



California Fruit & Nut Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office · P.O. Box 1258 · Sacramento, CA 95812 · (916) 498-5161 · (916) 498-5186 Fax · www.nass.usda.gov/ca

Released: September 18, 2008 · Frequency: Monthly (except November) · (USPS 598-290) VOL. 28 NO. 9

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

California Fruit and Nut Summary.....	1-2
Navel Orange Survey — Florida Citrus.....	2
Walnut Survey.....	3

AUGUST CROP COMMENTS

Irrigation continued during August in vineyards and orchards. Growers were monitoring water use closely due to water restrictions in many locations. Table and wine-type grape harvest continued during the month. Flame and Thompson Seedless, Diamond Muscat, Black Emerald, Red Globe, Summer Royal, Autumn Royal, Princess, and Crimson varieties were harvested. Wine and juice grape varieties harvested included Alicante Bouchet, Chardonnay, Cabernet, Carignane, Grenache, Merlot, and Zinfandel. Growers began laying grapes on the ground to dry, marking the start of the raisin grape harvest. Zante currants were harvested and rolled. Stone fruit and pomegranate cultural practices such as irrigation, summer pruning,

and treatments to control weeds and insect pests continued. Peach, plum, and nectarine varieties were harvested. In Yuba County, some clingstone peach orchards were being left unharvested due to damage from the April freeze. Other tree fruits harvested included figs, Asian and Bartlett pears, and Gala and McIntosh apples. The pear crop appeared to be below average in some locations. In Stanislaus County, field fumigations were underway in strawberry fields. Various kinds of berries were still being picked in parts of the State. Kiwifruit was sizing in Yuba County. Olive fruits were sizing nicely, though some groves were expected to be left unharvested due to low yields. Almond harvest was well underway during August. Many new acres came into production this year, and the quality of fruit nuts looked good. Hull-split was still occurring in many groves. Walnut orchards were prepared for harvest, and trees were propped due to the heavy crop. Cleanup of broken limbs was underway, and treatments for codling moth, mites, and husk fly continued. Yields appeared low in groves damaged by frost earlier in the season. Pistachios growers were preparing for harvest.

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)	615,000	660,000	2,260	2,270	1,390,000	1,500,000	8	January 2009
Pecans	3,100	---	1,420	---	4,400	---		October 10, 2008
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	333,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	83,000	---		
Total	114,000	---	3,650	---	416,000	---		January 2009
			<i>Tons</i>		<i>1,000 Tons</i>			
Walnuts (In-Shell)	218,000	218,000	1.49	1.72	325.0	375.0	15	January 2009
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples	20,500	19,500	8.41	8.21	172.5	160.0	-7	January 2009
Apricots	13,800	13,400	5.87	6.12	81.0	82.0	1	January 2009
Cherries	30,000	30,000	2.83	2.87	85.0	86.0	1	January 2009
Grapes, Raisin	227,000	227,000	9.40	9.69	2,133.0	2,200.0	3	October 10, 2008
Grapes, Table	82,000	82,000	9.65	9.76	791.0	800.0	1	October 10, 2008
Grapes, Wine	480,000	480,000	6.85	7.08	3,287.0	3,400.0	3	October 10, 2008
Grapes, All	789,000	789,000	7.87	8.11	6,211.0	6,400.0	3	October 10, 2008
Olives	31,000	31,000	4.27	2.10	132.5	65.0	-51	January 2009
Peaches, Clingstone	26,500	25,300	19.00	15.00	503.0	380.0	-24	January 2009
Peaches, Freestone	36,000	36,000	12.40	11.90	446.0	430.0	-4	January 2009
Pears, Bartlett	12,000	12,000	16.80	16.67	201.0	200.0	NC	January 2009
Pears, Other	4,000	4,000	10.50	11.00	42.0	44.0	5	January 2009
Prunes (Dried Weight)	65,000	65,000	1.28	1.85	83.0	120.0	45	January 2009
BERRIES			<i>Cwt.</i>		<i>1,000 Cwt.</i>			
Strawberries 1/	35,500	36,700	605	600	21,540	22,020	2	January 2009
CITRUS CROPS 2/	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09		
			<i>Cartons</i>		<i>1,000 Cartons</i>			
Grapefruit	11,000	---	1,018	---	11,200	---		Sept. 25, 2008
Lemons	43,000	---	814	---	35,000	---		Sept. 25, 2008
Oranges, Navel 3/	137,000	137,000	708	467	97,000	64,000	-34	October 10, 2008
Oranges, Valencia	43,000	---	744	---	32,000	---		Sept. 25, 2008
Tangerines 4/	18,000	---	633	---	11,400	---		Sept. 25, 2008

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

2/ Grapefruit - 33.5 lbs. per carton, Lemons - 38.0 lbs. per carton, Oranges - 37.5 lbs. per carton, Tangerines - 37.5 lbs. per carton.

3/ Revised 2007-08 data.

4/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.

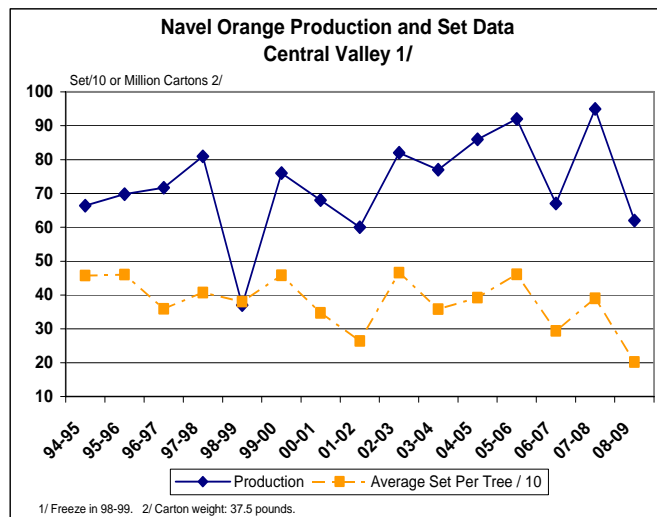
FLORIDA CITRUS

The first two weeks of the month were busy for growers as they put out final applications of summer oils, cleaned ditches, and fertilized, mowed, and hedged groves. The focus changed when Tropical Storm Fay swept across the Florida peninsula twice during the middle of the third week. Although fruit drop from the wind was minimal, tree damage could result from excess water generated by the storm. Citrus producing counties along the East Coast had up to a foot of rain in a single week. Counties in the southern and central citrus areas recorded rainfall amounts between three and eight inches, and isolated areas reported higher amounts. Most growers began pumping excess water out of ditches and canals before the storm hit, in anticipation of extreme rainfall amounts, and continued pumping for several days afterwards.

Access to groves with canker or greening was monitored by owners. Every precaution to prevent the spread of disease was being implemented. Where caretakers have spent ample time maintaining groves, oranges progressed well with sizes up to almost baseball size by the end of the month. Grapefruit were typically slightly less than softball size at month's end. Overall, conditions remained good in well-managed groves.

CALIFORNIA NAVEL ORANGE FORECAST

The initial 2008-09 Navel orange forecast is 64.0 million (37.5-pound) cartons, 34 percent below last season's crop of 97.0 million cartons. Of the total forecast, 62.0 million cartons are estimated to be in the Central Valley. Survey data indicated an average fruit set of 202 oranges per tree, with a September 1 diameter of 2.276 inches.



CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY NAVEL ORANGES

Crop Year 1/	Final Utilized Production (37.5-Lb. Cartons)	Bearing Acres	Average Trees Per Acre	Average Set Per Tree	Average September 1 Diameter 2/ (Inches)	Average March 1 Diameter 2/ (Inches)
1987-88	53,588,000	96,110	126	361	2.343	3.195
1988-89	58,326,000	98,766	126	570	2.195	2.761
1989-90	79,242,000	101,525	125	541	2.250	2.820
1990-91	25,514,000	104,560	124	498	2.213	---
1991-92	60,406,000	102,000	124	---	---	---
1992-93	81,034,000	102,612	121	572	2.296	3.021
1993-94	63,800,000	106,381	121	452	2.365	3.090
1994-95	66,358,000	107,049	121	457	2.232	3.063
1995-96	69,750,000	113,000	121	460	2.258	2.994
1996-97	71,700,000	115,000	121	359	2.470	3.208
1997-98	81,000,000	116,500	121	407	2.481	3.195
1998-99	37,000,000	118,000	121	380	2.184	---
1999-00	76,000,000	119,000	122	458	2.224	3.049
2000-01	68,000,000	122,000	122	347	2.311	3.120
2001-02	60,000,000	122,000	122	264	2.483	3.172
2002-03	82,000,000	122,500	122	466	2.200	3.000
2003-04	77,000,000	124,000	124	358	2.410	3.210
2004-05	86,000,000	126,000	125	392	2.495	3.295
2005-06	92,000,000	128,000	127	461	2.230	3.030
2006-07	67,000,000	129,000	129	294	2.268	3.068
2007-08	95,000,000	130,000	130	390	2.245	3.021
2008-09 3/	62,000,000	130,000	131	202	2.276	3.054 4/

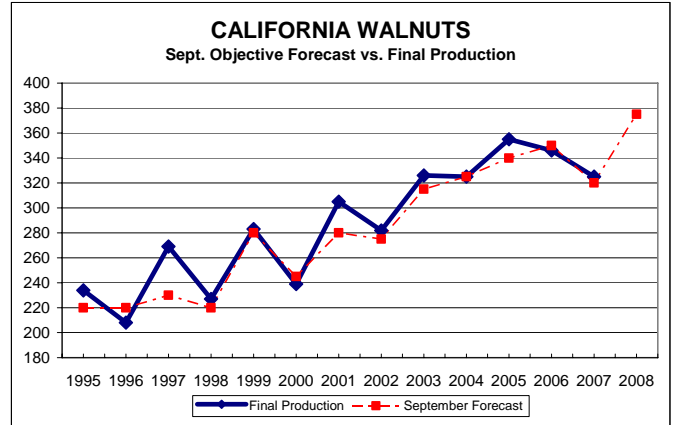
- 1/ Data for 1990-91 and 1998-99 (freeze years) were not used in forecasting the 2007-08 crop. An objective measurement survey was not conducted for the 1991-92 season due to lack of funding.
- 2/ Size data for 1984-85 through 1993-94 are from the Navel Orange Administrative Committee, while the data from 1993-94 through 2006-07 are from the orange industry. Size data beginning 2007-08 are from the USDA-NASS, California Field Office objective measurement survey.
- 3/ USDA, NASS, California Field Office preliminary forecast for 2008-09.
- 4/ Projected.

WALNUT PRODUCTION FORECAST

The 2008 California walnut production is forecast at 375,000 tons, up 15 percent from 2007's production of 325,000 tons. This forecast is based on the 2008 Walnut Objective Measurement (O.M.) Survey, which was officially conducted August 1 through August 25, 2008. There were a few samples completed before August 1 for training and scheduling purposes.

The 2008 Walnut O.M. Survey utilized a total of 689 blocks with two sample trees per block. Survey data indicated an average nut set of 1,416 per tree, up 4 percent from 2007's average of 1,357. The Hartley nut set was down 14 percent; Chandler was up 33 percent; Serr was down 20 percent from 2007. Percent of sound kernels in-shell was 98.0 percent Statewide. In-shell weight per nut was 22.2 grams, while the average in-shell suture measurement was 32.6 millimeters. The in-shell cross-width measurement was 32.9 and the average length in-shell was 39.3 millimeters.

Estimated nut sets, sizing measurements, average number of trees per acre, and estimated bearing acreage were used in the statistical models.



CALIFORNIA WALNUT OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT SURVEY DATA – NUTS SET PER TREE BY DISTRICT

Year	Coast 1/	Sacramento Valley 2/	San Joaquin Valley 3/	State 4/
1997	1,128	2,233	1,439	1,753
1998	1,070	1,654	1,253	1,407
1999	1,355	2,180	1,250	1,709
2000	1,195	1,812	1,204	1,483
2001	937	2,020	1,478	1,719
2002	1,254	1,982	1,142	1,572
2003	640	1,846	1,429	1,599
2004	924	1,943	1,168	1,526
2005	818	1,854	1,372	1,575
2006	1,316	1,660	1,267	1,458
2007	1,221	1,548	1,162	1,357
2008	973	1,592	1,270	1,416

- 1/ Coast includes: Contra Costa, Lake, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara, and Sonoma counties.
- 2/ Sacramento Valley includes: Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Sacramento, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba counties.
- 3/ San Joaquin Valley includes: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare counties.
- 4/ District and State averages are derived by weighting county averages by county bearing acreage figures.

CALIFORNIA WALNUT OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT SURVEY DATA -- STATE TOTALS

Year	Bearing Acres	Total Production <i>Tons</i>	Kernel Grade - Percent Sound	In-Shell			
				Weight <i>gm</i>	Width	Cross-Width <i>mm</i>	Length
1997	193,000	269,000	97.3	22.9	32.3	32.6	38.6
1998	198,000	227,000	94.4	21.4	31.9	31.8	39.5
1999	197,000	283,000	97.9	23.0	32.2	32.7	39.4
2000	200,000	239,000	96.9	21.2	32.2	32.8	38.2
2001	204,000	305,000	97.8	21.5	31.7	31.6	38.3
2002	210,000	282,000	96.3	22.0	32.4	32.7	38.5
2003	213,000	326,000	97.0	22.4	32.5	32.4	39.1
2004	214,000	325,000	98.2	22.5	32.6	32.5	39.0
2005	215,000	355,000	97.5	20.0	31.7	31.6	38.6
2006	216,000	346,000	98.0	22.7	31.4	33.6	39.5
2007	218,000	325,000	98.4	20.3	31.9	32.6	37.6
2008 a/	218,000	375,000	98.0	22.2	32.6	32.9	39.3

a/ Bearing years include plantings of the following: Chandler, Chico, Howard, Tulare (2004 & Earlier); 50-55, 59-124, 4946, Amigo, Ashley, Bardoni, Cisco, Earhorn, Grove, Gustine, Honeycutt, Houston, Jensen, Lompoc, Marchetti, Nuggett, Payne, Pedro, Serr, Sunland, Tehama, Trinta, UCD 67-13, Vina, Westside (2003 and Earlier); Franquette, Franquette Scharsch, Mayette, Placentia, Poe, Willsons/Willsons Wonder, Woodland (2001 & Earlier); all other varieties not specified (2002 & Earlier).