties being harvested. The California raisin-type variety grape forecast is 2.05 million tons, unchanged from the July forecast, but down 5 percent from 2003. Harvesting of raisin-type grapes was active in the San Joaquin Valley. Thompson Seedless was the primary raisin-type variety harvested.

GRAPE PRODUCTION FOR SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

Crop and State	2002	2003	2004 Forecast
	Tons		
California:			
All Varieties	6,696,000	5,790,000	5,700,000
Raisin Varieties	2,804,000	2,149,000	2,050,000
Table Varieties	743,000	732,000	750,000
Wine Varieties	3,149,000	2,909,000	2,900,000
Michigan	42,700	94,500	70,000
New York	156,000	198,000	149,000
Pennsylvania	53,200	85,000	69,000
Washington	332,000	344,000	310,000
Other States ^{1/}	59,000	61,230	63,400
United States	7,338,900	6,572,730	6,361,400

^{1/} Includes Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, and Virginia.

Pears - The forecast of the 2004 Bartlett pear crop in California is 230,000 tons, up 6 percent from 2003. Harvesting of Bartlett pears in abundant quantities continued in the Central Valley, with the transition to the Lake-Mendocino District currently underway. Harvesting began relatively early this season, as the crop matured quickly under ideal weather conditions. The favorable conditions also resulted in a crop with high sugar content, large fruit sizes, and good external quality. The 2004 other pear forecast for California is 48,000 tons, down 13 percent from 2003. Red, Bosc, and Asian pears were among the varieties being harvested. Overall crop quality was reported to be very good, as a result of excellent growing conditions this season.

FLORIDA CITRUS

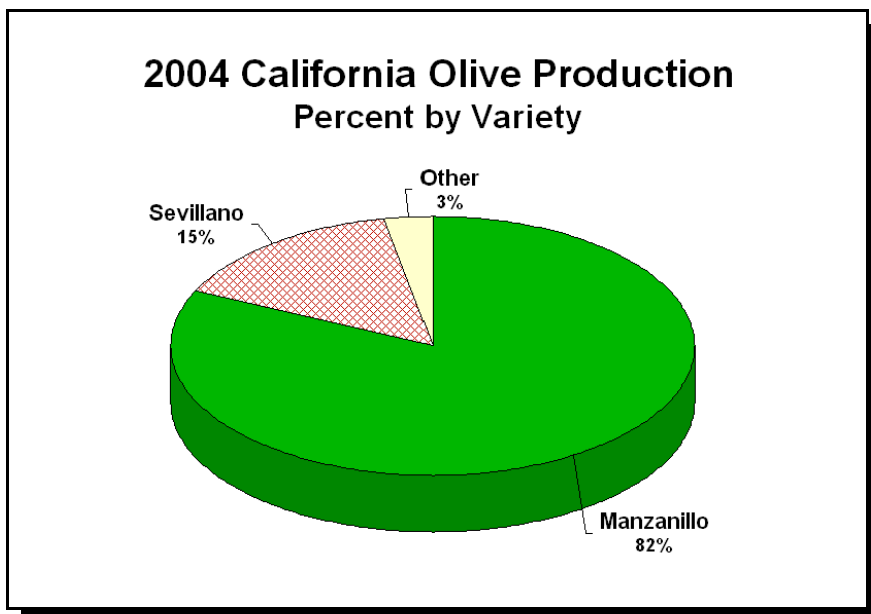
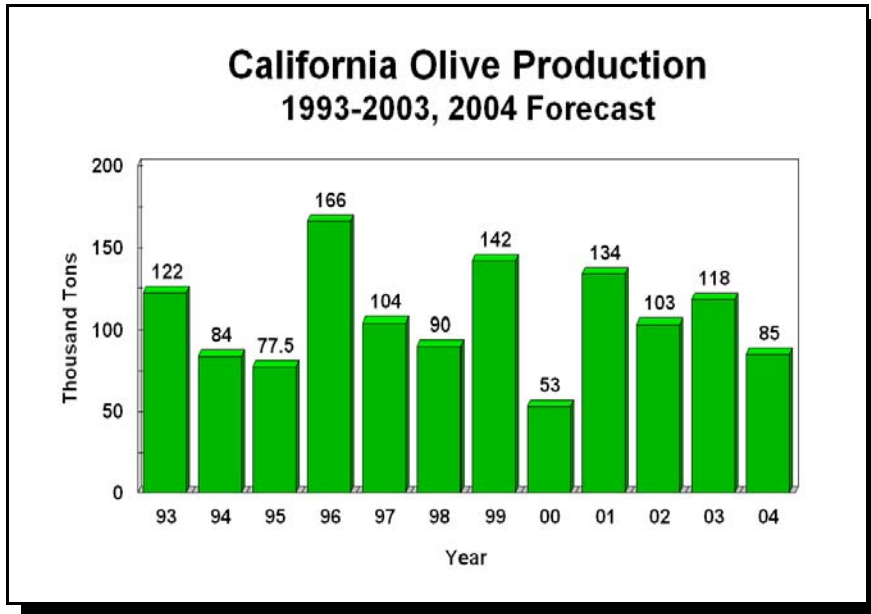
Rainfall during July was generally below average in most citrus growing areas with some reporting stations recording only minimal amounts. Temperatures were generally at or above normal levels with days in the mid to upper 90's and lows in the high 70's. The limited rains occurred in heavy thunderstorms with severe lightning and sometimes high winds. West coast areas received the most precipitation with some stations recording more than nine inches for the month, but other areas reported only minimal amounts all month. Many growers and caretakers used irrigation equipment to provide water and maintain adequate soil moisture levels. Trees in the well-cared-for groves are reported in good condition despite infrequent rains. Trees of all ages show a moderate summer flush of new growth. New crop fruit is progressing well with below to average sizes reported. No abnormal disease or insect outbreaks are reported. Caretakers were very active during July mowing, chopping, and discing cover crops. Summer fertilizers were being applied along with herbicides for weed control. Growers are cutting vines out of their trees. Hedging and topping slowed during the month. Dead trees are being pushed out and burned. New resets are being planted in larger groves with permanent irrigation. Planting of grapefruit trees in east coast areas has been heavy all spring with a temporary shortage of trees reported.

For information on part-time jobs collecting agricultural data in your local area, please call 1-800-851-1127.

CALIFORNIA OLIVE FORECAST FOR 2004

California's 2004 olive crop forecast is 85,000 tons, down 28 percent compared to last year's 118,000 tons. Bearing acreage decreased 11 percent from 36,000 acres last year to 32,000 acres in 2004. The yield, at 2.66 tons per acre, is 19 percent lower than the 2003 yield. The olive crop is alternate bearing, with this year representing the low year of overall production. The crop in southern areas of the State, Tulare County, is spotty and light. The heat wave at the end of April through the beginning of May scorched the bloom and resulted in a poor set. The crop in northern areas, Tehama and Glenn counties, looks good overall. The Sevillano variety is light, but the Manzanillo crop is heavy, and the quality is good.

The Manzanillo and Sevillano olive varieties are expected to produce 82 percent and 15 percent of the total olive crop, respectively. The remaining 3 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 75,000 tons will be canned with the remaining 10,000 tons used for olive oil and other specialty products.



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