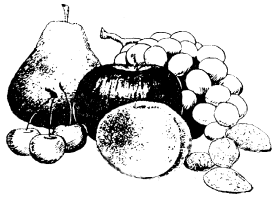
California Fruit & Nut Review



Frequency: Monthly
Released: June 15, 2006
(USPS 598-290)
VOL. 26 *NO.* 6
USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, California Field Office

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

MAY CROP COMMENTS

Harvesting activities began during May for many California fruit varieties as the arrival of warmer temperatures enhanced fruit size and maturity. Harvesting of Perlette and Flame Seedless variety table grapes was underway in the Coachella Valley, while stone fruit harvesting was active in the San Joaquin Valley. Among the stone fruit varieties harvested during the month were: Early Treat, April Snow, Super Rich, and May Snow peaches; Red Beaut and Early Queen plums; Spring Flare, May Fire, Red Roy, and May Glo nectarines. By mid-month, apricots began showing good size and color, and by month's end, harvest was underway for Poppycot, Poppy, Golden Sweet, Diamond Cot, and Castlebrite varieties. The State's cherry harvest began in Kern County at the beginning of May. By the end of the month, harvesting was underway in most of California's cherry growing regions. Primary cherry varieties harvested were Brooks and Tulare. Periods of rain during the month hampered strawberry harvesting and fruit quality in Monterey County. Blueberry and strawberry harvests were underway in the San Joaquin Valley, with demand on the rise. Pomegranates were in bloom.

(Continued on Page 2.)

SPECIAL NOTICES:

The "Prune (Dried Plum) Forecast" was released on June 2, 2006. Starting this year at the request of the Prune Bargaining Association, a new "**Prune (Dried Plum) Post-Harvest Estimate**" will be published on September 29, 2006. In future, this publication is tentatively scheduled to be released the last working day in September.

The **Almond Objective Measurement Report** is being delayed one week from June 29 to July 6, due to a later maturing crop this season.

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/	580,000	580,000	1,580	1,760	915,000	1,020,000	11	July 6, 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) 2/	219,000	---	1.62	---	355.0	---		July 6, 2006
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples	25,000	---	7.40	---	185.0	---		July 6, 2006
Apricots	14,500	13,800	5.21	2.68	75.5	37.0	-51	July 6, 2006
Cherries	27,000	28,000	1.95	1.61	52.7	45.0	-15	January 2007
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 3/	30,400	26,300	15.90	14.40	484.0	380.0	-21	July 6, 2006
Peaches, Freestone 3/	36,000	36,000	10.70	10.60	385.0	380.0	-1	July 6, 2006
Pears, Bartlett	12,000	12,000	13.70	16.30	164.0	195.0	19	July 6, 2006
Pears, Other	4,000	---	9.00	---	36.0	---		July 6, 2006
Prunes (Dried Weight) 4/	67,000	67,000	1.34	2.16	90.0	145.0	61	September 29, 2006
BERRIES			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
Strawberries	34,300	35,800	600	620	20,580	22,196	8	July 10, 2006
CITRUS CROP 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 will be released July 6, 2006 at 12:00 p.m. PDT.
2/ Walnut Objective Measurement Report will be released September 1, 2006 at 12:00 p.m. PDT.
3/ Estimated production for 2006 carried forward from June.
4/ Prune (Dried Plum) Post-Harvest Estimate will be released September 29, 2006 at 12:00 p.m. PDT. *(See special notice above.)*
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.

MAY CROP COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 1.)

Field work underway during May included irrigation activities in fruit and nut orchards and grape vineyards and thinning in stone fruit orchards. Unseasonable rain arrived in late May, threatening damage to many fruit crops. Relatively little damage resulted, but the threat from the late-season rain prompted many fruit growers to hire helicopters to dry off the fruit in case temperatures warmed up too quickly. Grape growers continued their yearly cycling of cultivation, furrowing, irrigation, and mildew control. Thompson Seedless vines began blooming in the San Joaquin Valley, encouraging applications of bloom sprays. Spray applications for insect control were also underway. Field crews in grape vineyards were busy suckering and leaf pulling vines and training canes onto trellises. Spray applications for weed and mildew control and treatments for coddling moth, mites, and lygus were underway in almond, pistachio, and walnut orchards. Blight sprays continued in walnut orchards. Navel and Valencia orange harvesting continued during May, but picking and packing began to slow. Some smaller Navel packers were finishing their harvest season. Commercial harvest of lemons, tangelos, tangerines, pummelos, and hybrid grapefruit was complete in the San Joaquin Valley. Lemon and grapefruit harvests, however, remained active in the southern coastal growing region. Grapefruit varieties picked and packed included Marsh White, Marsh Ruby, and Star Ruby. Harvesting of the Marsh Ruby variety grapefruit was nearly complete in the Coachella Valley.

NON-CITRUS FRUIT

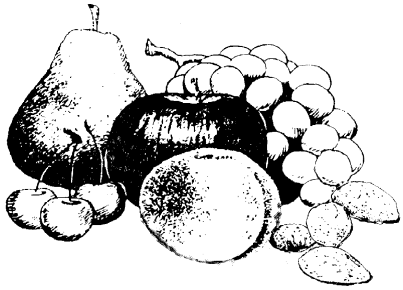
Apricots: The 2006 California apricot crop forecast is 37.0 thousand tons, down 51 percent from the 2005 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 13.8 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 2.68 tons per acre. An unseasonably warm winter initially threatened chilling requirements, and then freezing temperatures in mid-February damaged some early blooming orchards. In some locales, bloom was extended over a long period as the mild winter temperatures forced some orchards to bud early. The weak and staggered bloom was further impacted by rain and hail storms. There were a few reports of disease problems, but the primary detrimental factor on the crop was the minimal chilling. The thin crop was sizing out exceptionally well, but this could be the lightest crop ever in California. Harvest began about a week later than normal. Acreage of the Patterson variety continued to be pulled.

Cherries, Sweet: The 2006 California sweet cherry crop forecast is 45.0 thousand tons, down 15 percent from the 2005 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 28.0 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 1.61 tons per acre. A very wet and early spring during the critical blooming period for California's sweet cherry crop took a toll on the crop before the season had a chance to begin. During March, cherry blossoms were hit with excessive rains, resulting in ineffective pollination. This, combined with the lack of chilling hours and an extreme freeze in February, created undesirable conditions for setting a crop. The result was delayed crop production and reduced volume in most cherry varieties. Unseasonable rain arrived again in late May, threatening more damage to the already challenged 2006 crop. Harvesting began at the beginning of May with the Brooks variety in Kern County.

Peaches: The 2006 California Freestone peach crop forecast is 380 thousand tons, up 3 percent from the May forecast, but down 1 percent from the 2005 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 36.0 thousand, resulting in a yield of 10.6 tons per acre. Wet and cool weather during spring delayed progression of California's Freestone peach crop. Fruit set in the early varieties was reported to be fairly normal. However, set in the mid to late season varieties was reported to be lighter and inconsistent. Harvest gained momentum during June with Crimson Lady, Crown Princess, Spring Snow, and Spring Treat the major varieties harvested. The 2006 California Clingstone peach crop forecast is 380 thousand tons, down 5 percent from the May forecast and down 21 percent from the 2005 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 26.3 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 14.4 tons per acre. Rain during March and April, along with below average temperatures, has California growers concerned about their 2006 Clingstone peach crop. Warmer temperatures toward the latter part of April helped fruit growth. Set in Yuba and Sutter counties was reported to be down from last year, while the set in the Modesto area was reported to be normal. The early variety fruit reportedly has the best fruit set, while the late and extra late varieties appear to have the lightest sets. Harvest is expected to begin around June 25.

Pears, Bartlett: The 2006 California Bartlett pear crop forecast is 195 thousand tons, up 19 percent from the 2005 crop. The Bartlett bloom period was lengthened particularly in the Sacramento River and Mendocino areas due to rain and cool temperatures. This could cause a decrease in production in these areas. The Lake County area was reported to have an excellent crop; bloom in this area occurred after the spring rains and cool temperatures. Harvest in the Sacramento River growing area will begin around the middle of July.

Prunes (Dried Plums): The 2006 California prune crop forecast is 145 thousand dried tons, up 61 percent from the 2005 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 67.0 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 2.16 tons per acre. The 2006 prune crop experienced an unseasonably rainy period during bloom. A small set occurred statewide, as several growers reported loss of fruit due to the rainy weather conditions that disrupted bee pollination. As a result, fruit development is approximately two weeks behind schedule. Despite the weather-related challenges, the crop is expected to rebound significantly from the small 2005 and 2004 crops. Production during those years was set back by excessive heat during bloom.



FRUIT PRODUCTION FOR SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

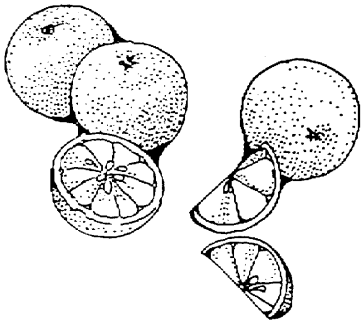
Crop and State	2004	2005	2006 Forecast
	Tons		
APRICOTS			
California	94,000	75,500	37,000
CHERRIES, SWEET			
California	73,000	52,700	45,000
Oregon	43,000	28,000	50,000
Washington	134,000	138,000	150,000
Total 1/	250,000	218,700	245,000
PEACHES			
California Total	975,000	869,000	760,000
Clingstone 2/	539,000	484,000	380,000
Freestone	436,000	385,000	380,000
Georgia	52,500	40,000	50,000
South Carolina	70,000	75,000	60,000
Total	1,097,500	984,000	870,000
PEARS, BARTLETT			
California	223,000	164,000	195,000
Oregon	63,000	58,000	60,000
Washington	171,000	170,000	185,000
Total	457,000	392,000	440,000
PRUNES (Dried Wt.)			
California	49,000	90,000	145,000

1/ The first production forecast for sweet cherries in Idaho, Michigan, 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 22, 2006. Montana's first estimate for sweet cherries will be released in January 2007.

2/ California Clingstone is over-the-scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.

FLORIDA CITRUS

Growing conditions in Florida citrus producing areas were generally hot and dry for most of May. High daytime temperatures were often in the low-to-mid 90's with lows in the mid-70's. Some rain fell during the month, but most of this was reported during the last two weeks of the month. As humidity levels increased, thunderclouds formed, but any resulting rain was generally localized. Rainfall totals for the year are below average for all citrus reporting stations. Groves that have been irrigated on a continuing basis are reported in fair-to-good condition, but those without irrigation are showing signs of stress. Some growers sprayed copper to suppress citrus canker and began routine summer spraying programs. Valencia orange harvest continues, while harvest is complete for all other citrus varieties. Most packing houses are closed for the season, and only 10 processing plants and several fresh squeeze plants remain open.



CITRUS FRUIT PRODUCTION BY STATE AND U.S.

Crop and State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 Forecast
	1,000 Cartons		
ORANGES 1/ 2/ 3/			
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
ALL U.S. ORANGES	589,240	431,000	415,960
GRAPEFRUIT 4/			
California 2/	11,600	11,600	12,000
Florida	81,800	25,600	38,600
Texas 2/	11,400	13,200	9,600
Arizona 2/	280	280	200
ALL U.S. GRAPEFRUIT	105,080	50,680	60,400
LEMONS 2/ 5/			
California	36,000	38,000	38,000
Arizona	6,000	4,800	7,600
ALL U.S. LEMONS	42,000	42,800	45,600
TANGERINES 6/			
California 2/ 7/	4,400	5,600	8,000
Florida	13,000	8,900	11,000
Arizona 2/ 7/	1,380	800	1,100
ALL U.S. TANGERINES	18,780	15,300	20,100

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/ Navel and miscellaneous varieties in AZ and CA. Early (including Navel) and mid-season varieties in FL and Tex. Small quantities of tangerines in TX.
4/ Grapefruit:: Arizona and California, 1 carton = 33.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 40 lbs.
5/ Lemons: All, 1 carton = 38 lbs.
6/ Tangerines: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 47.5 lbs.
7/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.

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

Season 1/	Almonds	Hazelnuts	Pecans	Walnuts	Macadamias	Pistachios	Other 2/	Total 3/
	Pounds							
1978-79	0.40	0.08	0.39	0.37	0.02	0.04	0.42	1.73
1979-80	0.37	0.04	0.47	0.43	0.03	0.04	0.39	1.76
1980-81	0.42	0.05	0.43	0.50	0.03	0.05	0.32	1.81
1981-82	0.51	0.05	0.45	0.52	0.03	0.04	0.33	1.94
1982-83	0.59	0.07	0.49	0.47	0.04	0.05	0.46	2.18
1983-84	0.59	0.05	0.48	0.52	0.04	0.08	0.52	2.27
1984-85	0.68	0.06	0.54	0.48	0.04	0.11	0.47	2.39
1985-86	0.82	0.07	0.48	0.49	0.05	0.12	0.45	2.47
1986-87	0.53	0.03	0.54	0.49	0.05	0.11	0.47	2.23
1987-88	0.59	0.06	0.54	0.47	0.05	0.09	0.42	2.22
1988-89	0.65	0.07	0.51	0.51	0.05	0.12	0.40	2.31
1989-90	0.62	0.05	0.47	0.45	0.06	0.08	0.52	2.25
1990-91	0.75	0.07	0.49	0.46	0.06	0.11	0.51	2.45
1991-92	0.62	0.06	0.46	0.46	0.05	0.08	0.44	2.17
1992-93	0.60	0.08	0.35	0.47	0.05	0.10	0.58	2.23
1993-94	0.60	0.10	0.53	0.38	0.05	0.13	0.56	2.35
1994-95	0.54	0.07	0.49	0.45	0.06	0.14	0.50	2.23
1995-96	0.49	0.09	0.38	0.39	0.06	0.12	0.42	1.94
1996-97	0.59	0.03	0.48	0.33	0.06	0.06	0.52	2.05
1997-98	0.57	0.07	0.46	0.37	0.07	0.14	0.53	2.21
1998-99	0.60	0.05	0.49	0.38	0.07	0.15	0.52	2.27
1999-00	0.99	0.10	0.40	0.51	0.08	0.18	0.53	2.79
2000-01	0.83	0.07	0.47	0.44	0.07	0.21	0.48	2.57
2001-02	0.85	0.10	0.48	0.42	0.08	0.20	0.75	2.88
2002-03	1.08	0.08	0.43	0.47	0.06	0.22	0.89	3.24
2003-04	1.13	0.05	0.42	0.50	0.08	0.19	1.07	3.45
2004-05 4/	1.00	0.07	0.38	0.55	0.11	0.29	1.23	3.62

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 2005 ACREAGE ESTIMATES

The table to the right contains revised acreage estimates for 2005 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**.

ACREAGE ESTIMATES, 2005 CROP

Crop	Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
	Acres		
Almonds	580,000	100,000	680,000
Grapes, All	800,000	61,000	861,000
Raisin	240,000	6,000	246,000
Table	83,000	10,000	93,000
Wine	477,000	45,000	522,000
Prunes	67,000	7,500	74,500
Walnuts	215,000	26,000	241,000