



California Fruit & Nut Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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APRIL CROP COMMENTS

Grape vineyard operators continued fertilizing, irrigating, and spraying to control weeds throughout the month of April. Grape vines were leafing out and forming bunches. Winter cover crops were being disced and mowed. Growers reported some grapes had received severe damage from a storm in Raisin City, Caruthers, and Sanger at the beginning of the month. Stone fruit, nut, and pomegranate tree orchard activities included irrigation, fertilization, and application of herbicides. New orchards continued to be planted. Most stone fruits were in petal fall with early fruit being thinned. Apple, pear, and quince orchards were in full bloom with fruit being thinned by month's end. Early varieties of cherries were nearing maturity with reports of a good-to-excellent crop load. By the end of the month, early varieties of nectarines, peaches, and apricots were being picked in Tulare County. Blueberries and strawberries were being harvested. Olive buds were swelling throughout the month. Cultural practices such as mowing, discing, irrigating, and spraying applications were in full swing in nut orchards. Almonds were progressing with nut sizes increasing. Almonds appear to have an excellent crop. Due to a heavy crop, some limbs were being removed to prevent trees from splitting. Blight treatments were ongoing in walnut orchards. Pistachio bloom continued throughout the month.

Citrus trees were being hedged, topped, and thinned. Navel orange pack-out volumes were low. Harvest of oranges, tangerines, tangelos, mandarins, and grapefruit continued throughout the month. Star Ruby grapefruit harvest started around mid-month in Tulare County. Some growers were treating to control fungus and weeds and applying foliar nutrients. Frost damaged limbs continued to be pruned.

ALMOND PRODUCTION

The initial forecast for the 2007 California almond production is 1.31 billion pounds. This is 17 percent above last year's revised production of 1.12 billion pounds. Estimated bearing acreage for 2007 is 615 thousand. This forecast is based on a telephone survey conducted April 23 - May 2 from a sample of almond growers. Of the 470 growers sampled, 340 reported. Acreage from these reports accounted for 27 percent of the total bearing acreage.

The California 2007 almond set looks very strong. There was no difficulty accumulating chill hours over the winter, and there was a sufficient bee presence in orchards during pollination. In general, California weather cooperated during pollination. Some almond tree limbs are reported to be bowing and splitting under the weight of the heavy set. Throughout the Central Valley, the set of the popular Nonpareil variety is uniformly heavy.

FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Update
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007		
NUT CROPS	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled) ^{1/ 2/}	585,000	615,000	1,910	2,130	1,115,000	1,310,000	17	June 29, 2007 July 6, 2007
Pecans	2,900	---	1,280	---	3,700	---		
Pistachio (In-Shell)	---	---	---	---	201,000	---		
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	37,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Total	110,000	---	2,160	---	238,000	---		July 6, 2007
Walnuts (In-Shell) ^{3/}	215,000	---	Tons		1,000 Tons			July 6, 2007
			1.63	---	350.0	---		
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples	23,000	---	7.09	---	163.0	---		July 6, 2007
Apricots	14,500	---	2.69	---	39.0	---		June 11, 2007
Cherries	28,000	---	1.50	---	42.1	---		June 11, 2007
Grapes, Raisin ^{4/ 5/}	234,000	---	8.35	---	1,955.0	---		July 6, 2007
Grapes, Table ^{5/}	83,000	---	8.43	---	700.0	---		July 6, 2007
Grapes, Wine ^{5/}	480,000	---	6.33	---	3,040.0	---		July 6, 2007
Grapes, All ^{4/ 5/}	797,000	---	7.15	---	5,695.0	---		July 6, 2007
Olives	31,000	---	0.76	---	23.5	---		July 6, 2007
Peaches, Clingstone	26,300	26,300	13.70	17.10	359.0	450.0	25	June 11, 2007
Peaches, Freestone	36,000	36,000	9.81	10.80	353.0	390.0	10	June 11, 2007
Pears, Bartlett	12,000	---	16.60	---	199.0	---		June 11, 2007
Pears, Other	4,000	---	10.00	---	40.0	---		July 6, 2007
Prunes (Dried Weight) ^{6/}	67,000	---	2.54	---	170.0	---		June 1, 2007
BERRIES			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
Strawberries ^{7/}	35,800	35,500	590	580	21,163	20,590	-3	July 10, 2007
CITRUS CROPS ^{8/}			Cartons		1,000 Cartons			
	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07		
Grapefruit	11,500	11,500	1,043	835	12,000	9,600	-20	July 12, 2007
Lemons	44,000	45,000	955	733	42,000	33,000	-21	July 12, 2007
Oranges, Navel ^{9/}	135,000	136,000	696	397	94,000	54,000	-43	July 12, 2007
Oranges, Valencia	46,000	43,000	587	465	27,000	20,000	-26	July 12, 2007
Tangerines ^{10/}	14,000	16,000	514	325	7,200	5,200	-28	July 12, 2007

^{1/} Almond Objective Measurement Report released June 29 at 12:00 p.m. PDT.
^{2/} Revised 2006 data.
^{3/} Walnut Objective Measurement Report released September 5 at 12:00 p.m. PDT.
^{4/} Raisin Grape Objective Measurement Report released August 10 at 5:30 a.m. PDT.
^{5/} Revised 2006 bearing acreage and yield per acre.
^{6/} Dried Plum Forecast reports (prunes) will be released June 1 at 12:00 p.m. PDT and again on September 28 at 12:00 p.m. PDT.
^{7/} Includes fresh market and processing
^{8/} Grapefruit -- 33.5 lbs. per carton; Lemons -- 38.0 lbs. per carton; Oranges -- 37.5 lbs. per carton; Tangerines -- 37.5 lbs. per carton. Estimate for current year carried forward from previous forecast.
^{9/} Navel Objective Measurement Report released September 12 at 5:30 a.m. PDT.
^{10/} Includes tangelos, tangerines and tangors.

PEACHES: The 2007 California Freestone peach crop forecast is 390 thousand tons, up 10 percent from the 2006 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 36.0 thousand, resulting in a yield of 10.8 tons per acre. California experienced an adequate number of chilling hours, thus benefitting the Freestone crop. The bloom period was fairly quick, with above-average temperatures and no rain. The crop was reported to be of excellent quality with good sizes. Harvest began during the middle of April with the April Snow and Snow Angel varieties. The 2007 California Clingstone peach crop forecast is 450 thousand tons, up 25 percent from the 2006 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 26.3 thousand, resulting in a yield of 17.1 tons per acre. The Clingstone crop also received an adequate number of chilling hours this year. Overall, the bloom was good on all varieties. The crop was reported to be in excellent condition, with good size and uniform growth. Harvest is expected to begin in late June in the Kingsburg area.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Two storm fronts pushed across the State during the second week of April dumping much needed rain and bringing cooler temperatures to citrus producing areas. Central and eastern areas received two to three inches of rainfall and the west coast had more than three and one half inches. The rest of the month was relatively dry. Temperatures were normal with cool mornings in the 50s to 60s, and afternoons in the 80s. Canal and lake levels are receding and the dry, warm weather is putting stress on the trees causing damaged and unhealthy groves to decline more quickly.

The bloom period lasted for most of the month in many parts of the State. Growers continued to irrigate to keep the trees in good condition as the new fruit was setting. Some southwest growers had water restrictions placed on them early in the month making it difficult to irrigate.

Valencia harvest pushed to more than 5.00 million boxes per week, with improving quality and maturity levels throughout the month. Grapefruit harvest dropped below 1.00 million boxes per week, with about three-fourths of these going to processing. Weekly Honey tangerine harvest was just less than 100,000 boxes. Caretaker activities consisted of hedging, topping, and applying post bloom nutritional sprays. Resetting took place where there was an availability of trees. In addition to the normal maintenance programs, growers scouted for greening and removed diseased trees.

CITRUS FRUIT PRODUCTION

Crop and State	2004-05	2005-06	Forecast 2006-07
	1,000 Cartons		
ORANGES: 1/			
California, All <u>2/</u>	129,000	121,000	74,000
Navel & Misc.	88,000	94,000	54,000
Valencia	41,000	27,000	20,000
Florida	299,600	295,400	261,200
Texas <u>2/</u>	3,540	3,200	3,700
Arizona <u>2/</u>	860	900	700
UNITED STATES TOTAL	433,000	420,500	339,600
GRAPEFRUIT: 3/			
California <u>2/</u>	12,200	12,000	9,600
Florida	25,600	38,600	54,000
Texas <u>2/</u>	13,200	10,400	13,000
Arizona <u>2/</u>	280	200	200
UNITED STATES TOTAL	51,280	61,200	76,800
LEMONS: 2/ 4/			
California	41,000	42,000	33,000
Arizona	4,800	7,600	5,000
UNITED STATES TOTAL	45,800	49,600	38,000
TANGERINES: 5/			
California <u>2/ 6/</u>	5,800	7,200	5,200
Florida	8,900	11,000	9,200
Arizona <u>2/ 6/</u>	800	1,100	600
UNITED STATES TOTAL	15,500	19,300	15,000

- 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.