



California Fruit & Nut Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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DECEMBER FRUIT COMMENTS

Grape harvest was completed and both grape and stone fruit growers were pruning, cultivating, and treating to control weeds and insects. A frost in mid-December accelerated leaf drop in some fruit orchards. New blueberry bushes were planted. Strawberry harvest continued throughout the month although rains in late December delayed harvest and affected strawberry fruit quality in some regions. Quince, jujubes, and persimmons were still being harvested. Olive tree pruning continued throughout the month. Almond stockpile hulling was slowing down by mid-December. Pruning, fertilization, and spraying for weeds continued in nut groves.

Navel harvest started slowly in early December, and then picked up as the month progressed. Navel fruit maturity and sugar content held steady throughout the month. Mandarin, lemon, and pummelo harvests were ongoing. Some citrus growers were topping trees, applying foliar nutrients, and applying treatments to control fungus, weeds, and insects.

FLORIDA CITRUS

Temperatures were warm in citrus producing areas throughout December. Some temperature variations were recorded during the second week as colder weather made its way further south. Temperatures were in the mid 80s with high humidity before dropping to the mid 30s and low 40s in all areas. Northern areas recorded the lowest temperatures. Rainfall ranged from less than one-half inch in the central and southern citrus regions to over two and one-half inches on the east coast. Citrus trees were reported to be in good to excellent condition. All major packinghouses were open during December and ran at full capacity. Packing for fundraising programs was in full swing the first half of the month. Harvested varieties included Fallglo and Sunburst tangerines, early, Ambersweet, and Navel oranges, grapefruit, and some tangelos. All processing plants were open and running fruit. The plants were accepting field run or direct to processor fruit and packinghouse eliminations. Fruit sizes were reported on the small side for all varieties, but fruit sets were higher than average. Grove maintenance included mowing, spraying, fertilizing, and young tree care.

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 1/	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>1,000 Pounds</i>			
Almonds (Shelled)	585,000	615,000	1,910	2,160	1,115,000	1,330,000	19	January 23, 2008
Pecans	2,900	2,900	1,170	1,450	3,400	4,200	24	January 23, 2008
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	201,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	37,000	---		
Total	110,000	---	2,160	---	238,000	---		January 23, 2008
Walnuts (In-Shell)	216,000	216,000	1.60	1.48	346.0	320.0	-8	January 23, 2008
FRUIT CROPS 1/								
Apples	23,000	22,500	7.72	7.56	177.5	170.0	-4	January 23, 2008
Apricots	13,800	13,800	2.83	5.80	39.0	80.0	105	January 23, 2008
Cherries	28,000	29,000	1.50	3.17	42.1	92.0	119	January 23, 2008
Grapes, Raisin	234,000	234,000	7.95	9.40	1,861.0	2,200.0	18	January 23, 2008
Grapes, Table	83,000	83,000	8.78	9.40	729.0	780.0	7	January 23, 2008
Grapes, Wine	480,000	480,000	6.62	6.67	3,176.0	3,200.0	1	January 23, 2008
Grapes, All	797,000	797,000	7.23	7.75	5,766.0	6,180.0	7	January 23, 2008
Olives	31,000	31,000	0.76	3.55	23.5	110.0	368	January 23, 2008
Peaches, Clingstone	27,000	26,300	13.30	17.10	359.0	450.0	25	January 23, 2008
Peaches, Freestone	36,000	36,000	9.81	10.80	353.0	390.0	10	January 23, 2008
Pears, Bartlett	12,000	12,000	16.60	18.30	199.0	220.0	11	January 23, 2008
Pears, Other	4,000	4,000	10.00	10.50	40.0	42.0	5	January 23, 2008
Prunes (Dried Weight)	65,000	65,000	2.77	1.38	180.0	90.0	-50	January 23, 2008
BERRIES	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008		
Strawberries 2/	35,500	35,500	---	---	---	---		January 23, 2008
CITRUS CROPS 3/	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08		
Grapefruit	11,500	11,000	696	909	8,000	10,000	25	April 9, 2008
Lemons	45,000	44,000	711	773	32,000	34,000	6	April 9, 2008
Oranges, Navel	136,000	137,000	500	701	68,000	96,000	41	April 9, 2008
Oranges, Valencia 4/	43,000	43,000	512	698	22,000	30,000	36	March 11, 2008
Tangerines 5/	16,000	18,000	363	567	5,800	10,200	76	April 9, 2008

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

2/ Includes fresh market and processing.

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

4/ Valencia Orange Objective Measurement Report will be released March 11, 2008 at 5:30 a.m. PST.

5/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.

CITRUS FRUIT – JANUARY 1 FORECAST

Oranges: California's all orange production forecast for January 1 is 126 million cartons (2.36 million tons), up 40 percent from 2006-07 and 3 percent above the 2005-06 final utilization.

Navel oranges are forecast at 96.0 million cartons (1.80 million tons), up 41 percent from last season and a 2 percent increase from the 2005-06 utilization. The Navel season got off to a good start with above average yields and good fruit color, maturity, and sugar content. Markets slowed a bit earlier in the season, but have been gaining momentum. Supplies remain plentiful and quality remains good.

The January 1 production forecast for **Valencia** oranges is 30.0 million cartons (563 thousand tons), up 36 percent from 2006-07 and 7 percent higher than 2005-06. Growers are expecting a better year for Valencia oranges than in 2007. Damage to trees from the 2007 freeze has had an effect on this year's production, but recovery has been significant in many groves. The crop has been progressing normally thus far.

Grapefruit: The California grapefruit forecast of 10.0 million cartons (168 thousand tons) is 25 percent higher than the 2006-07 season, but 17 percent lower than 2005-06. Florida and Texas continue to dominate the grapefruit market. California's Pummelo and Oroblanco grapefruit varieties are reported to be of good quality.

Lemon: California production is forecast at 34.0 million cartons (646 thousand tons), 6 percent above last season, but 23 percent lower than 2005-06. Picking is taking place in all growing regions of California, but picking is light. Demand has exceeded supply for some grades. Volumes should improve later this month as picking in the Central Valley gains momentum. Volumes nonetheless are expected to remain below average.

Tangerines: California's tangerine forecast is 10.2 million cartons (242 thousand tons), up 76 percent from last season's freeze-damaged crop and 42 percent above 2005-06. Harvest has been progressing well and the outlook is good for California mandarins. Quality has been good to excellent. Satsuma and Fairchild varieties are still being harvested throughout the State. Clementine harvest is about over, while Minneola tangelo harvest is just beginning. Rains may slow harvest in some areas.

CITRUS FRUIT PRODUCTION FORECAST, BY STATE AND U.S.

Crop and State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
	1,000 Cartons		
ORANGES: 1/			
California, All	122,000	90,000	126,000
Navel & Misc.	94,000	68,000	96,000
Valencia	28,000	22,000	30,000
Florida	295,400	258,000	336,000
Texas	3,200	3,960	3,570
Arizona	900	600	700
U.S. TOTAL	421,500	352,560	466,270
GRAPEFRUIT: 2/			
California	12,000	8,000	10,000
Florida	38,600	54,400	50,000
Texas	10,400	14,200	13,200
Arizona	200	200	300
U.S. TOTAL	61,200	76,800	73,500
LEMONS: 3/			
California	44,000	32,000	34,000
Arizona	7,600	5,000	3,000
U.S. TOTAL	51,600	37,000	37,000
TANGERINES: 4/			
California 5/	7,200	5,800	10,200
Florida	11,000	9,200	9,600
Arizona 5/	1,100	600	800
U.S. TOTAL	19,300	15,600	20,600

- 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: 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.