

California Fruit & Nut Review



Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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| HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE: | |
|--|---|
| Fruit and Nut Summary — Almond Production | |
| Citrus Fruit Production — Peach Production | 1 |

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

| Pecans 2,900 1,330 3,850 July 8,2008 Pistachio (In-Shell) 332,000 July 8, 2008 Marketable In-Shell 78,000 July 8, 2008 Walnuts (In-Shell) 3/ 216,000 1.48 78,000 Apples 20,500 9.51 81.0 Apples 30,000 8.58 July 8, 2008 June 10, 2006 Grapes, Raisin 4/ 5/ 227,000 8.58 July 8, 2008 July 8, 2008 Grapes, Raisin 4/ 5/ 287,000 8.58 July 8, 2008 July 8, 2008 Grapes, Raisin 4/ 5/ 789,000 8.58 July 8, 2008 July 8, 2008 Peaches, Clingstone 6/ 26,500 25,300 19.00 15.80 503.0 400.0 Pears, | | | FRUIT | AND NUT ST | ATISTICS AT | A GLANCE | | | |
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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.

8/ Includes fresh market and processing

10/ Navel Orange Objective Measurement Report will be released September 12 at 5:30 a.m. PDT.

11/ Includes tangelos, tangerines and tangors.

^{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.

^{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.

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 | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------|---------|--|--|--|--|
| orop and State | 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/ | 1100 | 600 | 800 | | | | |
| U.S. TOTAL | 19,300 | 16,800 | 21,600 | | | | |
| 1/ OPANCES: California and Arizona, 1 carton - 27.5 lbs. | | | | | | | |

 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.