

California Fruit & Nut Review



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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

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Bing cherries, Super Rich and Sugar Snow peaches, Golden Sweet apriums, Red Beaut plums, Flavorosa pluots, and Zee Fire and Red Roy nectarines. Excellent demand and market prices were reported by cherry growers, but rainy spring weather resulted in a high percentage of split fruit in most cherry producing areas. Pomegranates were in full bloom by the end of May. There was severe hail damage in a small area of Yuba County the last week of the month. Approximately 90 percent of the fruit varieties in the 50-acre affected area were destroyed, and there was some leaf damage noted on persimmons and kiwifruit. Aside from the leaf damage, kiwifruit set appeared to be very good. Blueberry and strawberry harvesting continued. Blueberry growers were experiencing a good harvest with very good sized fruit, however, the recent rains caused some minor splitting damage to fruit in some areas. Boysenberries and blackberries were at the beginning of harvest. At month's end, a few citrus packers continued to pack Navel oranges, but the season was rapidly coming to a close. Valencia orange harvest continued with maturity and quality remaining good. Some orchards were being size picked for the larger sizes, leaving the smaller ones to size later into the season. Grapefruit varieties were harvested in the Southern Coastal area and the Coachella Valley. Citrus growers were monitoring their orchards and spraying for cutworms, thrips, and red mites. Citrus bloom came to an end, but olives and avocados continued to bloom.

MAY CROP COMMENTS

Fruit thinning and weed control activities continued in most tree fruit orchards during May, and grape, tree fruit, and nut growers continued their seasonal cycle of irrigation and cultivation. Table grapes in the San Joaquin Valley were suckered and bloom sprayed for size. Grape canes continued to push, and growers applied fungicides to vines for fungus and mildew control. Many almond growers were applying pesticides and fungicides in their orchards, and walnut growers treated their orchards for blight and codling moths. Almond growers were reporting a lighter crop than last year, but larger nut size. Harvesting of stone fruit began slowly the second week of the month due to unsettled weather conditions. Picking and packing increased toward month's end, however, with the arrival of warmer temperatures and increased fruit maturity. Stone fruit varieties harvested included Earlicot and Flavorella apricots, Ranier and

FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Update
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005		
NUT CROPS	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled) <u>1/</u>	550,000	550,000	1,840	1,550	1,010,000	850,000	-16	June 30, 2005
Pecans	2,600	---	1,380	---	3,600	---	-3	October 12, 2005
Pistachio (In-Shell)	---	---	---	---	255,000	---		
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	93,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Total	93,000	---	3,740	---	348,000	---		July 6, 2005
Walnuts (In-Shell) <u>2/</u>	217,000	---	1.50	---	325.0	---		September 2, 2005
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples	26,000	---	7.88	---	205.0	---		July 6, 2005
Apricots	16,000	14,500	5.88	5.86	94.0	85.0	-10	July 6, 2005
Cherries	26,000	28,000	2.81	1.61	73.0	45.0	-38	January 2006
Grapes, Raisin <u>3/</u>	244,000	---	7.91	---	1,930.0	---		July 6, 2005
Grapes, Table	83,000	---	8.80	---	730.0	---		July 6, 2005
Grapes, Wine	473,000	---	5.71	---	2,700.0	---		July 6, 2005
Grapes, All <u>3/</u>	800,000	---	6.70	---	5,360.0	---		July 6, 2005
Olives	32,000	---	3.25	---	104.0	---		July 6, 2005
Peaches, Clingstone <u>4/</u>	32,000	30,400	16.80	16.80	539.0	510.0	-5	August 12, 2005
Peaches, Freestone <u>4/</u>	37,000	36,000	11.10	11.40	410.0	410.0	N/C	July 6, 2005
Pears, Bartlett	13,000	12,500	17.00	16.00	221.0	200.0	-10	July 6, 2005
Pears, Other	4,000	---	12.00	---	48.0	---		July 6, 2005
Prunes (Dried Weight)	70,000	67,000	0.70	1.57	49.0	105.0	114	January 2006
BERRIES								
Strawberries	33,200	34,300	590	580	19,588	19,894	2	July 8, 2005
CITRUS CROP <u>5/</u>	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05		
			Cartons		1,000 Cartons			
Grapefruit	12,500	12,500	864	864	10,800	10,800	N/C	July 12, 2005
Lemons	45,000	44,000	800	886	36,000	39,000	8	July 12, 2005
Oranges, Navel	130,000	130,500	585	659	76,000	86,000	13	July 12, 2005
Oranges, Valencia	52,000	45,500	538	791	28,000	36,000	29	July 12, 2005
Tangerines <u>6/</u>	10,500	11,300	514	531	5,400	6,000	11	July 12, 2005

1/ Almond Objective Measurement Report will be released June 30, 2005 at 12:00 p.m. PDT

2/ Walnut Objective Measurement Report will be released September 1, 2005 at 12:00 p.m. PDT

3/ Raisin Grape Objective Measurement Report will be released August 12, 2005 at 5:30 a.m. PDT

4/ Estimated production for 2005 carried forward from June.

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.

Apricots - The 2005 California apricot crop forecast is 85.0 thousand tons, down 10 percent from the 2004 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 14.5 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 5.86 tons per acre. Commencement of bloom was early this year because of the warming impact of a mild El Nino Southern Oscillation. Bloom occurred during a window when most of the growing areas had dry weather. Bloom was heavy, but growers reported heavy drop by mid-March. What initially promised to be a bumper crop is now just one of average size. Cool spring temperatures slowed fruit development and pushed harvest back to a more normal starting time. Unsettled late spring weather, including hail storms, caused some damage in the southern San Joaquin Valley. The wet spring weather resulted in some shot hole and brown rot problems. Generally the fruit was sizing out well. Harvest began the end of April, though was initially slow relative to recent years. Significant acreage has been pulled, particularly of the productive Patterson variety.

Cherries, Sweet - The 2005 California sweet cherry crop forecast is 45.0 thousand tons, down 38 percent from the 2004 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 28.0 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 1.61 tons per acre. A series of heavy, late-season storms that swept through Tulare County and up the San Joaquin Valley wreaked havoc with this year's crop. The rains swept through the valley from April 28 through May 9, peak harvesting time in the southern portion of the valley. The excess moisture caused some splitting and cracking, making the fruit unmarketable. Some growers lost 60 to 100 percent of their crops.

Peaches - The 2005 California Freestone peach crop forecast is 410 thousand tons, unchanged from the May forecast and the 2004 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 36.0 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 11.40 tons per acre. California experienced an adequate number of chilling hours, thus benefitting the crop. Bloom was delayed a bit due to cool weather. Cool temperatures during the spring allowed the fruit to size better than last year's crop. Harvest continued with Spring Snow, Crimson Lady, Brittney Lane, and Crown Princess varieties being picked. Quality is reported to be very good to date. The 2005 California Clingstone peach crop forecast is 510 thousand tons, unchanged from the May forecast, but down 5 percent from the 2004 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 30.4 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 16.80 tons per acre. California experienced ideal weather conditions during the bloom period. Full bloom was about a week ahead of last year, but harvest is expected to be delayed slightly from last year due to cooler than average temperatures experienced during April. Set is expected to be lighter than a year ago, but fruit size is excellent throughout the State. Harvest is expected to begin around June 23.

Pears, Bartlett - The 2005 California Bartlett pear crop forecast is 200 thousand tons, down 10 percent from the 2004 crop. The Bartlett crop is down considerably at this time due to the rains hampering progression in orchards that are typically dry at this time of year. The late season rains have caused a lot of the fruit to be unmarketable.

Prunes (Dried Plums) - The 2005 California prune crop forecast is 105 thousand dried tons, up 114 percent from the 2004 crop of 49.0 thousand tons. Bearing acreage is estimated at 67.0 thousand acres, down 4 percent from the previous year. The prune crop again suffered damage from high March temperatures during bloom. Hail damage was also reported in some areas. However, this year's crop is expected to be better than last year's, which was the smallest on record since official estimates began in 1920.

FLORIDA CITRUS

Florida's weather in May in the citrus areas was moderate with most daytime temperatures in the 80's with high humidity levels. Lows at night were in the 60's and 70's, somewhat normal for this time of year. Dry conditions were the general rule with only several days of rainfall. However, late in the month a low pressure system moved across the State bringing moderate rainfall. This pattern extended into the first of June. Harvest was virtually halted and processing plants were forced to temporarily shut down. Groves and trees are generally in good condition with small fruit for next season beginning to develop.

Early mid-season harvest is complete. Weekly Valencia orange harvest was only at 5.50 million boxes or below during the middle of May. Grapefruit harvest for fresh shipments decreased during the month as export shipments ended for the season. Harvest for processing declined during the month and was mostly complete by the end of the month. Honey tangerine and Temple harvests are complete.

FRUIT PRODUCTION FOR SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

Crop and State	2003	2004	2005 Forecast
	Tons		
APRICOTS			
California	92,500	94,000	85,000
CHERRIES, SWEET			
California	65,600	73,000	45,000
Oregon	41,000	43,000	35,000
Washington	118,000	133,000	120,000
Total 1/	224,600	249,000	200,000
PEACHES			
California Total	949,000	949,000	920,000
Clingstone 2/	536,000	539,000	510,000
Freestone	413,000	410,000	410,000
Georgia	55,000	52,500	45,000
South Carolina	50,000	70,000	80,000
Total	1,054,000	1,071,500	1,045,000
PEARS, BARTLETT			
California	217,000	221,000	200,000
Oregon	54,000	62,000	62,000
Washington	185,000	178,000	175,000
Total	456,000	461,000	437,000
PRUNES (Dried Wt.)			
California 3/	181,000	49,000	105,000

- 1/ The first production forecast for sweet cherries in Idaho, Michigan, Montana, New York, and Utah and tart cherries in Michigan, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin will be published in the "Cherry Production" report released June 23, 2005.
- 2/ California Clingstone is over-the-scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.
- 3/ Revised 2004 data.

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 2/	124,000	104,000	122,000
Navel & Misc. 2/	84,000	76,000	86,000
Valencia 2/	40,000	28,000	36,000
Florida	406,000	484,000	302,400
Texas 2/	3,140	3,300	3,960
Arizona 2/	940	940	860
ALL U.S. ORANGES	534,080	592,240	429,220
GRAPEFRUIT 3/			
California 2/	11,200	10,800	10,800
Florida	77,400	81,800	25,600
Texas 2/	11,300	11,400	13,000
Arizona 2/	260	280	320
ALL U.S. GRAPEFRUIT	100,160	104,280	49,720
LEMONS 2/ 4/			
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 5/			
California 2/ 6/	5,600	5,400	6,000
Florida 7/	11,000	13,000	8,900
Arizona 2/ 6/	860	1,380	800
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/ Estimate for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.
- 3/ Grapefruit: Arizona and 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 2002-03 through 2003-04 include Fallglo, Sunburst, and Honey varieties only.

TREE NUTS (SHELLED BASIS) PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION, 1977-78 TO DATE

Season 1/	Almonds	Hazelnuts	Pecans	Walnuts	Macadamias	Pistachios	Other 2/	Total 3/
	Pounds							
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	0.59	0.10	0.52	0.38	0.05	0.13	0.55	2.32
1994-95	0.53	0.07	0.48	0.44	0.06	0.13	0.49	2.21
1995-96	0.48	0.09	0.38	0.38	0.05	0.12	0.42	1.92
1996-97	0.58	0.02	0.47	0.32	0.06	0.06	0.51	2.03
1997-98	0.56	0.07	0.46	0.36	0.07	0.14	0.53	2.18
1998-99	0.60	0.05	0.49	0.38	0.07	0.15	0.52	2.25
1999-00	0.98	0.10	0.39	0.51	0.08	0.18	0.53	2.75
2000-01	0.82	0.07	0.47	0.44	0.07	0.21	0.47	2.54
2001-02	0.66	0.10	0.48	0.42	0.07	0.20	0.69	2.62
2002-03	0.83	0.08	0.43	0.47	0.06	0.21	0.78	2.86
2003-04 4/	0.87	0.05	0.31	0.50	0.08	0.19	0.93	2.93

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 2004 ACREAGE ESTIMATES

The table below contains revised acreage estimates for 2004 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 database 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, 2004 CROP

Crop	Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
	Acres		
Almonds	550,000	70,000	620,000
Grapes, All	800,000	53,000	853,000
Raisin	244,000	4,000	248,000
Table	83,000	9,000	92,000
Wine	473,000	40,000	513,000
Prunes	70,000	7,000	77,000
Walnuts	217,000	N/A	217,000

To receive the detailed 2004 GRAPE ACREAGE BULLETIN released on June 1, 2005, 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 Adobe Acrobat, Excel and Lotus.

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