



California Fruit & Nut Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Fruit and Nut Summary — Almond Production..... 1
Citrus Fruit Production — Peach Production 2

APRIL CROP COMMENTS

Weather conditions in California during April were variable. Early in the month, high winds and cool temperatures throughout much of the Sacramento Valley hampered orchard spraying activities and bee pollination. After a few days of unseasonably high temperatures, a cold front pushed through, bringing moderate precipitation, gusty winds and cooler temperatures to the State. The cold temperatures caused some frost damage to pomegranates, kiwifruit and table grapes in the San Joaquin Valley, and prompted growers to irrigate for frost protection in pistachio orchards. In the Sacramento Valley, pistachio trees damaged from the frost were replanted. Three days of record high temperatures near the end of the month caused increased evapotranspiration rates, resulting in light stress in some nut orchards. The hot temperatures also triggered increased growth and development rates in northern coastal olive trees.

Grape bud break progressed well during April, with shoot growth accelerating due to warmer temperatures. Cane tying continued, and some vineyards were sprayed for mildew. Nectarine, pomegranate, pear, peach, prune, olive, apricot and apple trees were blooming. Pear bloom was reported as excellent along the northern coast. Cherries were maturing and

nearly ready for harvest in some areas. Persimmon stem elongation continued, and kiwifruit vines in the Sacramento Valley leafed out.

Strawberry harvest picked up across the State, and fruit quality remained good. Blueberries began to turn color. Mites were present on almond trees throughout the State, but little damage was reported. Damage from an early March freeze was confirmed in some almond orchards. Pistachio trees began leafing out. Walnut blight treatment continued.

ALMOND PRODUCTION

The initial forecast for the 2009 California almond production is 1.45 billion pounds, 10 percent below last year's production of 1.61 billion pounds. Estimated bearing acreage for 2009 is 710 thousand. This forecast is based on a telephone survey conducted April 23 - May 5 from a sample of almond growers. Of the 470 growers sampled, 275 reported. Acreage from these reports accounted for 23 percent of the total bearing acreage.

After a difficult spring, the 2009 almond set looks good. Bloom progressed slowly due to wet conditions; wet weather hampered pollination. Cool temperatures did extend the almond bloom in parts of the Sacramento Valley. Freezing temperatures in March caused damage to some almond orchards. Mites were present on almonds across the state. However, control measures, combined with some spring rains, resulted in little damage to the crop. Almond growers were assessing how future water stress will impact orchard management.

FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Update
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009		
NUT CROPS	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds			
Almonds (Shelled) 1/ 2/	680,000	710,000	2,370	2,040	1,610,000	1,450,000	-10	June 30, 2009
Pecans	2,600	---	1,350	---	3,500	---		July 8, 2009
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	231,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	47,000	---		
Total	118,000	---	2,360	---	278,000	---		July 8, 2009
			Tons		1,000 Tons			
Walnuts (In-Shell) 3/	218,000	---	1.72	---	375.0	---		July 8, 2009
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples	19,500	---	8.46	---	165.0	---		July 8, 2009
Apricots	11,100	---	6.94	---	77.0	---		June 10, 2009
Cherries	27,000	---	3.19	---	86.0	---		June 10, 2009
Grapes, Raisin 4/ 5/	221,000	---	10.80	---	2,391.0	---		July 8, 2009
Grapes, Table 5/	83,000	---	10.40	---	867.0	---		July 8, 2009
Grapes, Wine 5/	482,000	---	7.05	---	3,400.0	---		July 8, 2009
Grapes, All 4/ 5/	786,000	---	8.47	---	6,658.0	---		July 8, 2009
Olives	30,000	---	2.23	---	66.8	---		July 8, 2009
Peaches, Clingstone 6/	25,000	24,600	17.00	17.50	426.0	430.0	1	June 10, 2009
Peaches, Freestone	31,000	28,000	13.70	13.20	426.0	370.0	-13	June 10, 2009
Pears, Bartlett	11,000	---	17.70	---	195.0	---		June 10, 2009
Pears, Other	4,000	---	11.30	---	45.0	---		July 8, 2009
Prunes (Dried Weight)	64,000	---	1.97	---	126.0	---		June 2, 2009
BERRIES			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
Strawberries 8/	37,600	39,000	605	605	22,675	23,595	4	July 10, 2009

1/ Almond Objective Measurement Report released June 30, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. PDT.
2/ Revised 2008 data.
3/ Walnut Objective Measurement Report released September 4, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. PDT.
4/ Raisin Grape Objective Measurement Report released August 12, 2009 at 6:30 a.m. PDT.
5/ Revised 2008 bearing acreage and yield per acre.
6/ Over-the-scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.
7/ Dried Plum Forecast reports (Prunes) will be released June 2, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. PDT.
8/ Includes fresh market and processing.

PEACHES: The California 2009 peach crop is forecast at 800,000 tons, down 6 percent from 2008 and 16 percent below two years ago. The California Freestone crop is forecast at 370,000 tons, down 13 percent from last year and 17 percent below the 2007 crop. Although California experienced an adequate number of chilling hours, frost damage was reported in some areas due to freezing temperatures in early March. Harvest began in mid-April with the Super Rich, Super Lady and Snow Angel varieties. The California Clingstone crop is forecast at 430,000 tons, up 1 percent from last year, but 15 percent below the 2007 crop. Full bloom was declared on March 15, five days later than in 2008. The 2009 bloom was rated good to very good in all areas. However, freezing temperatures in early March resulted in some reported light frost damage. After early March rainstorms, good weather aided pruning, spraying and tree planting. By the end of April, the fruit was starting to differentiate in size. Thinning in most areas was expected to start during the middle of May.

FLORIDA: Florida's citrus growing regions experienced another month of very warm temperatures and dry conditions. Daily highs during April ranged from the 80s to low 90s during the day, cooling into the 50s and 60s at night. Due to the lack of precipitation over the past several months, the entire citrus-producing area was experiencing drought conditions ranging from severe to extreme. Low surface soil moisture and tree wilt were observed.

The small amount of unharvested early oranges was picked by the third week of April. Despite the high juice inventory, Valencia harvest increased to over 6 million boxes weekly, primarily for processing. Harvesting of white and colored grapefruit dropped below 500,000 boxes weekly, with the majority shipped to processing plants. Honey tangerine and Temple harvests were relatively complete for the season. Next season's fruit was holding well on the trees and was between pea size on late oranges and marble size on early oranges. Grapefruit sizes were slightly larger. With the exception of irrigating, caretakers were implementing limited production practices.

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 2/	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 2/	3,960	3,468	3,400
Arizona 2/	600	760	600
U.S. TOTAL	354,560	468,628	425,200
GRAPEFRUIT: 3/			
California, All 2/	11,000	10,400	8,800
Florida	54,400	53,200	45,000
Texas 2/	14,200	12,200	12,400
Arizona 2/	200	200	300
U.S. TOTAL	79,800	76,000	66,500
LEMONS: 2/ 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 2/ 6/	7,000	13,400	13,400
Florida	9,200	11,000	7,800
Arizona 2/ 6/	600	800	500
U.S. TOTAL	16,800	25,200	21,700

- 1/ ORANGES: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 45 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.
- 2/ Estimate for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.
- 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.