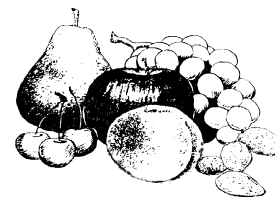


California Fruit & Nut Review



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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

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APRIL CROP COMMENTS

Wet weather continued to limit field work in orchards and vineyards most of the month. When weather and field conditions allowed, stone fruit trees were thinned, fungicides and herbicides were applied to tree fruit orchards, and plum trees were girdled to increase fruit size. By month's end, a few blossoms remained on Yuba County cherry trees, while some San Joaquin Valley trees were nearly ready for harvest. Many cherry and peach growers were expecting light crops due to a poor fruit set caused by rain and wind during the pollination period. Apple trees were in full-bloom during April and by month's end were being thinned. Kiwifruit vines were blooming in the San Joaquin Valley, while pomegranate trees continued to leaf out. Growth in grape vineyards accelerated with the arrival of warmer temperatures by month's end. Table grape vines were suckered and shoots were thinned. Shredding and discing of cover crops were underway during the month and many vineyards were sprayed with fungicides. Sulfur was applied to the vines for mildew control. San Joaquin Valley strawberries were in full-bloom and by month's end harvest was underway for sale at roadside stands. In some locations, strawberry fruit and bloom were seriously affected by the recent soaking rains. Strawberries in the coastal areas were a few weeks behind normal in ripening. Nut formation in almond orchards continued throughout the month, while pistachio and walnut trees were leafing out. Some Serr walnuts were being shook to thin out catkins and prevent over pollination. Blight spraying continued in walnut groves. After being delayed due to rain much of the month, field work and harvesting in all citrus orchards increased due to the warm, dry weather that arrived the end of April.

Citrus growers were busy applying foliar fertilizer, spraying for weeds, hedging, and topping orchards in preparation for the new crop. Navel oranges were harvested during the month, but quality continued to decline, and brown rot and mold around the cap stem end continued to be problems for recently packed fruit. Valencia harvest remained underway with size and maturity continuing to improve. Lemon prices were strong, fueling increased harvesting. Overall, lemons had very good exterior quality, though some varieties were blemished or had rougher texture. Ruby and Star variety grapefruit were harvested in the Coachella Valley. Quality was good-to-excellent with smooth texture. Tangerine harvest continued. Exterior quality of Minneolas was good-to-fair with no internal damage noted.

ALMOND PRODUCTION

The initial forecast for the 2006 California almond production is 1.02 billion pounds. This is 11 percent above last year's revised production of 915 million pounds. Estimated bearing acreage for 2006 is 580 thousand. This forecast is based on a telephone survey conducted April 24 - May 3 from a sample of almond growers. Of the 470 growers sampled, 368 reported. Acreage from these reports accounted for 24 percent of the total bearing acreage.

The California 2006 almond set looks strong, despite several factors that could have led to a lighter set. There was a low accumulation of chilling hours that resulted in an early bloom, a frost hit some early varieties, and wet, cool conditions continued throughout the spring. However, California has the potential for a good almond crop. In general, the set is good in the Central Valley. The southern most producing counties are uniformly heavy in set. The northern most producing counties have a bit lighter set, which is likely due to frost effects. The popular Nonpareil variety has set well and is looking very good.

FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Update
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006		
NUT CROPS	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled) 1/ 2/	580,000	580,000	1,580	1,760	915,000	1,020,000	11	June 29, 2006
Pecans	2,700	---	1,370	---	3,700	---		July 6, 2006
Pistachio (In-Shell)	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	215,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	68,000	---		
Total	98,000	---	2,890	---	283,000	---		July 6, 2006
			Tons		1,000 Tons			
Walnuts (In-Shell) 3/	219,000	---	1.62	---	355.0	---		July 6, 2006
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples	25,000	---	7.40	---	185.0	---		July 6, 2006
Apricots	14,500	---	5.21	---	75.5	---		June 9, 2006
Cherries	27,000	---	1.95	---	52.7	---		June 9, 2006
Grapes, Raisin	242,000	---	8.68	---	2,100.0	---		July 6, 2006
Grapes, Table	84,000	---	9.88	---	830.0	---		July 6, 2006
Grapes, Wine	474,000	---	6.75	---	3,200.0	---		July 6, 2006
Grapes, All	800,000	---	7.66	---	6,130.0	---		July 6, 2006
Olives	32,000	---	4.34	---	139.0	---		July 6, 2006
Peaches, Clingstone	30,400	26,300	15.90	15.20	484.0	400.0	-17	June 9, 2006
Peaches, Freestone	36,000	36,000	10.70	10.30	385.0	370.0	-4	June 9, 2006
Pears, Bartlett	12,000	---	13.70	---	164.0	---		June 9, 2006
Pears, Other	4,000	---	9.00	---	36.0	---		July 6, 2006
Prunes (Dried Weight) 4/	67,000	---	1.34	---	90.0	---		May 25, 2006
			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
BERRIES								
Strawberries	34,300	35,800	600	620	20,580	22,196	8	July 10, 2006
CITRUS CROPS 5/	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06		
			Cartons		1,000 Cartons			
Grapefruit	12,500	12,500	928	960	11,600	12,000	3	July 12, 2006
Lemons	44,000	42,000	864	905	38,000	38,000	N/A	July 12, 2006
Oranges, Navel	130,500	131,000	659	641	86,000	84,000	-2	July 12, 2006
Oranges, Valencia	45,500	45,000	901	489	41,000	22,000	-46	July 12, 2006
Tangerines 6/	11,300	12,000	496	667	5,600	8,000	43	July 12, 2006

1/ Almond Objective Measurement Report released June 29 at 12:00 PM.

2/ Revised 2005 production data.

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

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

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.

PEACHES: The 2006 California Freestone peach crop forecast is 370 thousand tons, down 4 percent from the 2005 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 36.0 thousand, resulting in a yield of 10.3 tons per acre. Wet and cool weather during the spring delayed progression of California's Freestone peach crop. Set in the early varieties was reported as fairly normal. Set in the mid-to-late season varieties, however, was reported as light and inconsistent due to the frost that occurred earlier in the year. Harvest began with the Earlitreat variety during the last week of April, about ten days later than last year. The 2006 California Clingstone peach crop forecast is 400 thousand tons, down 17 percent from the 2005 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 26.3 thousand, resulting in a yield of 15.2 tons per acre. Rain during March and April along with below average temperatures have California growers concerned about their 2006 Clingstone peach crop. Warmer temperatures toward the latter part of April, however, helped with fruit growth. The early variety fruit reportedly had the best fruit set, while the Late and Extra Late varieties appeared to have the lightest sets. Harvest is expected to begin 10 to 14 days later than last year, due primarily to the cool spring temperatures.

FLORIDA CITRUS: April weather in Florida's citrus growing regions was generally warm and very dry. The southern and western growing areas both recorded only one-tenth of an inch of rainfall for the entire month. The northern citrus region noted the most rainfall with a total of one and six-tenths inches recorded. All areas recorded several days with temperatures reaching into the high 80s to low 90s. Trees in areas without irrigation began showing signs of stress by mid-month. A fairly uniform bloom was completed by the first of the month, although light fruit sets were reported in the eastern and southern growing areas. Growers continued with fertilization programs, applying final applications of aldicarb, and hedging and topping of trees after harvest. Irrigation continued at least two to three times per week, on a rotating basis, for the entire month. Early and mid-season orange harvests were completed during April, while the Valencia harvest increased to a rate of just over 5.00 million boxes per week. Valencia maturity levels continued to lag behind normal with some reports of poor quality fruit received. The rate of grapefruit harvest dropped below 200 thousand boxes the last week of the month, which indicates harvest was beginning to wind down. Honey tangerine harvest continued at a rate of nearly 150 thousand boxes per week, while Temple harvest was nearly complete.

CITRUS FRUIT PRODUCTION

Crop and State	2003-04	2004-05	Forecast 2005-06
	1,000 Cartons		
ORANGES: 1/ 2/			
California, All	101,000	127,000	106,000
Navel & Misc.	79,000	86,000	84,000
Valencia	22,000	41,000	22,000
Florida	484,000	299,600	306,000
Texas	3,300	3,540	3,060
Arizona	940	860	900
UNITED STATES TOTAL	589,240	431,000	415,960
GRAPEFRUIT: 3/			
California 2/	11,600	11,600	12,000
Florida	81,800	25,600	38,400
Texas 2/	11,400	13,200	9,600
Arizona 2/	280	280	200
UNITED STATES TOTAL	105,080	50,680	60,200
LEMONS: 2/ 4/			
California	36,000	38,000	38,000
Arizona	6,000	4,800	7,600
UNITED STATES TOTAL	42,000	42,800	45,600
TANGERINES: 5/			
California 2/ 6/	4,400	5,600	8,000
Florida	13,000	8,900	10,800
Arizona 2/ 6/	1,380	800	1,100
UNITED STATES TOTAL	18,780	15,300	19,900

- 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.