



California Fruit & Nut Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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APRIL CROP COMMENTS

California fruit and nut growers increased irrigation practices due to the continued dry spring. Grapes were pushing out and vines were leafing in the warmer weather. Grape growers were tying vines and applying treatments for insects and weeds. In some areas, grape growers were assessing frost damage that occurred because of unseasonably cold temperatures mid April. Growers used water and wind machines to help curtail damage, but these tactics were not enough in some locations. Damage reports were also received for apples, cherries, nectarines, pears, peaches, plums, and prunes. Losses in the northern areas of the State were most significant. Pears appeared to be hit the hardest. Damage to leaf canopies was widespread in some areas. Elsewhere, stone fruits were sizing normally, though a lighter fruit set has been observed in some locations. Apple, cherry, pear, pomegranates, jujube, and prune trees were still blooming in some areas. New orchards were still being planted. Many stone fruit orchards were being thinned. Spring strawberries, boysenberries, and blueberries were blooming. Picking was underway in some strawberry fields. Olive buds were forming and bloom had already begun in some areas. Almond groves throughout California were in

excellent condition. The crop was developing well in the warm, dry conditions with nut-lets developing rapidly. Disease pressure remained low given the lack of rainfall. Late variety walnuts were still blooming and pushing out new leaves. Blight treatments in walnuts were underway. Walnuts in some areas were damaged due to below freezing temperatures that occurred mid-month. Pistachios were blooming and bunches were already seen on some trees.

ALMOND PRODUCTION

The initial forecast for the 2008 California almond production is 1.46 billion pounds. This is 6 percent above last year's revised production of 1.38 billion pounds. Estimated bearing acreage for 2008 is 660 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, 251 reported. Acreage from these reports accounted for 18 percent of the total bearing acreage.

After a near perfect bloom, the 2008 California almond set looks strong. This year's bloom arrived three weeks later than normal and progressed quickly; it lasted only 10 days as opposed to the average three weeks. Overlapping bloom between varieties was outstanding this year, resulting in good cross-pollination, and there was an adequate supply of bees to pollinate the crop. The set of the Nonpareil variety is down slightly, but the set is up in other varieties.

FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Update
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008		
NUT CROPS	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>1,000 Pounds</i>			
Almonds (Shelled) 1/ 2/	615,000	660,000	2,240	2,210	1,380,000	1,460,000	6	June 30, 2008
Pecans	2,900	---	1,330	---	3,850	---		July 8, 2008
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	332,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	78,000	---		
Total	114,000	---	3,600	---	410,000	---		July 8, 2008
Walnuts (In-Shell) 3/	216,000	---	1.48	---	320.0	---		May 23, 2008
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples	20,500	---	9.51	---	195.0	---		July 8, 2008
Apricots	13,800	---	5.87	---	81.0	---		June 10, 2008
Cherries	30,000	---	2.83	---	85.0	---		June 10, 2008
Grapes, Raisin 4/ 5/	227,000	---	8.58	---	1,947.0	---		July 8, 2008
Grapes, Table 5/	82,000	---	9.20	---	754.0	---		July 8, 2008
Grapes, Wine	480,000	---	6.67	---	3,200.0	---		July 8, 2008
Grapes, All 4/ 5/	789,000	---	7.48	---	5,901.0	---		July 8, 2008
Olives	31,000	---	4.27	---	132.5	---		July 8, 2008
Peaches, Clingstone 6/	26,500	25,300	19.00	15.80	503.0	400.0	-20	June 10, 2008
Peaches, Freestone	36,000	36,000	11.90	11.90	430.0	430.0	NC	June 10, 2008
Pears, Bartlett	12,000	---	16.80	---	201.0	---		June 10, 2008
Pears, Other	4,000	---	10.50	---	42.0	---		July 8, 2008
Prunes (Dried Weight) 7/	65,000	---	1.25	---	81.0	---		May 22, 2008
BERRIES			<i>Cwt.</i>		<i>1,000 Cwt.</i>			
Strawberries 8/	35,800	35,500	600	620	21,540	22,020	2	July 10, 2008
CITRUS CROPS 9/	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08		
			<i>Cartons</i>		<i>1,000 Cartons</i>			
Grapefruit	11,500	11,000	957	909	11,000	10,000	-9	July 11, 2008
Lemons	45,000	44,000	822	773	37,000	34,000	-8	July 11, 2008
Oranges, Navel 10/	136,000	137,000	507	723	69,000	99,000	43	July 11, 2008
Oranges, Valencia	43,000	43,000	535	744	23,000	32,000	39	July 11, 2008
Tangerines 11/	16,000	18,000	438	567	7,000	10,200	46	July 11, 2008

1/ Almond Objective Measurement Report released June 30 at 12:00 p.m. PDT.
 2/ Revised 2007 data.
 3/ Walnut Objective Measurement Report released September 4 at 12:00 p.m. PDT.
 4/ Raisin Grape Objective Measurement Report released August 12 at 5:30 a.m. PDT.
 5/ Revised 2007 bearing acreage and yield per acre.
 6/ Over-the-scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.
 7/ Dried Plum Forecast reports (Prunes) will be released June 2 at 12:00 p.m. PDT and again on September 30 at 12:00 p.m. PDT.
 8/ Includes fresh market and processing
 9/ Grapefruit -- 33.5 lbs. per carton; Lemons -- 38.0 lbs. per carton; Oranges -- 37.5 lbs. per carton; Tangerines -- 37.5 lbs. per carton.
 10/ Navel Orange Objective Measurement Report will be released September 12 at 5:30 a.m. PDT.
 11/ Includes tangelos, tangerines and tangors.

PEACHES: The California 2008 peach crop is forecast at 830,000 tons, down 11 percent from 2007 but 17 percent above two years ago. The California Freestone crop is forecast at 430,000 tons, equal to last year's estimated production but 22 percent above the 2006 crop. California experienced an adequate number of chilling hours, which benefited the Freestone crop. Weather during the bloom period was very accommodating, although cooler spring temperatures have slowed maturity. The crop is reported to be of excellent quality, with good sizes. April Snow and Snow Angel harvest began in mid-April. The California Clingstone crop is forecast at 400,000 tons, down 20 percent from last year, but 11 percent above the 2006 crop. Weather during the bloom period was favorable; however, the crop suffered extensive frost damage in April. Growers are still assessing crop damage. Fruit in the northern growing areas was most impacted by frost, while fruit in the Modesto area suffered moderate damage, and fruit in southern areas was not affected.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Temperatures throughout the month were average, reaching the lower to mid-80s on most afternoons. No significant rainfall was reported after the first week of April. Trees were beginning to show slight afternoon wilt during the heat of the day, prompting growers to irrigate heavily.

The bloom period finished during the first two weeks of the month and the new fruit for next season formed quickly on the trees. Grove maintenance included spraying, mowing, hedging and topping, brush removal, and resetting. Many growers were still pushing trees with greening, while some were treating the trees prophylactically.

Valencia harvest was about half way through by the end of April. The clear weather allowed harvesting crews to work long days, keeping weekly utilization at six million boxes per week. Grapefruit harvest was around one million boxes per week. Processing plants began closing and the availability of grapefruit decreased rapidly towards the end of April. Honey tangerines, which are typically harvested for fresh market, were being used more for processing.

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 2/	122,000	92,000	131,000
Navel & Misc.	94,000	69,000	99,000
Valencia	28,000	23,000	32,000
Florida	295,400	258,000	337,000
Texas 2/	3,200	3,960	3,576
Arizona 2/	900	600	700
U.S. TOTAL	421,500	354,560	472,276
GRAPEFRUIT: 3/			
California, All 2/	12,000	11,000	10,000
Florida	38,600	54,400	52,600
Texas 2/	10,400	14,200	12,800
Arizona 2/	200	200	300
U.S. TOTAL	61,200	79,800	75,700
LEMONS: 2/ 4/			
California	44,000	37,000	34,000
Arizona	7,600	5,000	3,000
U.S. TOTAL	51,600	42,000	37,000
TANGERINES: 5/			
California 2/ 6/	7,200	7,000	10,200
Florida	11,000	9,200	10,600
Arizona 2/ 6/	1,100	600	800
U.S. TOTAL	19,300	16,800	21,600

- 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: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 33.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 40 lbs.
- 4/ LEMONS: 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.