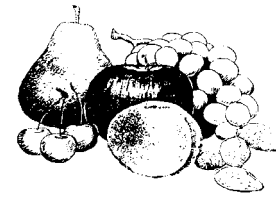


# California Fruit & Nut Review



Frequency: Monthly (except November)  
Released: January 19, 2006

(USPS 598-290)  
VOL. 26 NO. 1



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service,  
California Field Office

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Fruit and Nut Production .....	1
Citrus, California and U.S. ....	1-2

maturity was developing well. Pummelo and Oro Blanco variety grapefruit were harvested in the Central Valley, while the Rio Red variety was harvested in the desert areas of California. Applications of pre-emergent herbicides and whitewash were applied to citrus groves.

## DECEMBER FRUIT COMMENTS

Grape harvest was complete, with late variety table grape harvesting ending around mid-month. Some shippers, however, still had quite a few grapes in storage. Pomegranates, pecans, persimmons, apples, and kiwifruit were harvested early in the month, but by month's end harvest was complete. Grape, tree fruit, and nut growers began dormant season activities including pruning, brush shredding, cane tying, cultivation, weed control treatments, fertilizer and soil amendment applications, and cover-crop planting. Soil fumigation was also underway in a number of locations to prepare for planting of new orchards and vineyards. A few orchards were being prepared for grafting. Olive orchards continued to be pruned and brush shredded. Fieldwork was occasionally interrupted by rain, especially near the month's end when heavy rainfall fell across much of the State. Some river-bottom tree fruit and walnut orchards in Yuba and Sutter counties contained flowing water.

Foggy weather often delayed picking activities in citrus groves during the month. During December, Navel oranges, lemons, mandarins, and tangerines were harvested. Most Navel oranges picked required shorter gassing as rind color improved significantly. A large amount of the Valencia orange crop remained unharvested. Most Valencia oranges continued to go directly for juice, with only a few groves being selected for fresh pack. Blood orange

## FLORIDA CITRUS

December weather was moderate with mild days and nights during most of the month. On several mornings at the beginning of the month, temperatures dipped into the high 30's in northern citrus areas. Near the end of the month, light frost was observed on several mornings. Mid-month brought morning temperatures in the 50's with highs into the low 80's. Most stations reported variable amounts of rainfall ranging from trace amounts to several inches. 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. Growers are conducting typical winter cultural practices including weed and cover crop control, dead tree removal and replacement, and hedging in southern areas. The cleanup of groves affected by hurricane Wilma continued, including removal of blown over and spilt trees and ditch and furrow maintenance. Removal of trees due to citrus canker continues. Several fresh fruit packing houses did not open this season, but others were packing Navel, Hamlin, and Pineapple oranges, tangelos, white and colored grapefruit, and Sunburst tangerines. All processors, except one, are open to receive packinghouse eliminations and field run fruit. The average internal maturity levels of oranges have lagged all season and harvest has been delayed. Processors report good quality fruit with good juice color.

## 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 1/</b>	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled)	550,000	550,000	1,840	1,600	1,010,000	880,000	-13	January 24, 2006
Pecans	2,600	2,700	1,350	1,440	3,500	3,900	11	January 24, 2006
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	254,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	93,000	---		
Total	93,000	---	3,730	---	347,000	---		January 24, 2006
Walnuts (In-Shell)	217,000	219,000	Tons		1,000 Tons			
			1.50	1.55	325.0	340.0	5	January 24, 2006
<b>FRUIT CROPS 1/</b>								
Apples	26,000	25,000	7.50	8.20	195.0	205.0	5	January 24, 2006
Apricots	16,000	14,500	5.88	5.86	94.0	85.0	-10	January 24, 2006
Cherries	26,000	28,000	2.81	1.61	73.0	45.0	-38	January 24, 2006
Grapes, Raisin	244,000	242,000	8.32	9.50	2,030.0	2,300.0	13	January 24, 2006
Grapes, Table	83,000	84,000	9.28	9.40	770.0	790.0	5	January 24, 2006
Grapes, Wine	473,000	474,000	5.95	6.65	2,815.0	3,150.0	12	January 24, 2006
Grapes, All	800,000	800,000	7.02	7.80	5,615.0	6,240.0	11	January 24, 2006
Olives	32,000	32,000	3.25	3.91	104.0	125.0	20	January 24, 2006
Peaches, Clingstone	32,000	30,400	16.80	17.40	539.0	530.0	-2	January 24, 2006
Peaches, Freestone	37,000	36,000	11.80	11.40	436.0	410.0	-6	January 24, 2006
Pears, Bartlett	13,000	12,000	17.20	15.00	223.0	180.0	-19	January 24, 2006
Pears, Other	4,000	4,000	12.00	11.30	48.0	45.0	-6	January 24, 2006
Plums, Dried	70,000	67,000	0.70	1.57	49.0	105.0	114	January 24, 2006
<b>BERRIES</b>	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006		
Strawberries	34,300	35,800	Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
			---	---	---	---		January 24, 2006
<b>CITRUS CROPS 2/</b>	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06		
Grapefruit	12,500	12,500	Cartons		1,000 Cartons			
			928	960	11,600	12,000	3	April 10, 2006
Lemons 1/	44,000	42,000	864	905	38,000	38,000	N/A	April 10, 2006
Oranges, Navel 1/	130,500	131,000	659	641	86,000	84,000	-2	April 10, 2006
Oranges, Valencia	45,500	42,500	791	565	36,000	24,000	-33	March 10, 2006
Tangerines 3/	11,300	12,000	496	517	5,600	6,200	11	April 10, 2006

1/ Estimate for current year carried forward from previous forecast.

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

3/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.

**CITRUS FRUIT**

**Oranges** - The 2005-06 California Navel orange forecast is 84.0 million cartons (1,575,000 tons), unchanged from the October forecast, but 2 percent below last season's crop. The Navel harvest was well underway statewide, but there were some delays in picking due to the rainy, foggy weather. Fruit maturity has been good so far this season although the sizes are a little smaller than what has been seen the past several years. Fungicide applications were underway in some groves and irrigation was ongoing as needed. The 2005-06 Valencia orange forecast is 24.0 million cartons, decreasing 8 percent from the October forecast and 33 percent below last season's crop. The Valencia crop has developed normally and is maturing nicely in the orchards as harvest time draws near. Acreage pullouts continue to increase due to market pressures. Irrigation and pest treatments were ongoing as needed.

**Grapefruit** - The 2005-06 grapefruit production in California is forecast at 12.0 million cartons (201,000 tons), 3 percent above last season's final utilization. Market conditions for the 2005-06 California grapefruit crop continue 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 very smooth in all sizes and shape was normal. Rio Red variety grapefruit was harvested in the desert. Exterior quality was reported to be good. Shape was good with medium-to-coarse texture. Flavor and eating quality were reported to be good-to-fair. Oro Blanco variety grapefruit was harvested in both the Central Valley and the desert areas. Quality was good-to-excellent. Shape was normal and texture was smooth in all sizes.

**Lemons** - The 2005-06 California production is forecast at 38.0 million cartons (722,000 tons), unchanged from the 2004-05 season. Harvest is ongoing statewide, no problems have been reported and everything is progressing smoothly. Overall quality is very good.

**Tangerines** - The 2005-06 California's tangerine forecast is 6.20 million cartons (116,250 tons), 11 percent higher than last season's crop. Fog delayed picking of tangerines in December. Fairchild's had excellent exterior quality and smooth texture with fair flavor and eating quality. Otherwise, harvest progressed as usual with reports of good fruit maturity and color.

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

Crop and State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 Forecast
	1,000 Cartons		
<b>ORANGES: 1/</b>			
California, All	101,000	122,000	108,000
Navel & Misc.	79,000	86,000	84,000
Valencia	22,000	36,000	24,000
Florida	484,000	299,200	316,000
Texas	3,300	3,540	3,060
Arizona	940	860	900
<b>ALL U.S. ORANGES</b>	<b>589,240</b>	<b>425,600</b>	<b>427,960</b>
<b>GRAPEFRUIT: 2/</b>			
California	11,600	11,600	12,000
Florida	81,800	25,600	32,000
Texas	11,400	13,200	10,200
Arizona	280	280	200
<b>ALL U.S. GRAPEFRUIT</b>	<b>105,080</b>	<b>50,680</b>	<b>54,400</b>
<b>LEMONS: 3/</b>			
California	36,000	38,000	38,000
Arizona	6,000	4,800	7,600
<b>ALL U.S. LEMONS</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>42,800</b>	<b>45,600</b>
<b>TANGERINES: 4/</b>			
California 5/	4,400	5,600	6,200
Florida	13,000	8,900	11,400
Arizona 5/	1,380	800	1,000
<b>ALL U.S. TANGERINES</b>	<b>18,780</b>	<b>15,300</b>	<b>18,600</b>

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.