



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: April 15, 2009 · Frequency: Monthly (except November) · (USPS 598-290) VOL. 29 NO. 4

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Fruit and Nut Production.....	1
Citrus and Strawberry Production	2
U.S. Per Capita Fruit Consumption	3

MARCH CROP COMMENTS

In California freezing temperatures the second week of March resulted in reports of scattered freeze damage to tree fruit crops in the San Joaquin Valley. Many growers, however, were still assessing the damage, primarily in kiwifruit and grape vineyards. Spraying and cane tying wrapped up in grape vineyards during March and irrigation and site preparation began. Grape buds began to swell. The bloom commenced in apple, apricot, peach, cherry, nectarine, pluot, prune and pear orchards. Wet weather conditions in northern areas of the State prompted growers to begin fungicide treatments for bloom protection. In the Sacramento Valley, Cling peach bloom was complete, trees were leafing out and growers began mowing orchard center rows.

Persimmon trees also started leafing out. Blight treatments were applied in peach orchards and weed control treatments continued in peach and prune orchards. Lack of significant rainfall in the San Joaquin Valley during the month forced farmers to begin irrigation practices for most tree crops. Kiwifruit vines began leafing out, but blossoms had not yet developed. Spring strawberries and blueberries were blooming. Olive orchard maintenance continued.

Pre-planting fumigation continued in new almond and walnut orchards. Cool temperatures extended the almond bloom in parts of the Sacramento Valley, but in the San Joaquin Valley petal fall was nearly complete and trees began leafing out. Early mite damage to almonds was reported, primarily in areas of the San Joaquin Valley where last year's water restrictions increased tree susceptibility to water stress. Damage to almonds from the early March freeze had not yet been quantified. Walnut orchards were fertilized, irrigated and treated for blight. Pollen sacks continued to develop on male pistachio trees, and female pistachio trees were blooming.

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 1/	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled) 2/	640,000	660,000	2,180	2,350	1,390,000	1,550,000	12	May 8, 2009
Pecans	2,500	2,600	1,760	1,350	4,400	3,500	-20	July 8, 2009
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	333,000	231,000	-31	
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	83,000	47,000	-43	
Total	115,000	118,000	3,620	2,360	416,000	278,000	-33	July 8, 2009
			Tons		1,000 Tons			
Walnuts (In-Shell) 3/	218,000	218,000	1.50	1.72	328.0	375.0	14	July 8, 2009
FRUIT CROPS 1/								
Apples	20,500	19,500	8.41	8.46	172.5	165.0	-4	July 8, 2009
Apricots	11,300	11,100	7.17	6.94	81.0	77.0	-5	June 10, 2009
Cherries	26,000	27,000	3.27	3.19	85.0	86.0	1	June 10, 2009
Grapes, Raisin 4/	227,000	227,000	9.48	10.53	2,151.0	2,391.0	11	July 8, 2009
Grapes, Table	82,000	82,000	9.65	10.57	791.0	867.0	10	July 8, 2009
Grapes, Wine	480,000	480,000	6.85	7.08	3,288.0	3,400.0	3	July 8, 2009
Grapes, All 4/	789,000	789,000	7.90	8.44	6,230.0	6,658.0	7	July 8, 2009
Olives	30,000	30,000	4.42	2.23	132.5	66.8	-50	July 8, 2009
Peaches, Clingstone	26,500	25,000	18.98	17.00	503.0	426.0	-15	May 12, 2009
Peaches, Freestone	31,000	31,000	14.39	13.70	446.0	426.0	-4	May 12, 2009
Pears, Bartlett	11,000	11,000	18.30	17.70	201.0	195.0	-3	June 10, 2009
Pears, Other	4,000	4,000	10.50	11.30	42.0	45.0	7	July 8, 2009
Prunes (Dried Weight) 5/	64,000	64,000	1.30	1.97	83.0	126.0	52	June 2, 2009
BERRIES	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009		
			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
Strawberries 6/	37,600	39,000	605	605	22,675	23,595	4	July 10, 2009

1/ Estimate for current year carried forward from previous forecast.
2/ Almond Subjective Forecast Report will be released May 8, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. PDT. Almond Objective Measurement Report will be released June 30, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. PDT.
3/ Walnut Objective Measurement Report will be released September 4, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. PDT.
4/ Raisin Grape Objective Measurement Report will be released August 12, 2009 at 6:30 a.m. PDT.
5/ Dried Plum Forecast reports (Prunes) will be released June 2, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. PDT.
6/ Includes fresh market and processing.

CALIFORNIA CITRUS

Navel Oranges -- The 2008-09 Navel orange forecast is 76.0 million cartons, a 10 percent increase from January, and down 16 percent from last season. Fruit quality remained good for all Navel varieties despite unfavorable temperatures at different times of the season. Larger fruit size did not offset the reduced fruit set per tree to impact yields per acre. Scattered freezing temperatures were a concern for growers in March, forcing growers to use wind machines and irrigation to keep temperatures up. Forecasted reductions in irrigation water delivery continue to remain a concern for growers.

Valencia Oranges -- The 2008-09 Valencia orange forecast remains unchanged from March at 30.0 million cartons. The crop is expected to be down 12 percent from last season. Harvest began on schedule during March. Fruit quality was good with a lighter-than-average fruit set per tree. Average fruit size did not stand apart from previous year sizes. Scattered freezing temperatures were a concern for growers in March, forcing growers to use wind machines and irrigation to keep temperatures up. Forecasted reductions in irrigation water delivery continue to remain a concern for growers.

Grapefruit -- The 2008-09 California grapefruit forecast is 8.80 million cartons, down 2 percent from the January forecast, and down 15 percent from last season. The Desert Rio Red variety grapefruit harvest continued. Sizes were reported to be small. Star Ruby variety grapefruit harvest is expected to begin in April.

Lemons -- The 2008-09 lemon forecast is 38.0 million cartons, unchanged from the January forecast, but 28 percent above last season. Fruit size was small, however, fruit quality remained good. Scattered freezing temperatures were a concern for growers in March, forcing growers to use wind machines and irrigation to keep temperatures up. Forecasted reductions in irrigation water delivery continue to remain a concern for growers.

Tangerines -- The 2008-09 tangerine forecast is 13.4 million cartons, down 4 percent from the January forecast, but unchanged from last season. The season finished up for W. Murcott as well as Fairchild mandarins. Harvest continued for Shasta Gold, Royal, Pixie and Honey Mandarins, though some fruit drop occurred in the San Joaquin Valley. Early season frost coupled with freezing temperatures mid-March caused scattered freeze damage throughout the season. Forecasted reductions in irrigation water delivery remained a concern for growers.

FLORIDA CITRUS

A cold front moved across the State in early March bringing freezing temperatures to many locations, but causing no damage to the citrus crop. A gradual warming trend followed almost immediately, raising temperatures to the low 50's at night and high 80's during the day. Warm, seasonal temperatures continued the remainder of the month. Many areas, especially in the south, have received very little appreciable precipitation in the past three months and are experiencing severe drought conditions. Growers and caretakers were irrigating regularly in an attempt to keep the trees and fruit in good condition. Other grove activities

included fertilizing, hedging, topping, aerial spraying and mowing. Trees were recovering well from the January and February freezes. Field personnel observed widespread spring citrus bloom and a fully expanded flush by the end of the month.

Several packinghouses reported that they had finished or were planning to finish packing Honey tangerines within the next couple weeks. Early and midseason orange harvesting was relatively complete for the season. Valencia orange harvesting picked up steadily the last half of the month, but ratios of sugar solids to acid continued to be reported as low and inconsistent. Grapefruit harvesting slowed to under a million boxes weekly, with the majority of white grapefruit being processed and almost equal amounts of red grapefruit going to processing and fresh.

**CITRUS FRUIT PRODUCTION
FORECAST BY STATE AND U.S. 1/**

Crop and State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
	1,000 Cartons		
ORANGES: 2/			
California, All	92,000	124,000	106,000
Navel & Misc.	69,000	90,000	76,000
Valencia	23,000	34,000	30,000
Florida	258,000	340,400	315,200
Texas	3,960	3,468	3,400
Arizona	600	760	600
U.S. TOTAL	354,560	468,628	425,200
GRAPEFRUIT: 3/			
California, All	11,000	10,400	8,800
Florida	54,400	53,200	46,000
Texas	14,200	12,200	12,400
Arizona	200	200	300
U.S. TOTAL	79,800	76,000	67,500
LEMONS: 4/			
California	37,000	29,600	38,000
Arizona	5,000	3,000	5,000
U.S. TOTAL	42,000	32,600	43,000
TANGERINES: 5/			
California 6/	7,000	13,400	13,400
Florida	9,200	11,000	8,000
Arizona 6/	600	800	500
U.S. TOTAL	16,800	25,200	21,900

- 1/ Revised 2007-08 data.
- 2/ ORANGES: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 45 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.
- 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.

STRAWBERRIES

The 2009 California strawberry production is expected to be 23.6 million cwt., up 4 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 39,000, with a yield of 605 cwt. per acre. The 2009 strawberry crop volume was increasing as fields recovered from recent rainfall. With temperatures climbing, yields were following suit. Crop quality was good.

FRESH FRUIT: UNITED STATES PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION, 1986 TO DATE 1/

Year 2/	CITRUS FRUIT					TOTAL 3/	NON-CITRUS FRUIT					
	Oranges & Temples	Tangerines, Tangelos, & Mandarins	Lemons	Limes	Grapefruit	Citrus	Apples	Apricots	Avocados	Bananas	Blueberries	Cherries
Pounds												
1986	13.4	1.6	2.5	0.6	6.1	24.2	17.8	0.1	2.4	25.8	0.2	0.5
1987	12.8	1.8	2.5	0.5	6.4	24.0	20.8	0.1	1.6	25.0	0.2	0.7
1988	13.9	1.8	2.5	0.6	6.7	25.4	19.8	0.2	1.6	24.3	0.3	0.5
1989	12.2	1.7	2.4	0.7	6.6	23.6	21.2	0.1	1.1	24.7	0.2	0.5
1990	12.4	1.3	2.6	0.7	4.4	21.4	19.6	0.2	1.4	24.4	0.1	0.4
1991	8.4	1.4	2.6	0.8	5.9	19.0	18.1	0.1	1.4	25.1	0.2	0.4
1992	12.8	1.9	2.5	1.0	5.9	24.2	19.1	0.2	2.2	27.1	0.2	0.5
1993	14.2	1.9	2.6	1.0	6.2	25.8	19.0	0.1	1.3	26.6	0.3	0.4
1994	12.9	2.1	2.7	1.0	6.1	24.7	19.4	0.2	1.4	27.8	0.3	0.5
1995	11.8	2.0	2.8	1.2	6.0	23.8	18.7	0.1	1.6	27.1	0.3	0.3
1996	12.6	2.2	2.9	1.1	5.9	24.6	18.7	0.1	1.6	27.6	0.3	0.4
1997	13.9	2.5	2.8	1.2	6.2	26.5	18.1	0.1	1.7	27.2	0.3	0.6
1998	14.6	2.2	2.5	1.4	5.9	26.6	19.0	0.1	1.5	28.0	0.3	0.5
1999	8.4	2.3	2.6	1.3	5.8	20.4	18.5	0.1	1.9	30.7	0.3	0.6
2000	11.7	2.9	2.4	1.4	5.1	23.5	17.5	0.2	2.2	28.4	0.3	0.6
2001	11.9	2.7	3.0	1.5	4.8	23.9	15.6	0.1	2.5	26.6	0.3	0.8
2002	11.7	2.6	3.3	1.1	4.6	23.3	16.0	0.1	2.3	26.7	0.4	0.7
2003	11.9	2.7	3.3	1.9	4.1	23.9	16.9	0.1	2.7	26.1	0.4	0.9
2004	10.8	2.8	3.1	1.9	4.1	22.7	18.8	0.1	3.1	25.7	0.5	1.0
2005	11.4	2.5	2.9	2.1	2.6	21.6	16.7	0.1	3.5	25.2	0.4	0.8
2006	10.2	2.7	4.1	2.2	2.3	21.5	17.8	0.1	3.6	25.1	0.6	1.1
2007	7.4	2.6	2.8	2.4	2.8	18.0	16.4	0.2	3.4	25.9	0.6	1.2
Year 2/	NON-CITRUS FRUIT, CONTINUED										TOTAL 3/	
	Cranberries	Grapes	Kiwifruit	Mangos	Peaches & Nectarines	Pears	Pineapples	Papayas	Plums & Prunes	Strawberries	Non-Citrus	Fruit
Pounds												
1986	0.1	7.1	0.2	0.5	5.8	3.0	1.7	0.2	1.3	2.9	69.6	93.9
1987	0.1	7.0	0.3	0.6	6.1	3.5	1.6	0.2	1.9	3.1	72.8	96.8
1988	0.1	7.7	0.3	0.4	6.8	3.2	1.8	0.2	1.7	3.3	72.0	97.5
1989	0.1	7.9	0.5	0.5	5.9	3.2	2.0	0.1	1.4	3.3	72.7	96.3
1990	0.1	7.8	0.5	0.5	5.5	3.2	2.1	0.2	1.5	3.2	70.7	92.0
1991	0.1	7.3	0.3	0.9	6.4	3.1	1.9	0.2	1.4	3.6	70.4	89.4
1992	0.1	7.1	0.5	0.7	6.0	3.1	2.0	0.2	1.8	3.6	74.4	98.6
1993	0.1	7.0	0.5	0.9	5.9	3.4	2.0	0.3	1.3	3.6	72.6	98.4
1994	0.1	7.0	0.5	1.0	5.4	3.4	2.0	0.3	1.6	4.1	74.9	99.6
1995	0.1	7.5	0.5	1.1	5.3	3.4	1.9	0.4	0.9	4.1	73.2	97.1
1996	0.1	6.7	0.5	1.3	4.4	3.1	1.9	0.5	1.4	4.3	72.8	97.4
1997	0.1	7.8	0.5	1.4	5.5	3.4	2.3	0.5	1.5	4.1	75.1	101.6
1998	0.1	7.2	0.5	1.5	4.7	3.4	2.8	0.5	1.2	3.9	75.2	101.8
1999	0.1	8.0	0.5	1.6	5.3	3.5	3.0	0.6	1.3	4.6	80.7	101.1
2000	0.1	7.4	0.6	1.8	5.3	3.4	3.2	0.7	1.2	4.9	77.7	101.2
2001	0.1	7.4	0.4	1.8	5.2	3.2	3.2	0.8	1.3	4.2	73.5	97.4
2002	0.1	8.4	0.4	2.0	5.2	3.1	3.8	0.8	1.3	4.6	75.9	99.2
2003	0.1	7.6	0.4	2.1	5.2	3.1	4.4	0.9	1.2	5.3	77.4	101.3
2004	0.1	7.8	0.4	2.0	5.1	2.9	4.4	1.0	1.1	5.5	79.7	102.3
2005	0.1	8.6	0.4	1.9	4.8	2.9	4.9	0.9	1.1	5.8	78.2	99.8
2006	0.1	7.6	0.5	2.1	4.6	3.2	5.2	1.0	1.0	6.1	79.6	101.1
2007	0.1	8.0	0.4	2.1	4.5	3.1	5.0	1.1	1.0	6.4	79.5	97.5

1/ All non-citrus fruit data are on calendar-year basis, except for apples (year begins in August of the year shown), grapes (since 1990, year begins in May; prior to 1990, year began in July), kiwifruit (since 1988, year begins in October; prior to 1988, year began in January), and pears (year begins in July). For oranges and Temples, year begins in November; tangerines and tangelos in November for Arizona and California, October for Florida; grapefruit in September, and lemons in August of the prior year. Lime year begins in April of the year shown.

2/ Preliminary 2007 figures.

3/ Some figures may not add due to rounding.

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA.