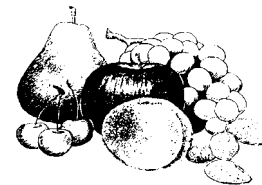


# California Fruit & Nut Review



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## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Fruit and Nut Production .....	1
Citrus and Strawberry Production .....	2
U.S. Per Capita Fruit Consumption .....	3

## MARCH CROP COMMENTS

Rainy weather continued to delay fieldwork and threatened fruit and nut crops during March. Growers applied fungicides to prevent fungus diseases that may result from the rainy conditions. By month's end, grape buds were starting to swell and open and leaves were beginning to appear. Vineyards were treated for weeds and several growers were French-plowing their rows. Soil amendments were applied in many vineyards and spray applications for vine mealy bugs continued throughout the month. Unsettled weather conditions hampered bee pollination activities on tree fruit. Some signs of scarring were noted in early variety plums, pluots, and nectarines. Apricot and cherry bloom was reported to be light and erratic with some damage expected in Tulare variety cherries due to the cold temperatures. Apple and pear trees were starting to bloom by month's end, while pomegranates began leafing out.

Kiwifruit plants were treated with dormant sprays. Strawberry plants showed growth throughout the month and were blooming by month's end. Most almond orchards were past bloom and beginning to leaf out by the end of the month. Bees were removed from some almond orchards. Many orchards were being treated to prevent shot hole disease. Cover crops were planted in some almond orchards to provide a longer nectar flow for the pollinating bees. Winter pruning and shredding, as well as some herbicide applications continued in walnut groves between rain storms. Avocado harvest began toward the end of March. Some olive groves were pruned.

Periods of rain during the month caused some delays and cancellations in harvesting of citrus fruit. Harvesting of Navel oranges continued throughout the month. Grade-out due to rind puff and small sizes continued to be a problem. Cooper, zinc, and lime fungicides were applied to oranges to meet export requirements. The Valencia orange harvest continued in the Coachella Valley and parts of the Central Valley. Lemons were harvested in many locations. Rios and pummelo grapefruit varieties were picked. Mandarins, tangelos, and tangerines were also picked and packed.

## 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) 1/	570,000	580,000	1,760	1,550	1,005,000	900,000	-10	May 1, 2006
Pecans	2,600	2,700	1,350	1,370	3,500	3,700	6	July 6, 2006
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	254,000	215,000	-15	
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	93,000	68,000	-27	
Total	93,000	98,000	3,730	2,890	347,000	283,000	-18	July 6, 2006
Walnuts (In-Shell) 2/	217,000	219,000	1.50	1.62	325.0	355.0	9	July 6, 2006
<b>FRUIT CROPS</b>								
Apples	26,000	25,000	6.83	7.40	177.5	185.0	4	July 6, 2006
Apricots	16,000	14,500	5.88	5.21	94.0	75.5	-20	June 9, 2006
Cherries	26,000	27,000	2.81	1.95	73.0	52.7	-28	June 9, 2006
Grapes, Raisin	244,000	242,000	8.35	8.68	2,038.0	2,100.0	3	July 6, 2006
Grapes, Table	83,000	84,000	9.28	9.88	770.0	830.0	8	July 6, 2006
Grapes, Wine	473,000	474,000	5.95	6.75	2,815.0	3,200.0	14	July 6, 2006
Grapes, All	800,000	800,000	7.03	7.66	5,623.0	6,130.0	9	July 6, 2006
Olives	32,000	32,000	3.25	4.34	104.0	139.0	34	July 6, 2006
Peaches, Clingstone	32,000	30,400	16.80	15.90	539.0	484.0	-10	May 12, 2006
Peaches, Freestone	37,000	36,000	11.80	10.70	436.0	385.0	-12	May 12, 2006
Pears, Bartlett	13,000	12,000	17.20	13.70	223.0	164.0	-26	June 9, 2006
Pears, Other	4,000	4,000	12.00	9.00	48.0	36.0	-25	July 6, 2006
Plums, Dried 3/	70,000	67,000	0.70	1.34	49.0	90.0	84	May 25, 2006
<b>BERRIES</b>	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006		
Strawberries	34,300	35,800	600	620	20,580	22,196	8	July 10, 2006
<b>CITRUS CROPS 4/</b>	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06		
			Cartons		1,000 Cartons			
Grapefruit 5/	12,500	12,500	928	960	11,600	12,000	3	July 12, 2006
Lemons 5/	44,000	42,000	864	905	38,000	38,000	N/A	July 12, 2006
Oranges, Navel 5/	130,500	131,000	659	641	86,000	84,000	-2	July 12, 2006
Oranges, Valencia 5/ 6/	45,500	45,000	901	489	41,000	22,000	-46	July 12, 2006
Tangerines 7/	11,300	12,000	496	633	5,600	8,000	43	July 12, 2006

1/ Almond Subjective Forecast Report released May 10 at 12:00 PM. Almond Objective Measurement Report released June 29 at 12:00 PM.

2/ Walnut Objective Measurement Report released September 1 at 12:00 PM PDT.

3/ Dried Plum (Prune) Forecast Report released June 2 at 12:00 PM.

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

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

6/ Revised 2004-05 data.

7/ Includes tangelos, tangerines and tangors.

**CALIFORNIA CITRUS**

**Navel Oranges** - The 2005-06 Navel orange forecast is 84.0 million cartons, unchanged from the January 2006 forecast, but down 2 percent from last season. Wet weather has slowed Navel orange harvest throughout citrus producing areas of California. Cooler March temperatures slowed fruit maturation, which was helping the fruit remaining on trees to hold fairly well. Several locations were experiencing rind-breakdown. The crop was damaged in many southern California orchards by severe winds, which caused fruit scarring and injuries.

**Valencia Oranges** - The 2005-06 Valencia orange forecast remains at 22.0 million cartons based on the March Objective Measurement Survey. The crop is expected to be down 46 percent from last season. The Valencia orange harvest began mid-month in the Central Valley, but slowed due to wet weather. Harvest continued in the southern citrus growing areas as conditions allowed. This year's fruit set was erratic. Fruit was generally of good to excellent quality, although some splits were beginning to appear.

**Grapefruit** - The 2005-06 California grapefruit forecast is 12.0 million cartons, unchanged from the January forecast, but up 3 percent from last season. Pummelo variety grapefruit were harvested in the Central Valley. Exterior and interior qualities were good with slight blemishes. Fruit shape was normal with a smooth texture, and very good flavor and juice content. Rios variety grapefruit were harvested in the Coachella Valley. Quality was good to fair with some irregularity in color. Texture was smooth to pebbly in the smaller sized fruit, but coarse in the larger fruit sizes.

**Lemons** - The 2005-06 lemon forecast is 38.0 million cartons, unchanged from the January forecast and last season. Harvest continued as usual, with reports of very good quality and yields, though picking was occasionally interrupted by rains. No internal damage had been seen.

**Tangerines** - The 2005-06 tangerine forecast is 8.00 million cartons, up 29 percent from the January 2006 forecast and 43 percent above last season. The tangerine harvest has had consistent reports of good yields with good quality and flavor. Problems, however, arose in March due to frost. Quality at the time was reportedly as good to fair. Picking was occasionally interrupted by March rains.

**CITRUS FRUITS 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	127,000	106,000
Navel and Misc.	79,000	86,000	84,000
Valencia 2/	22,000	41,000	22,000
Florida	484,000	299,600	306,000
Texas 2/	3,300	3,540	3,060
Arizona 2/	940	860	900
ALL U.S. ORANGES	589,240	431,000	415,960
<b>GRAPEFRUIT: 3/</b>			
California, All 2/	11,600	11,600	12,000
Florida	81,800	25,600	36,000
Texas	11,400	13,200	9,600
Arizona 2/	280	280	200
ALL U.S. GRAPEFRUIT	105,080	50,680	57,800
<b>LEMONS: 2/ 4/</b>			
California	36,000	38,000	38,000
Arizona	6,000	4,800	7,600
ALL U.S. LEMONS	42,000	42,800	45,600
<b>TANGERINES: 5/</b>			
California 6/	4,400	5,600	8,000
Florida	13,000	8,900	10,000
Arizona 6/	1,380	800	1,100
ALL U.S. TANGERINES	18,780	15,300	19,100

1/ ORANGES: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 45 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs. Small quantities of tangerines in Texas.

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

3/ GRAPEFRUIT: Arizona, 1 carton=32 lbs.; California, 1 carton = 33.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 40 lbs.

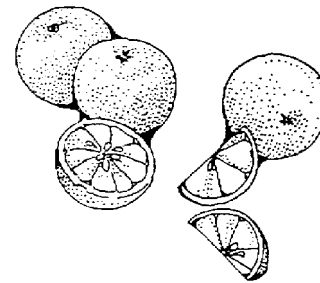
4/ LEMONS: All, 1 carton = 38 lbs.

5/ TANGERINES: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 47.5 lbs.

6/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.

**FLORIDA CITRUS**

March turned out to be an extremely dry month at six of the seven monitored stations. Immokalle, in the extreme south, was the only exception by receiving over two inches of rain for the month. The least amount of rainfall recorded was in Ft. Pierce with three-tenths of an inch recorded. Warmer than normal seasonal daytime temperatures were recorded in all areas, averaging in the mid 80's. Trees had reached a uniform full bloom by the end of the month, with petal drop beginning on Valencia and grapefruit trees. Growers continued with fertilization programs, brush removal, and hedging and topping after harvest. Irrigation was generally required on a rotating basis at least two or three times per week for the entire month. Maturity levels in all varieties lagged behind normal for the month. Harvest of early and mid-season orange varieties wound down as Valencia harvest increased the second and third weeks of the month. Grapefruit harvest peaked at just over 1.00 million boxes during the fourth week, with a larger percentage of both colored and white going to processing. Honey tangerine harvest was relatively steady between 100,000 and 150,000 boxes per week. Temple utilization averaged less than 50,000 boxes per week and was nearing completion by the end of the month.



**STRAWBERRIES**

The 2006 strawberry production is expected to be 21.8 million cwt., up 6 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 35,800, with a yield of 610 cwt. per acre. The season started slower than previous years because of heavy rains that passed through the State. Warmer weather is expected to bring shipments back to a pace ahead of normal. Despite many challenges, which growers are experiencing, the strawberry crop is expected to exceed last year's record-high crop.

**FRESH FRUIT: UNITED STATES PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION, 1983 TO DATE 1/**

Year 2/	CITRUS FRUIT					TOTAL 3/	NON-CITRUS FRUIT						
	Oranges & Temples	Tangerines, Tangelos, & Mandarins	Lemons	Limes	Grapefruit	Citrus	Apples	Apricots	Avocados	Bananas	Blueberries	Cherries	
	Pounds												
1983	15.0	2.3	2.3	0.5	7.8	28.0	18.3	0.1	2.2	21.3	0.1	0.7	
1984	11.9	2.1	2.2	0.5	6.0	22.6	18.4	0.1	1.8	22.2	0.2	0.7	
1985	11.6	1.5	2.3	0.6	5.5	21.5	17.3	0.2	1.5	23.5	0.3	0.4	
1986	13.4	1.6	2.5	0.6	6.1	24.2	17.8	0.1	2.4	25.8	0.2	0.5	
1987	12.8	1.8	2.5	0.5	6.4	24.0	20.8	0.1	1.6	25.0	0.2	0.7	
1988	13.9	1.8	2.5	0.6	6.7	25.4	19.8	0.2	1.6	24.3	0.3	0.5	
1989	12.2	1.7	2.4	0.7	6.6	23.6	21.2	0.1	1.1	24.7	0.2	0.5	
1990	12.4	1.3	2.6	0.7	4.4	21.4	19.6	0.2	1.4	24.4	0.1	0.4	
1991	8.4	1.4	2.6	0.8	5.9	19.0	18.1	0.1	1.4	25.1	0.2	0.4	
1992	12.8	1.9	2.5	1.0	5.9	24.2	19.1	0.2	2.2	27.1	0.2	0.5	
1993	14.2	1.9	2.6	1.0	6.2	25.8	19.0	0.1	1.3	26.6	0.3	0.4	
1994	12.9	2.1	2.7	1.0	6.1	24.7	19.4	0.2	1.4	27.8	0.3	0.5	
1995	11.8	2.0	2.8	1.2	6.0	23.8	18.7	0.1	1.6	27.1	0.3	0.3	
1996	12.6	2.2	2.9	1.1	5.9	24.6	18.7	0.1	1.6	27.6	0.3	0.4	
1997	13.9	2.5	2.8	1.2	6.2	26.5	18.1	0.1	1.7	27.2	0.3	0.6	
1998	14.6	2.2	2.5	1.4	5.9	26.6	19.0	0.1	1.5	28.0	0.3	0.5	
1999	8.4	2.3	2.6	1.3	5.8	20.4	18.5	0.1	1.9	30.7	0.3	0.6	
2000	11.7	2.9	2.4	1.4	0.0	18.4	17.5	0.2	2.2	28.4	0.3	0.6	
2001	11.9	2.7	3.0	1.5	4.9	23.9	15.6	0.1	2.5	26.6	0.3	0.8	
2002	11.7	2.6	3.3	1.1	4.6	23.3	16.0	0.1	2.3	26.8	0.4	0.7	
2003	11.9	2.7	3.3	1.9	4.1	24.0	16.9	0.1	2.7	26.2	0.4	0.9	
2004	10.8	2.8	3.1	1.9	4.1	22.7	18.6	0.1	2.9	25.8	0.5	1.0	

Year 2/	NON-CITRUS FRUIT CONTINUED										TOTAL 3/	
	Cranberries	Grapes	Kiwifruit	Mangos	Peaches & Nectarines	Pears	Pineapples	Papayas	Plums & Prunes	Strawberries	Non-Citrus	Fruit
	Pounds											
1983	0.1	5.6	0.1	0.4	5.4	3.0	1.7	0.2	1.4	2.3	62.9	90.9
1984	0.1	6.1	0.2	0.4	6.7	2.5	1.5	0.3	1.8	3.0	66.0	88.6
1985	0.1	6.8	0.1	0.4	5.5	2.8	1.5	0.2	1.4	3.0	65.0	86.5
1986	0.1	7.1	0.2	0.5	5.8	3.0	1.7	0.2	1.3	2.9	69.6	93.8
1987	0.1	7.1	0.3	0.6	6.1	3.5	1.6	0.2	1.9	3.1	72.8	96.7
1988	0.1	7.7	0.3	0.4	6.8	3.2	1.8	0.2	1.7	3.3	72.0	97.4
1989	0.1	7.9	0.3	0.5	5.9	3.2	2.0	0.1	1.4	3.3	72.5	96.1
1990	0.1	7.8	0.5	0.5	5.5	3.2	2.1	0.2	1.5	3.2	70.7	92.0
1991	0.1	7.3	0.5	0.9	6.4	3.1	1.9	0.2	1.4	3.6	70.5	89.6
1992	0.1	7.1	0.4	0.7	6.0	3.1	2.0	0.2	1.8	3.6	74.3	98.5
1993	0.1	7.0	0.6	0.9	5.9	3.4	2.0	0.3	1.3	3.6	72.7	98.5
1994	0.1	7.0	0.6	1.0	5.4	3.4	2.0	0.3	1.6	4.1	74.9	99.6
1995	0.1	7.5	0.6	1.1	5.3	3.4	1.9	0.4	0.9	4.1	73.2	97.1
1996	0.1	6.7	0.5	1.3	4.4	3.1	1.9	0.5	1.4	4.3	72.9	97.5
1997	0.1	7.8	0.5	1.4	5.5	3.4	2.3	0.5	1.5	4.1	75.0	101.6
1998	0.1	7.2	0.6	1.5	4.7	3.4	2.8	0.5	1.2	3.9	75.1	101.7
1999	0.1	8.0	0.6	1.6	5.3	3.5	3.0	0.6	1.3	4.5	80.7	101.1
2000	0.1	7.4	0.6	1.8	5.3	3.4	3.2	0.7	1.2	4.8	77.6	96.0
2001	0.1	7.4	0.6	1.8	5.2	3.3	3.2	0.8	1.3	4.2	73.6	97.5
2002	0.1	8.4	0.5	2.0	5.2	3.1	3.8	0.8	1.3	4.6	76.0	99.4
2003	0.1	7.7	0.4	2.1	5.2	3.1	4.4	0.9	1.2	5.2	77.4	101.4
2004	0.1	7.8	0.4	2.0	5.1	3.0	4.3	1.0	1.1	5.4	79.3	102.0

1/ All non-citrus fruit data are on calendar-year basis, except apples (year begins in August of year shown), grapes (year begins in May for 1990-2004 and in July for 1983-1989), and pears (year begins in July). The year begins as follows for citrus fruit: November for oranges, tangerines, tangelos and temples; September for grapefruit; August of prior year for lemons; and April of year shown for limes.

2/ Preliminary 2004 figures.

3/ Some figures may not add due to rounding.