



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: June 16, 2009 · Frequency: Monthly (except November) · (USPS 598-290) VOL. 29 NO. 6

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Fruit and Nut Production.....	1-2
Non-Citrus Fruit.....	2
Revised Grape, Almond, Walnut & Dried Plum Acreage ...	2
Citrus Fruit	3
Tree Nuts Per Capita Consumption.....	3

where necessary. Blight treatments and weed flaming continued in walnut orchards.

Early varieties of wine grapes were in full bloom along the north coast during May, and later varieties were expected to bloom in early June. Harvesting of early apricot, nectarine, peach, and plum varieties continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Brooks and Bing cherry harvests also continued. Figs were sizing well, and kiwifruit vineyards were blooming in the Sacramento Valley. Fruit set was good in pear orchards along the north coast, but cool temperatures moderated crop growth. Fruit continued to develop in Asian and Bartlett pear and pomegranate orchards. Blackberry vines continued to develop, and early season blueberry harvest began in the high desert. Strawberry harvest slowed in the San Joaquin Valley, but increased in the Sacramento Valley. Olive trees began flowering, and some trees were forming fruit. Summer avocados were blooming, while harvest of springtime varieties was halfway complete. Almond, pistachio, and walnut nutlets were hardening throughout the State.

MAY CROP COMMENTS

Irrigation was widespread for all fruit and nut crops throughout the San Joaquin Valley during May, but significant rainfall made irrigation unnecessary in northern coastal areas. Surface water irrigation allotments were increased slightly by the State and Federal water projects due to the recent rains, but many orchards throughout the Central Valley planned to rely primarily on well water for the remainder of the season. Storms early in the month damaged Brooks and Burlat cherries in the Sacramento Valley. Mildew was a pressing concern for grape growers across the State. Fungicides, pesticides, and herbicides were applied in grape vineyards. Pruning, fertilization, and insect and weed control were underway in tree fruit orchards across the State. Grape and dried plum growers continued thinning fruit in orchards and vineyards with excessive sets. Almond growers monitored for spider mites and applied preventative miticides

Widely fluctuating temperatures in the San Joaquin Valley during May increased fruit drop in some navel orange orchards. Late varieties of navel oranges continued to be harvested and Valencia oranges entered their peak harvest season. Harvesting of Gold Nugget mandarins, W. Murcott tangerines, and Minneola tangelos was complete. Lemon and grapefruit harvests continued.

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/	680,000	710,000	2,370	2,040	1,610,000	1,450,000	-10	June 30, 2008
Pecans	2,600	---	1,350	---	3,500	---		July 8, 2008
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	231,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	47,000	---		
Total	118,000	---	2,360	---	278,000	---		July 8, 2008
			Tons		1,000 Tons			
Walnuts (In-Shell) 2/	218,000	---	1.72	---	375.0	---		July 8, 2008
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples	19,500	---	8.46	---	165.0	---		July 8, 2008
Apricots	11,100	10,700	6.94	6.17	77.0	66.0	-14	July 8, 2008
Cherries	27,000	27,000	3.19	2.78	86.0	75.0	-13	January 2009
Grapes, Raisin 3/	221,000	---	10.80	---	2,391.0	---		July 8, 2008
Grapes, Table	83,000	---	10.50	---	867.0	---		July 8, 2008
Grapes, Wine	482,000	---	7.05	---	3,400.0	---		July 8, 2008
Grapes, All 3/	786,000	---	8.47	---	6,658.0	---		July 8, 2008
Olives	30,000	---	2.23	---	66.8	---		July 8, 2008
Peaches, Clingstone 4/	25,000	24,600	17.00	17.90	426.0	440.0	3	July 8, 2008
Peaches, Freestone	31,000	28,000	13.70	13.20	426.0	370.0	-13	July 8, 2008
Pears, Bartlett	11,000	10,000	17.70	19.00	195.0	190.0	-3	July 8, 2008
Pears, Other	4,000	---	11.30	---	45.0	---		July 8, 2008
Plums, Dried (Prunes) 5/	64,000	64,000	2.02	2.66	129.0	170.0	32	July 8, 2008
BERRIES			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.			
Strawberries 6/	37,600	39,000	605	605	22,675	23,595	4	July 10, 2008

1/ Almond Objective Measurement Report released June 30, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. PDT.

2/ Walnut Objective Measurement Report released September 4, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. PDT.

3/ Raisin Grape Objective Measurement Report released August 12, 2009 at 6:30 a.m. PDT.

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

5/ Revised 2008 data.

6/ Includes fresh market and processing

NON-CITRUS FRUIT

Apricots - The 2009 California apricot crop forecast is 66.0 thousand tons, down 14 percent from the 2008 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 10.7 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 6.17 tons per acre. Despite frosts and water shortages, the production of California apricots is expected to be fairly normal, though down from the high production of recent years. Overall, bloom was reported to be good. Fruit set and quality are reported to be good. Harvest began in mid-May. The sensitivity of apricots to weather, economics, market demand and foreign competition continues to drive many apricot growers to pull trees to put in more profitable crops.

Cherries - The 2009 California sweet cherry crop forecast is 75.0 thousand tons, down 13 percent from the 2008 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 27.0 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 2.78 tons per acre. Spring weather generated occasional rain and cool temperatures for California's sweet cherry crop. Storms early in the month produced some damage to Brooks and Burlat varieties. Brooks and Bing cherry harvests continued.

Peaches - The 2009 California Freestone peach crop forecast is 370 thousand tons, unchanged from the May forecast, but down 13 percent from the 2008 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 28.0 thousand, resulting in a yield of 13.2 tons per acre. California experienced an adequate number of chilling hours, thus benefiting the Freestone crop. Freezing temperatures hit California in early March, resulting in frost damage in some areas. Frost damage, along with a decrease in the bearing acres, has resulted in an estimated lower production for the 2009 crop. Harvest continued during May with Spring Flame, Super Rich and Snow Angel the major varieties harvested. Demand is reported to be good. The 2009 California Clingstone peach crop forecast is 440 thousand tons, up 2 percent from the May forecast and 3 percent above the 2008 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 24.6 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 17.9 tons per acre. California experienced a more than adequate number of chilling hours, thus benefitting the Clingstone crop. Full bloom, on a statewide basis, was declared on March 15, five days later than the 2008 full bloom timing. The 2009 bloom looked good to very good in all areas of the state. Freezing temperatures hit California in early March, resulting in slight frost damage in some areas. Following a series of rainstorms in early March, growers had good weather for pruning, spraying and tree planting activities. By the end of April, the fruit was starting to differentiate in size. The crop set appeared lighter than the growers' initial expectations following bloom. However, growers are expecting a normal crop level. Growers are busy thinning their crop.

Pears, Bartlett - The 2009 California Bartlett pear crop forecast is 190 thousand tons, down 3 percent from the 2008 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 10.0 thousand, resulting in a yield of 19.0 tons per acre. The California Bartletts began blooming in March. In late-April, pear orchards in the north coast experienced excellent bloom. In mid-May, Bartlett pears were developing in the Sacramento Valley. The weather has been generally good for growing conditions with no extreme hot temperatures. There were minimal amounts of frost reported in growing regions.

Dried Plums (Prunes) - The 2009 California dried plum crop forecast is 170 thousand dried tons, up 32 percent from the 2008 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 64.0 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 2.66 tons per acre. The 2009 dried plum crop has experienced ideal weather conditions. Bloom was reported to be excellent, and growers have been busy thinning fruit due to the large set. The crop is reported to be of excellent quality, with good sizes.

FRUIT PRODUCTION FOR SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

Crop and State	2007	2008	2009 Forecast
	Tons		
APRICOTS			
California	81,000	77,000	66,000
CHERRIES, SWEET			
California	85,000	86,000	75,000
Oregon	35,000	31,000	60,000
Washington	157,000	100,000	180,000
Total	277,000	217,000	315,000
PEACHES			
California Total	949,000	852,000	810,000
Clingstone 1/	503,000	426,000	440,000
Freestone	446,000	426,000	370,000
Georgia	13,000	28,000	32,000
South Carolina	12,500	60,000	65,000
Total	974,500	940,000	907,000
PEARS, BARTLETT			
California	201,000	195,000	190,000
Oregon	59,000	57,000	63,000
Washington	163,000	158,000	170,000
Total	423,000	410,000	423,000
PLUMS, DRIED (Prunes)			
California	83,000	129,000	170,000

1/ California Clingstone is over-the-scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.

REVISED 2008 ACREAGE ESTIMATES

The table below contains revised acreage estimates for 2008 almonds, grapes, dried plums, and walnuts. These estimates are based on the industry-funded acreage surveys conducted for these crops. The survey results were recently published by the USDA-NASS, California Field Office.

More detailed acreage reports for these crops are available on our web site at www.nass.usda.gov/ca.

ACREAGE ESTIMATES, 2008 CROP

Crop	Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
	Acres		
Almonds	680,000	115,000	795,000
Grapes, All	786,000	58,000	844,000
Raisin	221,000	4,000	225,000
Table	83,000	10,000	93,000
Wine	482,000	44,000	526,000
Plums, Dried (Prunes)	64,000	a/	64,000
Walnuts	b/	a/	---

a/ Non-bearing survey not conducted.

b/ Bearing acreage will be released July 8, 2009.

FLORIDA CITRUS

During May, Florida's citrus producing regions received relief from the drought. Several days of mid-month storms and heavy showers drenched the area, causing localized flooding. Some growers pumped excess water out of the groves and into canals and reservoirs. By the end of the month, the heavy showers tapered off and typical Florida summer weather patterns returned, bringing plenty of sunshine and quick-moving late afternoon and evening rain showers. The northern citrus producing region received the most rainfall totaling up to fifteen inches in some areas, followed by the central citrus producing region with six to twelve inches. Temperatures were about average most of the month, dropping into the 60s at night and reaching into the mid- to high- 80s during the day.

Harvest of Valencia oranges peaked during the second week in May. Most packinghouses had closed or planned to close by the end of June. Varieties going to the fresh market included late oranges and small quantities of grapefruit. Trees in well-kept groves appeared healthy, and next season's fruit was sizing well. Oranges were as large as golf balls in many orchards, and grapefruit were slightly larger. Production practices were lighter than normal due to the heavy rain and lightning, but included applying herbicides, spraying, mowing, and removing brush.

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

Crop and State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 Forecast
	1,000 Cartons		
ORANGES: 1/ 2/			
California, All 3/	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	319,200
Texas 3/	3,960	3,468	3,400
Arizona 3/	600	760	600
U.S. TOTAL	354,560	468,628	429,200
GRAPEFRUIT: 4/			
California, All 3/	11,000	10,400	8,800
Florida	54,400	53,200	43,600
Texas 3/	14,200	12,200	12,400
Arizona 3/	200	200	300
U.S. TOTAL	79,800	76,000	65,100
LEMONS: 3/ 5/			
California	37,000	29,600	38,000
Arizona	5,000	3,000	5,000
U.S. TOTAL	42,000	32,600	43,000
TANGERINES: 6/ 7/			
California 3/ 8/	7,000	13,400	13,400
Florida	9,200	11,000	7,800
Arizona 3/ 8/	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/ Navel and miscellaneous varieties in AZ and CA. Early (Including Navel) and mid-season varieties in FL and TX. Small quantities of Tangerines in TX.
- 3/ Estimate for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.
- 4/ GRAPEFRUIT: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 33.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 40 lbs.
- 5/ LEMONS: 1 carton = 38 lbs.
- 6/ TANGERINES: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 47.5 lbs.
- 7/ Includes mandarins
- 8/ Includes tangelos and tangors.

TREE NUTS (SHELLED BASIS) PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION, 1981-82 TO DATE

Season 1/	Almonds	Hazelnuts	Pecans	Walnuts	Macadamias	Pistachios	Other 2/	Total 3/
	Pounds							
1981-82	0.50	0.05	0.45	0.52	0.07	0.04	0.33	1.95
1982-83	0.59	0.07	0.49	0.47	0.07	0.05	0.46	2.20
1983-84	0.58	0.05	0.48	0.52	0.07	0.07	0.52	2.29
1984-85	0.68	0.06	0.54	0.48	0.08	0.11	0.47	2.41
1985-86	0.81	0.07	0.47	0.48	0.09	0.12	0.45	2.49
1986-87	0.53	0.03	0.54	0.49	0.09	0.11	0.47	2.25
1987-88	0.59	0.06	0.54	0.46	0.09	0.09	0.41	2.24
1988-89	0.65	0.07	0.50	0.50	0.09	0.12	0.40	2.44
1989-90	0.62	0.05	0.46	0.45	0.10	0.08	0.51	2.27
1990-91	0.74	0.07	0.49	0.45	0.11	0.11	0.50	2.45
1991-92	0.61	0.06	0.46	0.45	0.09	0.08	0.44	2.17
1992-93	0.59	0.08	0.35	0.46	0.09	0.10	0.57	2.30
1993-94	0.59	0.10	0.52	0.38	0.09	0.13	0.55	2.36
1994-95	0.53	0.07	0.48	0.44	0.10	0.13	0.49	2.15
1995-96	0.48	0.09	0.38	0.38	0.10	0.12	0.42	2.10
1996-97	0.58	0.02	0.47	0.32	0.10	0.06	0.51	2.08
1997-98	0.56	0.07	0.46	0.36	0.11	0.14	0.53	2.22
1998-99	0.60	0.05	0.49	0.38	0.12	0.15	0.52	2.29
1999-00	0.98	0.10	0.39	0.51	0.12	0.18	0.53	2.81
2000-01	0.82	0.07	0.47	0.44	0.11	0.21	0.47	2.58
2001-02	0.84	0.10	0.48	0.42	0.12	0.20	0.73	2.85
2002-03	1.07	0.08	0.43	0.47	0.10	0.21	0.83	3.24
2003-04	1.12	0.05	0.42	0.50	0.12	0.19	1.01	3.46
2004-05	0.89	0.07	0.40	0.53	0.15	0.26	1.08	3.38
2005-06	0.62	0.02	0.50	0.42	0.13	0.19	0.88	2.76
2006-07	1.01	0.08	0.44	0.53	0.13	0.13	0.97	3.29
2007-08 4/	1.20	0.04	0.43	0.48	0.10	0.23	1.06	3.55

- 1/ Beginning August of first year indicated for almonds and walnuts, September for pistachios, and July for all others.
- 2/ Includes the following nuts: Brazil, pignolias, chestnuts, cashews, and mixed nuts.
- 3/ Some figures may not add due to rounding.
- 4/ Preliminary estimates.