



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

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DECEMBER FRUIT COMMENTS

Grape growers in California continued to prune, irrigate, cultivate, and remove old vineyards. Only a few grape varieties were still being picked, including Autumn Royal, Christmas Rose, Crimson Seedless and Kyoho. Harvesting of pomegranates and jujubes ended in Fresno County and kiwifruit harvest was complete in Tulare County. Post-harvest activities such as pruning and irrigation were underway in stone-fruit orchards. Harvest of raspberry and strawberry nursery stock continued. Olives were harvested for oil. Almond and pistachio trees were being planted and pruning was underway in established orchards.

FLORIDA CITRUS

Florida's overall temperatures were average for the month of December in all citrus-producing counties. Weather conditions were generally dry, with less than an inch of rain falling in many areas during the month. Growers irrigated regularly, minimizing any potential negative affect from the dry weather. Weekly processing of early midseason oranges peaked the third week of December. Navel orange harvesting increased after Thanksgiving, but dropped significantly after the holidays when the heavy emphasis on gift fruit packing subsided. Grapefruit quality improved to excellent after a beneficial cold snap the third week of November. Grove activity, other than harvesting, included irrigating, preparing groves for harvest, fertilizing and post-harvest hedging. Scouting for greening and removal of affected trees continued in all areas.

FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE FOR CALIFORNIA

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Update
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008		
NUT CROPS 1/	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled) 2/	640,000	660,000	2,170	2,270	1,390,000	1,500,000	8	January 23, 2009
Pecans	3,100	3,100	1,420	1,290	4,400	4,000	-9	January 23, 2009
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	333,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	83,000	---		
Total 2/	115,000	---	3,620	---	416,000	---		January 23, 2009
			Tons		1,000 Tons			
Walnuts (In-Shell) 2/	218,000	218,000	1.50	1.72	328.0	375.0	14	January 23, 2009
FRUIT CROPS 1/								
Apples	20,500	19,500	8.41	8.21	172.5	160.0	-7	January 23, 2009
Apricots 2/	11,300	13,400	7.17	6.12	81.0	82.0	1	January 23, 2009
Cherries 2/	26,000	30,000	3.27	2.87	85.0	86.0	1	January 23, 2009
Grapes, Raisin 2/	227,000	227,000	9.48	9.69	2,151.0	2,200.0	2	January 23, 2009
Grapes, Table	82,000	82,000	9.65	10.10	791.0	830.0	5	January 23, 2009
Grapes, Wine 2/	480,000	480,000	6.85	7.08	3,288.0	3,400.0	3	January 23, 2009
Grapes, All 2/	789,000	789,000	7.90	8.15	6,230.0	6,430.0	3	January 23, 2009
Olives 2/	30,000	31,000	4.42	2.10	132.5	65.0	-51	January 23, 2009
Peaches, Clingstone	26,500	25,300	19.00	15.00	503.0	380.0	-24	January 23, 2009
Peaches, Freestone 2/	31,000	36,000	14.40	11.90	446.0	430.0	-4	January 23, 2009
Pears, Bartlett 2/	11,000	12,000	18.30	16.70	201.0	200.0	0	January 23, 2009
Pears, Other	4,000	4,000	10.50	11.00	42.0	44.0	5	January 23, 2009
Prunes (Dried Weight) 2/	64,000	65,000	1.30	1.85	83.0	120.0	45	January 23, 2009
BERRIES	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009		
			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
Strawberries 3/	36,700	39,000	---	---	---	---		January 23, 2009
CITRUS CROPS 4/	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09		
			Cartons		1,000 Cartons			
Grapefruit	11,000	11,000	1,036	818	11,400	9,000	-21	April 9, 2009
Lemons 1/	44,000	44,000	773	864	34,000	38,000	12	April 9, 2009
Oranges, Navel	137,000	137,000	708	503	97,000	69,000	-29	April 9, 2009
Oranges, Valencia 1/ 5/	43,000	43,000	744	558	32,000	24,000	-25	March 11, 2009
Tangerines 6/	18,000	22,000	633	636	11,400	14,000	23	April 9, 2009

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

2/ Revised 2007 data.

3/ Includes fresh market and processing.

4/ Grapefruit - 33.5 lbs. per carton; Lemons - 38.0 lbs. per carton; Oranges - 37.5 lbs. per carton; Tangerines - 37.5 lbs. per carton.

5/ Valencia Orange Objective Measurement Report will be released March 11, 2009 at 5:30 a.m. PDT.

6/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.

CITRUS FRUIT – JANUARY 1 FORECAST

Oranges: California's all orange production is forecast at 93 million cartons (1.74 million tons), down 28 percent from 2007-08, but 1 percent above the 2006-07 crop.

Navel oranges are forecast at 69.0 million cartons (1.29 million tons), down 29 percent from last season, unchanged from final 2006-07 utilization. Harvesting of Navel crop was slightly behind schedule, with picking slowed due to fog, rain and cold temperatures. Fruit quality was reported as good.

The January 1 California Valencia forecast is 24.0 million cartons (450 thousand tons), down 25 percent from last season, but up 4 percent from the 2006-07 crop.

Grapefruit: The California grapefruit forecast of 9.00 million cartons (150 thousand tons) is 21 percent lower than the 2007-08 season, and down 18 percent from 2006-07. Melo Gold and Cocktail grapefruit and Chandler pummelos were harvested in the Central Valley. Smaller than average fruit sizes were reported for current season's crop.

Lemon: California's production is forecast at 38.0 million cartons (722 thousand tons), up 12 percent from last season and 3 percent higher than 2006-07. Demand for California lemons has kept up with supply, and supply levels have remained about normal. Quality of harvested fruit was reported as good, but some fruit drop occurred in desert locations.

Tangerines: California's tangerine and mandarin forecast is a record-high 14.0 million cartons (263 thousand tons), up 23 percent from last season and 100 percent above the 2006-07 freeze-damaged crop. Harvesting of Satsuma, Clementine and Fairchild varieties was underway. Picking was slowed at times due to cold, wet weather, but fruit quality was reported as excellent.

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

Crop and State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
	1,000 Cartons		
ORANGES: 1/			
California, All	92,000	129,000	93,000
Navel & Misc.	69,000	97,000	69,000
Valencia	23,000	32,000	24,000
Florida	131,200	167,000	168,000
Texas	3,200	3,000	2,900
Arizona	400	460	300
U.S. TOTAL	226,800	299,460	264,200
GRAPEFRUIT: 2/			
California, All	11,000	11,400	9,000
Florida	54,400	53,200	46,000
Texas	14,200	12,200	11,400
Arizona	200	200	300
U.S. TOTAL	79,800	77,000	66,700
LEMONS: 3/			
California	37,000	34,000	38,000
Arizona	5,000	3,000	5,000
U.S. TOTAL	42,000	37,000	43,000
TANGERINES: 4/			
California 5/	7,000	11,400	14,000
Florida	9,200	11,000	9,800
Arizona 5/	600	800	500
U.S. TOTAL	16,800	23,200	24,300

1/ ORANGES: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 45 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.

2/ GRAPEFRUIT: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 33.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 40 lbs.

3/ LEMONS: 1 carton = 38 lbs.

4/ TANGERINES: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 47.5 lbs.

5/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.