



California Fruit & Nut Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Fruit and Nut Production.....	1
Citrus and Non-Citrus Production.....	2

APRIL CROP COMMENTS

Cool temperatures slowed shoot development in central coast grape vineyards, while fungicides and fertilizers were applied in Central Valley vineyards. The prune, pear and cherry blooms were nearly finished. Kiwi orchards and citrus groves were blooming. The strawberry harvest began in Merced County. Strawberry nursery plants were planted in Siskiyou County, while strawberry and blueberry fields in eastern Fresno County were in bloom. Fieldwork and spraying were ongoing in orchards and vineyards.

Growing conditions in almond orchards were good. Irrigation, fertilizer and final fungicide applications dominated field activities. Observed pest activity was very low, with some spider mite spraying in Kern County. Pollination was underway in both walnut and pistachio orchards, as catkins continued to elongate on walnut trees. Blight control sprays for walnuts were ongoing, while bloom sprays for pistachio orchards were also prepared.

The navel orange, Valencia orange and lemon harvests continued normally in the San Joaquin Valley as the grapefruit and mandarin harvests neared completion. Grapefruit and lemons were also picked in the desert and

coastal regions. Mandarin growers with seedless varieties in the San Joaquin Valley began net placement in preparation for the upcoming bloom.

ALMOND PRODUCTION

The initial subjective forecast for the 2011 California almond production is 1.75 billion pounds, 6 percent above last year's production of 1.65 billion pounds. Estimated bearing acreage for 2011 is 750 thousand. This forecast is based on a telephone survey conducted April 21 - May 2 from a sample of almond growers. Of the 486 growers sampled, 375 reported. Acreage from these reports accounted for 27 percent of the total bearing acreage.

After a good winter with excellent chilling hours, the 2011 almond crop bloom began. A cold spring lengthened the bloom, causing more overlap between varieties. Cold weather can affect bee activity, but pollination was successful this year and California almond trees set a good crop. Freezing temperatures this spring did affect the northern regions more than the south, but frost damage was not significant. Older plantings suffered some damage from the strong winds that accompanied the spring storms, but overall damage was minimal. Spotty damage from hail was also noted. Low disease and insect pressure have been reported and, with all the precipitation California has seen this winter, lack of water for irrigation is not the problem it was a few years ago. Normal levels of shed have been reported. The crop in general is reported to be good with heavy sets noted on several varieties.

FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Update
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011		
NUT CROPS 1/	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>1,000 Pounds</i>			
Almonds (Shelled) 1/	740,000	750,000	2,230	2,330	1,650,000	1,750,000	6	June 30, 2011
Pecans	3,300	---	1,220	---	4,030	---		July 7, 2011
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	378,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	144,000	---		
Total	137,000	---	3,810	---	522,000	---		July 7, 2011
			<i>Tons</i>		<i>1,000 Tons</i>			
Walnuts (In-Shell) 2/	227,000	---	2.25	---	510.0	---		July 7, 2011
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples	18,000	---	8.33	---	150.0	---		July 7, 2011
Apricots	10,800	---	5.48	---	59.2	---		June 9, 2011
Cherries	29,000	---	3.34	---	97.0	---		June 9, 2011
Grapes, Raisin 3/	216,000	---	9.03	---	1,950.0	---		July 7, 2011
Grapes, Table	84,000	---	10.71	---	900.0	---		July 7, 2011
Grapes, Wine	489,000	---	6.75	---	3,300.0	---		July 7, 2011
Grapes, All 3/	789,000	---	7.79	---	6,150.0	---		July 7, 2011
Olives	33,000	---	5.76	---	190.0	---		July 7, 2011
Peaches, Clingstone 4/	23,000	---	18.78	---	432.0	430.0	<1	June 9, 2011
Peaches, Freestone	27,000	---	14.26	---	385.0	385.0	NC	June 9, 2011
Pears, Bartlett	10,000	---	17.00	---	170.0	---		June 9, 2011
Pears, Other	4,000	---	12.50	---	50.0	---		July 7, 2011
Plums, Dried (Prunes) 5/	63,000	---	1.98	---	125.0	---		June 2, 2011
BERRIES 6/	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011		
	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Cwt.</i>		<i>1,000 Cwt.</i>			
Strawberries 7/	38,600	38,000	669	665	25,829	25,270	-2	July 7, 2011
CITRUS CROPS 6/ 8/	2009-10	2010-11	2009-10	2010-11	2009-10	2010-11		
	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Cartons</i>		<i>1,000 Cartons</i>			
Grapefruit	9,600	9,400	938	745	9,000	7,000	-22	July 12, 2011
Lemons	46,000	45,000	913	933	42,000	42,000	NC	July 12, 2011
Oranges, Navel	140,000	139,000	607	691	85,000	96,000	13	July 12, 2011
Oranges, Valencia	43,000	41,000	698	634	30,000	26,000	-13	July 12, 2011
Mandarins & Mandarin Hybrids 9/	30,000	33,000	660	582	19,800	19,200	-3	July 12, 2011

1/ Almond Subjective Forecast Report was released May 5, 2011. Almond Objective Measurement Report will be released June 30, 2011.

2/ Walnut Objective Measurement Report will be released September 2, 2011 at 12:00 p.m. PDT.

3/ Raisin Grape Objective Measurement will be released August 11, 2011.

4/ Over-the-scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.

5/ Dried Plum Forecast Report will be released June 2, 2011.

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

7/ Includes fresh market and processing.

8/ 2010-11 Season: All Citrus Fruit -- 40.0 lbs per carton. 2009-10 Season (and previous years): Grapefruit -- 33.5 lbs per carton; Lemons -- 38 lbs per carton; Oranges -- 37.5 lbs per carton; Mandarins -- 37.5 lbs per carton.

9/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.

PEACHES: The California 2011 peach crop is forecast at 815 thousand tons, down less than 1 percent from 2010. The Freestone crop is forecast at 385 thousand tons, unchanged from last year. California experienced an adequate number of chilling hours, benefiting the Freestone crop. Because good weather during the bloom period resulted in a good set, growers are likely to thin more this year. There have been minimal reports of hail damage on the early varieties, and the overall crop has been reported as good. The Clingstone crop is forecast at 430 thousand tons, down less than 1 percent from 2010. Development was slowed due to spring rains and cooler-than-normal April temperatures. This year's statewide full bloom date was three days later than last year. The Extra Early and Early varieties were reported to have a heavy set, while the Late and Extra Late varieties were reported to have an average set. Cool and windy weather conditions had growers busy protecting their orchards from mildew.

FLORIDA CITRUS: In the citrus growing areas, temperatures were predominately in the 80s during the month. Weather stations reported lows in the 50s, and highs in the 80s and 90s this month. Heavy rains during the first part of April eased drought conditions in the western citrus growing areas, but the extreme drought conditions in the eastern and southeastern areas persisted.

Harvesting of early and midseason oranges was complete. Grapefruit and Valencia orange harvests continued. Most of the processing plants and canneries remained open. Valencia oranges and grapefruit made up the majority of fruit going to the plants. Heavy irrigation and harvesting dominated the grove activities this month.

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

Crop and State	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
	1,000 Cartons		
ORANGES: 1/			
California, All	93,000	115,000	122,000
Navel & Misc.	69,000	85,000	96,000
Valencia	24,000	30,000	26,000
Florida	325,000	267,400	280,000
Texas	2,918	3,270	3,530
Arizona 2/	500	---	---
U.S. TOTAL	421,418	385,670	405,530
GRAPEFRUIT: 3/			
California, All	9,600	9,000	7,000
Florida	43,400	40,600	39,200
Texas	11,000	11,200	11,800
Arizona 2/	50	---	---
U.S. TOTAL	64,050	60,800	58,000
LEMONS: 4/			
California	42,000	42,000	42,000
Arizona	6,000	4,400	5,000
U.S. TOTAL	48,000	46,400	47,000
TANGERINES & MANDARINS: 5/			
California 6/	13,400	19,800	19,200
Florida	7,700	8,900	9,200
Arizona 6/	500	700	600
U.S. TOTAL	21,600	29,400	29,000

- 1/ ORANGES: California (2010-11), 1 carton = 40 lbs.; prior years, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 45 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.
- 2/ Estimates discontinued beginning with the 2009-10 crop year.
- 3/ GRAPEFRUIT: California (2010-11), 1 carton = 40 lbs; prior years, 1 carton = 33.5 lbs; Florida, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 40 lbs.; Arizona, 1 carton = 33.5 lbs.
- 4/ LEMONS: (2010 -11) 1 carton = 40 lbs.; prior years = 38 lbs.
- 5/ TANGERINES: California (2010-11), 1 carton = 40 lbs; prior years, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs; Florida, 1 carton = 47.5 lbs.; Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.
- 6/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.

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