

# California Fruit & Nut Review



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## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Fruit and Nut Summary .....	1-2
Fruit Acreage and Production — Florida Citrus .....	2
Olive Probability Report — Raisin Grape O.M. Results ..	3

## JULY GENERAL COMMENTS

Fruit and nut growers continued summer cultural activities during the month including cultivation, weed control, and irrigation. Some harvested tree fruit blocks were being topped, fertilized, and irrigated. Stone fruit harvesting continued during the month of July. Overall, the quality of the harvested stone fruit was very good, but the summer heat caused some damage in more sensitive varieties. Stone fruit varieties harvested included Golden Sweet apricots; Elegant Lady, Zee Lady, and Klondike White peaches; Black Amber, Catalina, Friar, and Flavorich plums; Dapple Fire, Dapple Dandy, and Flavor Grenade pluots;

and Ruby Diamond, Ruby Pearl, Grand Pearl, Kay Pearl, and Arctic Joy nectarines. Black Mission and Brown Turkey figs were harvested with good yields reported. Pomegranates were blooming, and fruit was sizing well. Sansui Asian Pears were harvested in the San Joaquin Valley with very large sizes reported. In northern areas of the State, Bartlett pear harvesting began. Gala apple harvest commenced in parts of the San Joaquin Valley at the end of July, and some apple harvesting also began in areas of Northern California. Blackberry harvesting continued throughout the month in the San Joaquin Valley with good yields reported. Most Central Valley strawberry growers began plowing their fields in preparation for fall planting, but harvesting continued in the Central Coast region. Almond hull split was underway in almond orchards prompting growers to begin preparing their orchards for harvest. Water needs of walnut, almond, and pistachio groves were closely assessed by growers in order to help with heat stress.

*Continued on Page 2*

## 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		
<b>NUT CROPS</b>	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled)	550,000	550,000	1,840	1,600	1,010,000	880,000	-13	January 2006
Pecans	2,600	---	1,380	---	3,600	---		October 12, 2005
Pistachio (In-Shell)	---	---	---	---	254,000	---		
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	93,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Total	93,000	---	3,730	---	347,000	---		January 2006
Walnuts (In-Shell) 1/	217,000	---	1.50	---	325.0	---		September 1, 2005
<b>FRUIT CROPS</b>								
Apples	26,000	25,000	7.50	8.20	195.0	205.0	5	January 2006
Apricots	16,000	14,500	5.88	5.86	94.0	85.0	-10	January 2006
Cherries	26,000	28,000	2.81	1.61	73.0	45.0	-38	January 2006
Grapes, Raisin	244,000	242,000	8.32	9.50	2,030.0	2,300.0	13	October 12, 2005
Grapes, Table	83,000	84,000	9.28	9.40	770.0	790.0	5	October 12, 2005
Grapes, Wine 2/	473,000	474,000	5.95	6.22	2,815.0	2,950.0	5	October 12, 2005
Grapes, All	800,000	800,000	7.02	7.55	5,615.0	6,040.0	8	October 12, 2005
Olives	32,000	32,000	3.25	3.91	104.0	125.0	20	January 2006
Peaches, Clingstone 2/	32,000	30,400	16.80	17.40	539.0	530.0	-2	January 2006
Peaches, Freestone 2/	37,000	36,000	11.80	11.40	436.0	410.0	-6	January 2006
Pears, Bartlett	13,000	12,000	17.20	15.00	223.0	180.0	-19	January 2006
Pears, Other	4,000	4,000	12.00	11.25	48.0	45.0	-6	January 2006
Plums, Dried	70,000	67,000	0.70	1.57	49.0	105.0	114	January 2006
<b>BERRIES</b>			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
Strawberries	33,200	34,300	590	575	19,588	19,723	1	January 2006
<b>CITRUS CROPS 3/</b>	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05		
			Cartons		1,000 Cartons			
Grapefruit, All	12,500	12,500	864	864	10,800	10,800	N/C	September 22, 2005
Lemons	45,000	44,000	800	864	36,000	38,000	6	September 22, 2005
Oranges, Navel	130,000	130,500	585	659	76,000	86,000	13	September 12, 2005
Oranges, Valencia	52,000	45,500	538	659	28,000	30,000	7	September 22, 2005
Tangerines 4/	10,500	11,300	514	531	5,400	6,000	11	September 22, 2005

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

2/ Estimated Production for 2005 was carried forward from July.

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.

**JULY GENERAL COMMENTS**  
(Continued from Page 1)

Codling moth treatment continued in walnut orchards. Broken limbs were reported in some walnut orchards in Yuba County due to the heavy crop. Fieldwork underway during the month in grape vineyards included insecticide and fungicide applications, cultivation, cane cutting, weed control, and irrigation. A few vineyards were being covered with netting for bird control, and some growers in the San Joaquin Valley reported extra culling due to brown rot caused by the extreme heat. Table grape harvesting began in many areas, including Flame Seedless, Thompson Seedless, Perlette, Black Emerald, Fantasy, Champagne, Red Globe, and Zante Currant varieties. By month's end, lighter exterior color of some harvested grapes was reported, resulting from the continued high temperatures.

During July, citrus groves were topped and hedged. Growers also monitored and sprayed for cutworms, thrips, and red mites. Valencia oranges continued to be harvested during the month, but at a slower than normal pace. Some citrus houses suspended their operations due to slow movement. By month's end, Valencia harvest was estimated to be 55-60 percent complete. Marsh Ruby and Star Ruby varieties of grapefruit were harvested in the southern coastal areas of the State. The Marsh Ruby quality was generally good, however, mild weather delayed the color resulting in pale colored fruit in most lots. The Star Ruby exterior and interior quality and color were excellent. Harvest of lemons in the South Coastal region continued during July, with good to fair conditions reported. Sunburn damage due to extreme temperatures affected some younger citrus trees that lacked canopy.

**FRUIT ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION**

**Apples** - California's 2005 apple crop forecast is 205 thousand tons, up 5 percent from 2004. Acreage is estimated at 25.0 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 8.20 tons per acre. Growers are expecting a promising 2005 California apple crop. A wet, cool spring brought some hail damage to the crop and raised some concerns about the long-term extent of the damage. However, cool temperatures during June heartened growers and helped enhance fruit color. Growers began harvesting the Gala variety the last week of July, and the fruit quality has been very good so far.

**Grapes** - Wine-type variety grape production for California is forecast at 2.95 million tons, unchanged from the July forecast, but up 5 percent from 2004. The table-type grape production is expected to total 790 thousand tons, down 2 percent from the July forecast, but up 3 percent from last year. The California raisin-type variety grape forecast is 2.30 million tons, down 6 percent from the July forecast, but up 13 percent from 2004. Bud break occurred in March for raisin and wine-type grapes, 1-2 weeks early, due to an early heat wave. The hot weather was followed by unusually cool and wet weather. Bunch counts were reported to be up statewide on most varieties. The wine and table-type grapes are reported to be in good condition for most varieties. The raisin crop looked promising early in the season, but the cool and wet spring brought on powdery mildew. To combat the mildew, sulfur was applied by many growers. Mite activity increased as temperatures once again soared, resulting in drying leaves and some sulfured grapes being burned. Harvest of the raisin and table type varieties for fresh use was active in Kern and Fresno counties; Thompson Seedless was the primary raisin-type variety harvested.

Flame Seedless, Red Globe, and Black Seedless were the primary table-type varieties being harvested. Overall, good size and quality were reported. Lighter exterior color of some harvested grapes was reported, however, as a result of the continued high temperatures.

**GRAPE PRODUCTION FOR SELECTED STATES AND U.S.**

Crop and State	2003	2004	2005 Forecast
	Tons		
California:			
All Varieties	5,861,000	5,615,000	6,040,000
Wine Varieties	2,909,000	2,815,000	2,950,000
Table Varieties	732,000	770,000	790,000
Raisin Varieties	2,220,000	2,030,000	2,300,000
Michigan	94,500	62,500	87,000
New York	198,000	142,000	160,000
Pennsylvania	85,000	86,800	80,000
Washington	344,000	267,000	375,000
Other States <sup>1/</sup>	61,030	58,400	58,900
United States	6,643,530	6,231,700	6,800,900

<sup>1/</sup> Includes Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, and Virginia.

**Pears** - The forecast of the 2005 Bartlett pear crop in California is 180 thousand tons, down 19 percent from 2004. The rains and cool temperatures that plagued much of the State during the spring destroyed a substantial portion of the Bartlett pear blossoms. As the season progressed, additional rain and hail damaged more fruit, making it unmarketable. The 2005 other pear forecast for California is 45.0 thousand tons, down 6 percent from 2004. Non-Bartlett pears continued to be harvested. Spring rains had a detrimental affect on the blooms, leaving the crop lighter than average. For those pears that were not affected by the rains and hail, overall crop quality was reported to be good.

**FLORIDA CITRUS**

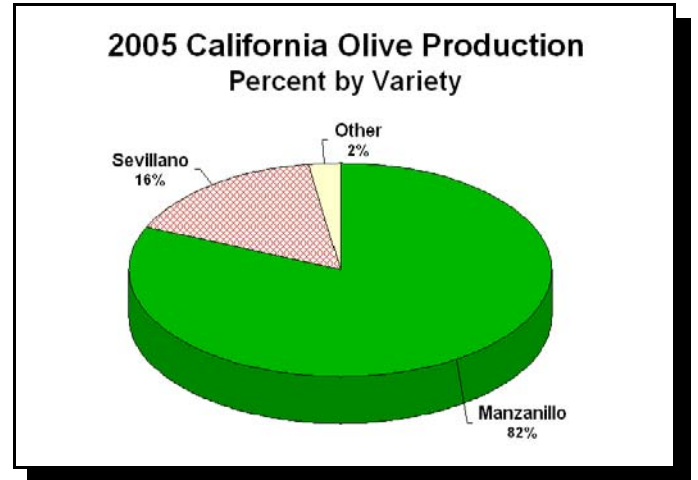
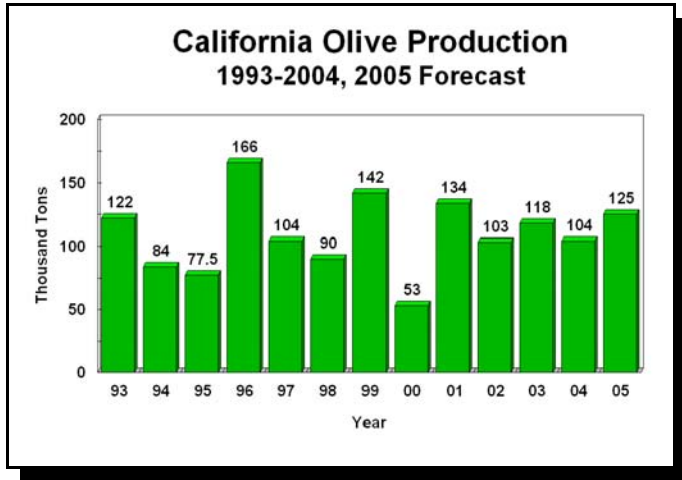
Florida's July weather in most of the citrus growing areas was rainy. Several low pressure and coastal storm systems occurred during the month with several weather stations reporting near record amounts of rain. Many of these systems were accompanied by severe lightning and high winds. Temperatures during the month were at or above normal levels, with days in the mid to upper 90's and lows in the high 70's.

Many growers and caretakers made sporadic use of irrigation equipment to maintain soil moisture levels. Trees, in the well-cared groves, are reported in good condition. Citrus trees of all ages show a good summer flush of new growth. New crop fruit is progressing well with average sizes reported. No abnormal disease or insect outbreaks were reported, other than the ongoing canker finds and outbreaks. Grove caretakers were very active during July mowing, chopping, and discing cover crops. Herbicides are being applied to control summer weed growth and fertilizers are also being applied. Citrus growers are cutting vines out of their trees. Hedging and topping slowed during the month. Dead trees are being pushed out and burned. Because of the canker finds in groves and nursery trees, only limited new plantings are occurring.

**CALIFORNIA OLIVE FORECAST FOR 2005**

California's 2005 olive crop forecast is 125,000 tons, up 20 percent compared to last year's 104,000 tons. Bearing acreage of 32,000 is unchanged from 2004, but the yield of 3.91 tons per acre is 20 percent higher than last year's yield. The olive crop is alternate bearing, and this year represents the higher year of overall production. The crop in northern areas of the State, however, was hit by bad weather during bloom resulting in a light and spotty fruit set. Rains, accompanied by hail and strong winds, burdened much of the area and knocked blossoms off the trees leaving the area with a light, inconsistent crop. The olive crop in southern areas was also hampered by rain during bloom, but was not damaged to the extent of the northern crop. Bloom was heavy and the rain affected the fruit set to some extent, but overall, the crop looks good.

The Manzanillo and Sevillano olive varieties are expected to produce 81.6 percent and 16 percent of the total olive crop, respectively. The remaining 2.4 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 115,000 tons will be canned with the remaining 10,000 tons used for olive oil and other specialty products.



**RAISIN TYPE GRAPE PRODUCTION DOWN FROM THE JULY FORECAST**

The California raisin type variety grape forecast is 2.30 million tons, up 13 percent from last year, but down 6 percent from the July forecast. Based on the objective measurement survey, bunches per vine totaled 40.9 compared to 30.7 recorded in 2001. Acreage of bearing age is 242,000.

As a result of the mildew and weather problems, production and overall quality of the raisin crop is expected to be down from the July forecast. Thompson Seedless variety grapes are currently being picked for fresh use in the San Joaquin Valley. Good size and quality are being reported.

The raisin crop looked promising early in the season based on bunch counts, which were reported to be up statewide for most varieties. Bud break occurred in March for raisin type grapes, 1-2 weeks early across the State, due to an early heat wave. The hot weather was followed by an unusually cool and wet spring that brought on powdery mildew. To combat the mildew, sulfur was applied by many growers. Mite activity increased as temperatures once again soared, which resulted in drying leaves and some sulfured grapes being burned.

The forecast is based on the results of the Raisin Grape Objective Measurement (O.M.) Survey conducted in July. The Raisin Administrative Committee provided funding for the 2005 Raisin O.M. Survey.

