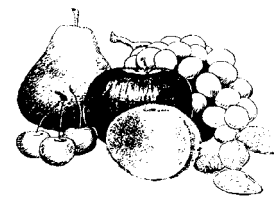


California Fruit & Nut Review



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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

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lemons, pummelos, tangerines, and clementines. The Navel crop exhibited some internal frost damage in citrus packing sheds. Some Navel trees began to exhibit fruit-drop as a result of recent freezing temperatures followed by rain. Citrus fruit maturity and external color were excellent.

DECEMBER FRUIT COMMENTS

Seasonal cultural activities continued in tree fruit orchards and grape vineyards, but wet weather at the end of the month slowed activities in some areas. Fieldwork included, pruning, shredding, spraying weeds, and applying pre-emergent herbicides and dormant sprays. Trees and vines in older orchards and vineyards were pushed out, stacked and burned, and the land was prepared for new plantings. Trees that blew down during the fall storms were removed from productive orchards. Harvesting of pomegranates continued into December, but was complete in most locations by the end of the first week. Persimmons, however, were harvested throughout the month, but harvest was near completion by month's end. Digging of strawberry, cane-berry, and bare root nursery stock was underway. Avocado harvesting was ongoing during the course of the month. Olive orchards were pruned and brush was shredded. Growers continued pruning, shredding, and applying pre-emergent herbicide applications in nut orchards. Removal of non-productive orchards and trees that blew down during recent storms, also continued. Walnut orchards were fumigated. Hulling and shelling of stockpiled nuts were complete by the end of December. Pre-emergent herbicides and whitewash were applied in citrus groves. Citrus crops harvested included Navel oranges, Rio Red grapefruit, Satsuma mandarins,

FLORIDA CITRUS

Florida's citrus growing areas experienced mostly dry weather with moderate temperatures during most of December. Near the end of the month, temperatures reached the low 30's for very short durations in some northern and central locations. No damage or loss was reported. Most stations reported variable amounts of rainfall, from trace amounts to several inches. Most rainfall fell during the third week of the month. 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 good progress with no major problems reported. Fruit sizes are reported small for all types. Growers are conducting typical winter cultural practices including weed and cover crop control, dead tree removal and replacement, and hedging in southern areas. Clean up of groves affected by the hurricanes continues, including removal of blown over and split trees, and ditch and furrow maintenance. Several fresh fruit packing houses did not open this season, but others were packing Navel, Hamlin, and Pineapple oranges; Temples; limited amounts of white and colored grapefruit; and Sunburst and Honey tangerines. All processors are open to receive packinghouse eliminations and field run early oranges. Harvest labor has been slow to come to the State with spot shortages reported.

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 25, 2005
Pecans	2,600	2,600	1,420	1,310	3,700	3,400	-8	January 25, 2005
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	88,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	28,000	---		
Total	88,000	---	1,350	---	119,000	---		January 25, 2005
Walnuts (In-Shell)	213,000	217,000	Tons		1,000 Tons			
			1.53	1.50	326.0	325.0	N/C	January 25, 2005
FRUIT CROPS					1,000 Tons			
Apples	26,000	26,000	8.65	8.46	225.0	220.0	-2	January 25, 2005
Apricots	16,500	16,000	5.61	5.63	92.5	90.0	-3	January 25, 2005
Cherries	25,000	26,000	2.75	2.50	68.8	65.0	-6	January 25, 2005
Grapes, Raisin 1/ 2/	255,000	244,000	8.43	8.40	2,149.0	2,050.0	-5	January 25, 2005
Grapes, Table	85,000	83,000	8.61	9.04	732.0	750.0	2	January 25, 2005
Grapes, Wine	479,000	473,000	6.07	5.71	2,909.0	2,700.0	-7	January 25, 2005
Grapes, All	819,000	800,000	7.07	6.88	5,790.0	5,500.0	-5	January 25, 2005
Olives	36,000	32,000	3.28	2.66	118.0	85.0	-28	January 25, 2005
Peaches, Clingstone	31,000	32,500	17.30	17.70	536.0	575.0	7	January 25, 2005
Peaches, Freestone	37,000	37,000	11.20	10.50	413.0	390.0	-6	January 25, 2005
Pears, Bartlett	13,000	13,000	16.70	17.70	217.0	230.0	6	January 25, 2005
Pears, Other	4,300	4,000	12.80	12.00	55.0	48.0	-13	January 25, 2005
Plums, Dried	72,000	70,000	2.51	1.00	181.0	70.0	-61	January 25, 2005
BERRIES			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
Strawberries	29,600	33,200	620	590	18,352	19,588	7	January 25, 2005
CITRUS CROPS 3/	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05		
			Cartons		1,000 Cartons			
Grapefruit	12,500	12,500	864	848	10,800	10,600	-2	April 8, 2005
Lemons	45,000	44,000	800	886	36,000	39,000	8	April 8, 2005
Oranges, Navel	130,000	130,500	585	674	76,000	88,000	16	April 8, 2005
Oranges, Valencia	52,000	48,000	538	688	28,000	33,000	18	March 10, 2005
Tangerines 4/	10,500	11,300	514	513	5,400	5,800	7	April 8, 2005

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

2/ Fresh basis.

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 2004-05 California Navel orange forecast is 88.0 million cartons, down 4 percent from the October forecast, but up 16 percent from last season's crop. The crop matured quickly over the summer, but sizing slowed somewhat in September. Freezing temperatures in several growing regions resulted in fruit-drop in many areas. Harvesting was still underway at the end of December, but was slowed by rainfall as some growers sought to avoid bruising the wet fruit. Overall fruit quality was less favorable than last year, with puff and protruding ends among the major problems observed. The harvested fruit had generally fair tasting quality. The 2004-05 Valencia orange forecast is 33.0 million cartons, up slightly from the October forecast, and up 18 percent from last season's crop. The crop was reported to be of generally good quality. Fruit sizes were significantly larger than last year and well above the five-year average. Acreage continued to decline due to pressure from development and other economic concerns.

Grapefruit - The 2004-05 California grapefruit forecast is 10.6 million cartons, up 2 percent from the October forecast, but down 2 percent from last season. Market conditions for the crop continued to be very strong as a result of the extensive losses in Florida. Pummelos were harvested in the Central Valley. Exterior quality was reported to be excellent, texture was smooth in all sizes, and shape was normal. Rio Red variety was harvested in the desert region. Exterior quality was reported to be fair, but flavor and eating quality were reported as excellent.

Lemons - The 2004-05 California lemon forecast is 39.0 million cartons, up 8 percent from last season, but unchanged from October. Harvesting of lemons was disrupted by rain, but continued in all three districts as weather permitted. Overall quality was very good to date. Citrus growers seemed to escape serious damage from freezing temperatures that pushed into the Central Valley in late November.

Tangerines - The 2004-05 California tangerine forecast is 5.80 million cartons, up 7 percent from last season, but unchanged from October. Satsuma mandarin, tangerine, and clementine harvests were slowed by rain, but continued as weather permitted in the San Joaquin Valley. Favorable yields and good fruit maturity were reported.

CITRUS FRUIT PRODUCTION BY STATE AND U.S.

Crop and State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 Forecast
	1,000 Cartons		
ORANGES: 1/			
California, All	124,000	104,000	121,000
Navel & Misc.	84,000	76,000	88,000
Valencia	40,000	28,000	33,000
Florida	406,000	484,000	324,000
Texas	3,140	3,300	3,500
Arizona	940	940	860
ALL U.S. ORANGES	534,080	592,240	449,360
GRAPEFRUIT: 2/			
California	11,200	10,800	10,600
Florida	77,400	81,800	26,000
Texas	11,300	11,400	12,400
Arizona	260	280	360
ALL U.S. GRAPEFRUIT	100,160	104,280	49,360
LEMONS: 3/			
California	48,000	36,000	39,000
Arizona	6,000	6,000	4,800
ALL U.S. LEMONS	54,000	42,000	43,800
TANGERINES: 4/			
California 5/	5,600	5,400	5,800
Florida 6/	11,000	13,000	9,000
Arizona 5/	860	1,380	900
ALL U.S. TANGERINES	17,460	19,780	15,700

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 Fallglo, Sunburst and Honey for 2002-03.