



# California Fruit & Nut Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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### MAY CROP COMMENTS

California grapes continued to leaf out and growers took measures to control suckers. Vineyards were treated with bloom sprays. Growers irrigated, thinned leaves, and treated for weeds, diseases, and insects. Dry conditions necessitated an increase in irrigation in fruit orchards. Fruit thinning was still underway in some orchards and strong winds near the end of the month concerned fruit growers. Stone fruit harvest began by the end of May for the following: Poppy, Red Velvet, Earlicot, Tasty Rich, Tom Cat, Castlebrite, Robada, and Apache apricots; Golden Sweet and Honey Gold apriums; Super Rich, April Snow, Super Lady, Snow Angel, Spring Flame, Spring Snow, Spring Treat, Island Prince, Earlitreat, May Sweet, Sweet Sun, Queencrest, Early Saturn, and May Saturn peaches; Red Beaut plums; Brooks, Rainier, and Tulare cherries; Spring Flavor, Flavorosa, and Sugar Rosa pluots; Flavorella plumcots; and Polar Ice, Crimson Baby, May

Pearl, Earli Glo, April Fire, Sunny Gun, Zee Fire, Red Roy, Ruby Fire, and Honey May nectarines. Pomegranate trees and kiwi vines were blooming. Blueberry and boysenberry harvests began, while strawberry harvest continued. Blueberry growers covered their plants with netting to prevent loss to birds. Olives were still blooming and fruit were setting in many groves. Nut groves were irrigated due to dry soils and high spring temperatures. In some areas, almond branches were sagging due to the heavy weight of the crop. Growers closely watched their groves for pests and some initiated insect control measures. Strong winds broke branches and toppled trees in some almond groves. Blight and scale treatments took place in walnut groves and codling moth spraying continued. Damage that occurred due to freezing temperatures in April was still being assessed. Some walnut groves were also negatively affected by the winds.

Citrus bloom was winding down and fruit set had begun. In some seedless mandarin orchards, netting was applied to keep bees from cross-pollinating trees. New citrus plantings were underway. Irrigation was increased in citrus groves to reduce stress and increase fruit set. Tangelos, grapefruit, lemons, and Navel and Valencia oranges were harvested. Mandarin and Navel harvests were slowing down and field juicing of Navels not suitable for the fresh market increased. Pink grapefruit were going to juicers in Imperial County. Valencia harvest picked up and Minneola harvest in Tulare County was complete.

### 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		
<b>NUT CROPS</b>	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>1,000 Pounds</i>			
Almonds (Shelled) 1/	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)	---	---	---	---	332,000	---	6	July 8, 2008
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	78,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Total	114,000	---	3,600	---	410,000	---		
Walnuts (In-Shell) 2/	216,000	---	1.48	---	320.0	---		July 8, 2008
<b>FRUIT CROPS</b>								
Apples	20,500	---	9.51	---	195.0	---	7	July 8, 2008
Apricots	13,800	13,400	5.87	6.49	81.0	87.0		July 8, 2008
Cherries	30,000	30,000	2.83	2.87	85.0	86.0	1	January 2009
Grapes, Raisin 3/	227,000	---	8.58	---	1,947.0	---		July 8, 2008
Grapes, Table	82,000	---	9.20	---	754.0	---		July 8, 2008
Grapes, Wine	480,000	---	6.67	---	3,200.0	---		July 8, 2008
Grapes, All 3/	789,000	---	7.48	---	5,901.0	---		July 8, 2008
Olives	31,000	---	4.27	---	132.5	---		July 8, 2008
Peaches, Clingstone 4/	26,500	25,300	19.00	15.00	503.0	380.0	-24	July 8, 2008
Peaches, Freestone 5/	36,000	36,000	11.90	11.90	430.0	430.0	NC	July 8, 2008
Pears, Bartlett	12,000	12,000	16.80	14.60	201.0	175.0	-13	July 8, 2008
Pears, Other	4,000	---	10.50	---	42.0	---		July 8, 2008
Prunes (Dried Weight) 6/	65,000	65,000	1.28	1.85	83.0	120.0	45	July 8, 2008
<b>BERRIES</b>			<i>Cwt.</i>		<i>1,000 Cwt.</i>			
Strawberries 7/	35,800	35,500	600	620	21,540	22,020	2	July 10, 2008
<b>CITRUS CROPS 5/ 8/</b>	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 9/	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 10/	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/ Walnut Objective Measurement Report released September 4 at 12:00 p.m. PDT.  
 3/ Raisin Grape Objective Measurement Report released August 12 at 5:30 a.m. PDT.  
 4/ Over-the-scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.  
 5/ Estimated for current year carried forward from previous forecast.  
 6/ Revised 2007 data.  
 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.  
 9/ Navel Orange Objective Measurement Report will be released September 12 at 5:30 a.m. PDT.  
 10/ Includes tangelos, tangerines and tangors.

**NON-CITRUS FRUIT**

**Apricots** - The 2008 California apricot crop forecast is 87.0 thousand tons, up 7 percent from the 2007 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 13.4 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 6.50 tons per acre. Nearly perfect weather during bloom raised hopes of record yields. A late frost in April dashed those expectations for some growers, while many others were unscathed. Some early harvested fruit had wind damage. Cool May weather promoted sizing and quality is anticipated to be very good. Harvest began on time in mid-May. After the sizeable crop last year, this year's large crop may be a challenge to market.

**Cherries** - The 2008 California sweet cherry crop forecast is 86.0 thousand tons, up 1 percent from the 2007 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 30.0 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 2.87 tons per acre. Spring weather has consisted of spotty light rain and cool temperatures for California's sweet cherry crop. Cherries started blooming in the month of March and harvest began in late April. Trees have a heavy set of fruit, which is expected to slow down crop maturity. There have been some reports of good fruit size by growers.

**Peaches** - The 2008 California Freestone peach crop forecast is 430 thousand tons, unchanged from the May forecast and the 2007 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 36.0 thousand, resulting in a yield of 11.9 tons per acre. California experienced an adequate number of chilling hours, thus benefiting the Freestone crop. Weather during the bloom period was very accommodating, although cooler spring temperatures have slightly slowed maturity. The crop is reported to be of excellent quality, with good sizes. Harvest continues with the Spring Snow, Spring Flame, Crimson Lady, and Crown Princess the major varieties picked. The 2008 California Clingstone peach crop forecast is 380 thousand tons, down 5 percent from the May forecast and 24 percent below the 2007 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 25.3 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 15.0 tons per acre. The Clingstone crop also experienced adequate chilling hours. Weather during the bloom period was favorable. However, unusually cold temperatures on April 19 and 20 have resulted in significant frost damage to the crop. The largest impact of the frost damage is in the northern growing areas, with some growers reporting 100 percent damage. There were also a large number of growers with loss in the Modesto area. However, fruit in the southern growing areas was not affected. Growers are waiting as long as possible before they start to thin to get a better idea of which fruit will drop and which will remain on the tree. Some blocks won't need to be thinned at all because their set is so light. Harvest of the crop will be slightly later this year due to the cooler temperatures.

**Pears, Bartlett** - The 2008 California Bartlett pear crop forecast is 175 thousand tons, down 13 percent from the 2007 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 12.0 thousand, resulting in a yield of 14.6 tons per acre. The California Bartlett crop began blooming in March, but in mid-April, pear orchards experienced freezing temperatures. Mendocino County, one of California's top pear growing regions, experienced the worst freeze growers have seen in nearly a half century. Damaged pears were showing a lot of black centers or frozen cores. The Sacramento River district was not impacted as much by the freeze and is expected to produce a normal crop.

**Prunes (Dried Plums)** - The 2008 California prune crop forecast is 120 thousand dried tons, up 45 percent from the 2007 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 65.0 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 1.85 tons per acre. Spring weather has again damaged the California prune crop. Despite the damage, crop prospects were showing an improvement over the small 2007 crop. A cold snap during April caused several Sutter County growers to lose more than 25 percent of their orchards and some growers lost their entire crop. A few growers reported difficulty in finding enough bees to help with crop pollination. Prune growers will assess the crop again after the June drop.

**FRUIT PRODUCTION FOR SELECTED STATES AND U.S.**

Crop and State	2006	2007	2008 Forecast
	Tons		
<b>APRICOTS</b>			
California	39,000	81,000	87,000
<b>CHERRIES, SWEET</b>			
California	42,100	85,000	86,000
Oregon	55,100	35,000	35,000
Washington	168,000	170,000	100,000
Total 1/	265,200	290,000	221,000
<b>PEACHES</b>			
California Total	712,000	933,000	810,000
Clingstone 2/	359,000	503,000	380,000
Freestone	353,000	430,000	430,000
Georgia	41,000	13,000	35,000
South Carolina	60,000	12,500	65,000
Total	813,000	958,500	910,000
<b>PEARS, BARTLETT</b>			
California	199,000	201,000	175,000
Oregon	63,000	62,000	57,000
Washington	165,000	172,000	150,000
Total	427,000	435,000	382,000
<b>PRUNES (Dried Plums)</b>			
California	198,000	83,000	120,000

- 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 19, 2008. The first estimate for 2008 sweet cherries in Montana will be released in January 2009.
- 2/ California Clingstone is over-the-scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.

**REVISED 2007 ACREAGE ESTIMATES**

The table below contains revised acreage estimates for 2007 almonds, grapes, prunes, and walnuts. These estimates are based on the industry-funded acreage surveys conducted for these crops. The survey results were recently published by the USDA-NASS, California Field Office.

More detailed acreage reports for these crops are available on our web site at [www.nass.usda.gov/ca](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ca).

**ACREAGE ESTIMATES, 2007 CROP**

Crop	Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
	Acres		
Almonds	615,000	125,000	740,000
Grapes, All	789,000	59,000	848,000
Raisin	227,000	6,000	233,000
Table	82,000	10,000	92,000
Wine	480,000	43,000	523,000
Prunes	65,000	7,500	72,500
Walnuts	218,000	25,000	243,000

**FLORIDA CITRUS**

Temperatures throughout the month followed seasonal patterns, reaching the lower to mid 90's most days with some days later in the month reaching the high 90's. Rainfall was not adequate to maintain tree vigor and irrigation was used extensively where available. Some trees started to show slight afternoon wilt during the heat of the day with non-irrigated trees showing heavy stress.

New fruit for next season ranged up to golf ball size on oranges and baseball size on grapefruit, typical for this time of year. Orchard activities included spraying, mowing, hedging and topping, brush removal, and resetting. Many growers were still pushing trees with greening.

By the end of May, harvest of Valencia oranges was nearly complete. The clear weather allowed crews early in the month to harvest more than six million boxes weekly, but by the end of the month hotter days slowed harvest. Grapefruit harvest was heavy until the end of the month and Honey tangerine harvest was nearly complete.

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

Crop and State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 Forecast
	1,000 Cartons		
<b>ORANGES: 1/ 2/</b>			
California, All 3/	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 3/	3,200	3,960	3,576
Arizona 3/	900	600	700
U.S. TOTAL	421,500	354,560	472,276
<b>GRAPEFRUIT: 4/</b>			
California, All 3/	12,000	11,000	10,000
Florida	38,600	54,400	53,000
Texas 3/	10,400	14,200	12,800
Arizona 3/	200	200	300
U.S. TOTAL	61,200	79,800	76,100
<b>LEMONS: 3/ 5/</b>			
California	44,000	37,000	34,000
Arizona	7,600	5,000	3,000
U.S. TOTAL	51,600	42,000	37,000
<b>TANGERINES: 6/</b>			
California 3/ 7/	7,200	7,000	10,200
Florida	11,000	9,200	11,000
Arizona 3/ 7/	1100	600	800
U.S. TOTAL	19,300	16,800	22,000

- 1/ ORANGES: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 45 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.
- 2/ Navel and miscellaneous varieties in AZ and CA. Early (Including Navel) and mid-season varieties in FL and TX. Small quantities of tangerines in TX.
- 3/ Estimate for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.
- 4/ GRAPEFRUIT: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 33.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 40 lbs.
- 5/ LEMONS: 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, 1981-82 TO DATE**

Season 1/	Almonds	Hazelnuts	Pecans	Walnuts	Macadamias	Pistachios	Other 2/	Total 3/
	Pounds							
1981-82	0.50	0.05	0.45	0.52	0.07	0.04	0.33	1.95
1982-83	0.59	0.07	0.49	0.47	0.07	0.05	0.46	2.20
1983-84	0.58	0.05	0.48	0.52	0.07	0.07	0.52	2.29
1984-85	0.68	0.06	0.54	0.48	0.08	0.11	0.47	2.41
1985-86	0.81	0.07	0.47	0.48	0.09	0.12	0.45	2.49
1986-87	0.53	0.03	0.54	0.49	0.09	0.11	0.47	2.25
1987-88	0.59	0.06	0.54	0.46	0.09	0.09	0.41	2.24
1988-89	0.65	0.07	0.50	0.50	0.09	0.12	0.40	2.44
1989-90	0.62	0.05	0.46	0.45	0.10	0.08	0.51	2.27
1990-91	0.74	0.07	0.49	0.45	0.11	0.11	0.50	2.45
1991-92	0.61	0.06	0.46	0.45	0.09	0.08	0.44	2.17
1992-93	0.59	0.08	0.35	0.46	0.09	0.10	0.57	2.30
1993-94	0.59	0.10	0.52	0.38	0.09	0.13	0.55	2.36
1994-95	0.53	0.07	0.48	0.44	0.10	0.13	0.49	2.15
1995-96	0.48	0.09	0.38	0.38	0.10	0.12	0.42	2.10
1996-97	0.58	0.02	0.47	0.32	0.10	0.06	0.51	2.08
1997-98	0.56	0.07	0.46	0.36	0.11	0.14	0.53	2.22
1998-99	0.60	0.05	0.49	0.38	0.12	0.15	0.52	2.29
1999-00	0.98	0.10	0.39	0.51	0.12	0.18	0.53	2.81
2000-01	0.82	0.07	0.47	0.44	0.11	0.21	0.47	2.58
2001-02	0.84	0.10	0.48	0.42	0.12	0.20	0.73	2.85
2002-03	1.07	0.08	0.43	0.47	0.10	0.21	0.83	3.24
2003-04	1.12	0.05	0.42	0.50	0.12	0.19	1.01	3.46
2004-05	0.89	0.07	0.40	0.53	0.15	0.26	1.08	3.38
2005-06	0.62	0.02	0.50	0.42	0.13	0.19	0.88	2.76
2006-07 4/	1.01	0.08	0.49	0.53	0.13	0.16	0.96	3.36

- 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