United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

California Fruit & Nut Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture
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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

AUGUST CROP COMMENTS

Seasonal warm and dry conditions continued across most of the State during August. Normal spraying and maintenance remained underway in orchards and vineyards, along with increased irrigation to contend with hot temperatures. Fungicide and insecticide treatments were applied to grape vineyards and berry fields to control mildew and weeds. Sugar levels were reported as good in berry fields along the Central Coast. Replanting, tilling, and soil fumigation were complete for some San Joaquin Valley strawberry blocks. Pomegranate development progressed, showing good size and color. Codling moth and miticide spraying continued in walnut and almond orchards in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys. Almond hull split increased in most orchards. Final ground preparation and spraying began in the San Joaquin Valley to prepare for the almond and walnut harvests. Walnuts were developing well and quality looked good. Hull split in some southern San Joaquin Valley pistachio orchards was observed. The crop continued to develop well and quality looked good overall, though efforts to control navel orangeworm and other pests were underway.

Irrigation was increased in pistachio orchards in order to maximize development during the nut fill stage. Pistachio nuts were developing at a slower pace than last year and blanks were reported in some orchards.

Fig, nectarine, peach, plum, and other stone fruit harvests continued in the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys. The prune harvest was in full swing and progressing well, though scattered showers heightened concerns about brown rot in unharvested stone fruit. The table grape harvest continued in the San Joaquin Valley, while the raisin, juice, and wine grape harvests began. The blackberry harvest progressed normally. Harvesting of Gala apples continued in the San Joaquin Valley and began in the Sacramento Valley. The Bartlett and French butter pear harvests ended in the San Joaquin Valley, while the Bosc and Asian pear harvests continued. The Bartlett pear harvest was slowing down along the North Coast and in the Sacramento Valley, with excellent sizes reported. Harvesting of Foothill pomegranate varieties began. The Nonpareil almond harvest was in full swing in both the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys. Shaking, sweeping, gathering, and delivering activities were all underway. Quality looked good and no significant pest problems were found.

The Valencia orange harvest decreased significantly in the San Joaquin Valley during August. Normal spraying, irrigating, and maintenance continued in citrus groves. Red scale treatments were nearly complete and new citrus groves continued to be planted.

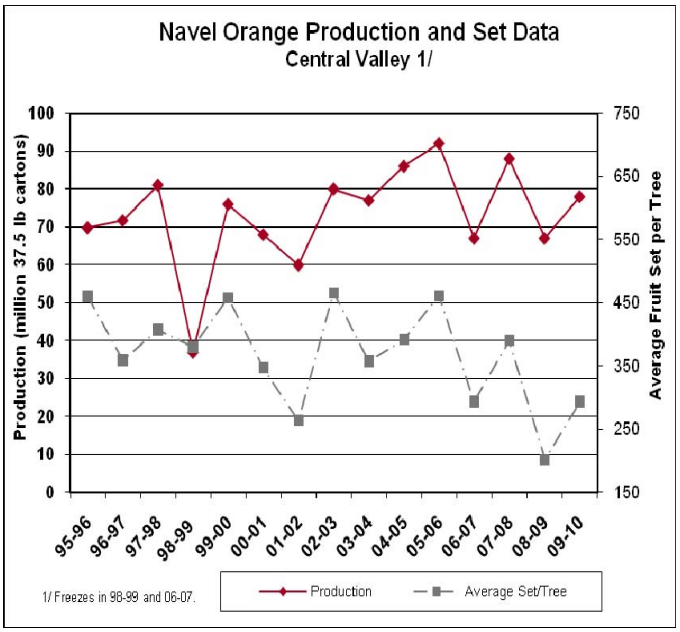
FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

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)	680,000	710,000	2,400	1,900	1,630,000	1,350,000	-17	January 2010
Pecans	3,100	---	1,210	---	3,750	---		October 9, 2009
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	231,000	---		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	47,000	---		
Total	118,000	---	2,360	---	278,000	---		January 2010
			Tons		*1,000 Tons*			
Walnuts (In-Shell)	223,000	223,000	1.96	1.86	436.0	415.0	-5	January 2010
FRUIT CROPS								
Apples	19,500	19,000	9.23	8.68	180.0	165.0	-8	January 2010
Apricots	11,100	10,700	6.94	6.17	77.0	66.0	-14	January 2010
Cherries	27,000	27,000	3.19	2.78	86.0	75.0	-13	January 2010
Grapes, Raisin	221,000	221,000	11.33	9.50	2,505.0	2,100.0	-16	October 9, 2009
Grapes, Table	83,000	83,000	11.71	10.24	972.0	850.0	-13	October 9, 2009
Grapes, Wine	482,000	482,000	6.34	6.85	3,055.0	3,300.0	8	October 9, 2009
Grapes, All	786,000	786,000	8.31	7.95	6,532.0	6,250.0	-4	October 9, 2009
Olives	30,000	29,000	2.23	1.72	66.8	50.0	-25	January 2010
Peaches, Clingstone 2/	25,000	24,600	17.00	17.90	426.0	440.0	3	January 2010
Peaches, Freestone	31,000	28,000	14.00	12.50	433.0	350.0	-19	January 2010
Pears, Bartlett	11,000	10,000	17.70	19.50	195.0	195.0	NC	January 2010
Pears, Other	4,000	4,000	12.00	13.75	48.0	55.0	15	January 2010
Plums, Dried (Prunes)	64,000	64,000	2.02	2.66	129.0	170.0	32	January 2010
BERRIES			*Cwt.*		*1,000 Cwt.*			
Strawberries 3/	37,600	39,000	601	620	22,675	24,180	7	October 2009
CITRUS CROPS 4/	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09		
			Cartons		*1,000 Cartons*			
Grapefruit	11,000	9,600	945	896	10,400	8,600		September 24, 2009
Lemons	44,000	47,000	673	936	29,600	44,000		September 24, 2009
Oranges, Navel	137,000	141,000	657	489	90,000	69,000	-23	September 24, 2009
Oranges, Valencia	43,000	45,000	791	622	34,000	28,000		September 24, 2009
Tangerines 5/	18,000	27,000	744	496	13,400	13,400		September 24, 2009

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from an earlier forecast, with the exception of walnuts, navels, and Valencia oranges.
2/ Over-the-scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.
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/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.

CALIFORNIA NAVEL ORANGE FORECAST

The initial 2009-10 Navel orange forecast is 80.0 million cartons, 16 percent above last season. Of the total forecast, 78.0 million cartons are estimated to be in the Central Valley. This forecast is based on the results of the 2009-10 navel Orange Objective measurement (O.M.) Survey, which was conducted from July 20 to August 26, 2009. Survey data indicated an average fruit set of 294 oranges per tree, with a September 1 diameter of 2.336 inches.



FLORIDA CITRUS

Weather conditions during August were mostly sunny and warm, but there were several days with thunderstorms and rain showers, which were heavy at times. Weekly rainfall totals across the State ranged from one to three inches. Trees were responding well to the recent precipitation and long days of sunshine, with limbs flushing out new growth. Good fruit condition was reported and fruit was sizing well.

Grove practices included applying herbicides, mowing in preparation for harvest, and young tree care. Dead trees were removed and burned. Grove caretakers continued to survey groves for greening, treat trees for citrus psyllid control, and remove already infected trees. In poorly-cared-for groves, trees were declining quickly due to citrus Tristeza virus and canker.

CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY NAVEL ORANGES

Crop Year 1/	Final Utilized Production (37.5-Lb. Cartons)	Bearing Acres	Average Trees Per Acre	Average Set Per Tree	Average September 1 Diameter 2/ (Inches)	Average March 1 Diameter 3/ (Inches)
1987-88	53,588,000	96,110	126	361	2.343	3.195
1988-89	58,326,000	98,766	126	570	2.195	2.761
1989-90	79,242,000	101,525	125	541	2.250	2.820
1990-91	25,514,000	104,560	124	498	2.213	---
1991-92	60,406,000	102,000	124	---	---	---
1992-93	81,034,000	102,612	121	572	2.296	3.021
1993-94	63,800,000	106,381	121	452	2.365	3.090
1994-95	66,358,000	107,049	121	457	2.232	3.063
1995-96	69,750,000	113,000	121	460	2.258	2.994
1996-97	71,700,000	115,000	121	359	2.470	3.208
1997-98	81,000,000	116,500	121	407	2.481	3.195
1998-99	37,000,000	118,000	121	380	2.184	---
1999-00	76,000,000	119,000	122	458	2.224	3.049
2000-01	68,000,000	122,000	122	347	2.311	3.120
2001-02	62,000,000	122,000	122	264	2.483	3.172
2002-03	82,000,000	129,000	122	466	2.200	3.000
2003-04	77,000,000	129,000	124	358	2.410	3.210
2004-05	86,000,000	131,000	125	392	2.495	3.295
2005-06	92,000,000	133,000	127	461	2.230	3.030
2006-07	67,000,000	135,000	129	294	2.268	3.068
2007-08	88,000,000	135,000 5/	130	390	2.245	3.021
2008-09	67,000,000	135,000 5/	131	202	2.276	3.054
2009-10 4/	78,000,000	135,000 5/	132	294	2.336	---

1/ Data for 1990-91, 1998-99, and 2006-07 (freeze years) were not used in forecasting the 2009-10 crop. An objective measurement survey was not conducted for the 1991-92 season due to lack of funding.
2/ Size data for 1984-85 through 1993-94 are from the Navel Orange Administrative Committee, while the data from 1993-94 through 2006-07 are from the orange industry. Size data beginning 2007-08 are from the USDA-NASS, California Field Office objective measurement survey.
3/ This number will no longer be published.
4/ USDA, NASS, California Field Office preliminary production forecast for 2009-10.
5/ Subject to revision on September 24, 2009 in the NASS Citrus Fruit Report.

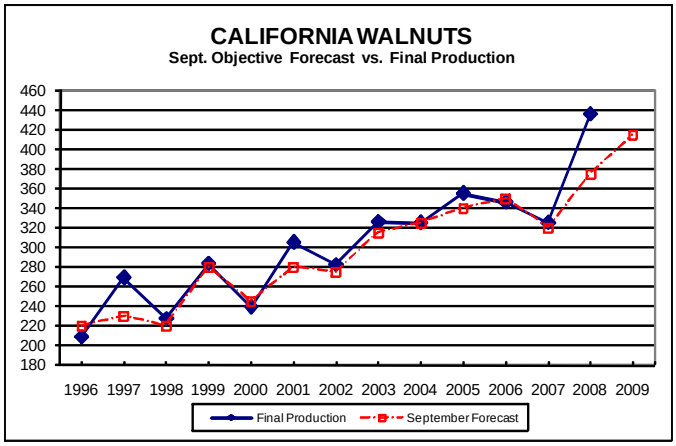
WALNUT PRODUCTION FORECAST

The 2009 California walnut production is forecast at 415,000 tons, down 5 percent from 2008's production of 436,000 tons. This forecast is based on the 2009 Walnut Objective Measurement (O.M.) Survey, which was officially conducted August 1 through August 22, 2009. There were a few samples completed before August 1 for training and scheduling purposes.

Following a record crop, the 2009 walnut crop is generally in good condition. There were adequate chilling hours during the winter and mostly ideal weather conditions during the spring, with the exception of some rain which caused minimal blight damage in some areas. A mild summer, with the exception of some heat spells, has resulted in sunburn at modest levels. Irrigation water is a concern in some areas, but the crop was mostly unaffected by the drought.

The 2009 Walnut O.M. Survey utilized a total of 736 blocks with two sample trees per block. Survey data indicated an average nut set of 1,523 per tree, up 8 percent from 2008's average of 1,416. The Hartley nut set was up 34 percent; Chandler was down 6 percent; and Serr was down 22 percent from 2008. Percent of sound kernels in-shell was 97.9 percent Statewide. In-shell weight per nut was 22.0 grams, while the average in-shell suture measurement was 32.5 millimeters.

The in-shell cross-width measurement was 33.0 and the average length in-shell was 39.3 millimeters. Estimated nut sets, sizing measurements, average number of trees per acre, and estimated bearing acreage were used in the statistical models.



CALIFORNIA WALNUT OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT SURVEY DATA – NUTS SET PER TREE BY DISTRICT

Year	Coast 1/	Sacramento Valley 2/	San Joaquin Valley 3/	State 4/
1998	1,070	1,654	1,253	1,407
1999	1,355	2,180	1,250	1,709
2000	1,195	1,812	1,204	1,483
2001	937	2,020	1,478	1,719
2002	1,254	1,982	1,142	1,572
2003	640	1,846	1,429	1,599
2004	924	1,943	1,168	1,526
2005	818	1,854	1,372	1,575
2006	1,316	1,660	1,267	1,458
2007	1,221	1,548	1,162	1,357
2008	973	1,592	1,270	1,416
2009	1,531	1,758	1,250	1,523

1/ Coast includes: Contra Costa, Lake, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara, and Sonoma counties.
2/ Sacramento Valley includes: Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Sacramento, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba counties.
3/ San Joaquin Valley includes: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare counties.
4/ District and State averages are derived by weighting county averages by county bearing acreage figures.

CALIFORNIA WALNUT OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT SURVEY DATA -- STATE TOTALS

Year	Bearing Acres	Total Production	Kernel Grade - Percent Sound	In-Shell			
				Weight	Width	Cross-Width	Length
		Tons		*gm*	*mm*		
1998	198,000	227,000	94.4	21.4	31.9	31.8	39.5
1999	197,000	283,000	97.9	23.0	32.2	32.7	39.4
2000	200,000	239,000	96.9	21.2	32.2	32.8	38.2
2001	204,000	305,000	97.8	21.5	31.7	31.6	38.3
2002	210,000	282,000	96.3	22.0	32.4	32.7	38.5
2003	213,000	326,000	97.0	22.4	32.5	32.4	39.1
2004	214,000	325,000	98.2	22.5	32.6	32.5	39.0
2005	215,000	355,000	97.5	20.0	31.7	31.6	38.6
2006	216,000	346,000	98.0	22.7	31.4	33.6	39.5
2007	218,000	328,000	98.4	20.3	31.9	32.6	37.6
2008	223,000	436,000	98.0	22.2	32.6	32.9	39.3
2009 a/	223,000	415,000	97.9	22.0	32.5	33.0	39.3

a/ Bearing years include plantings of the following: Chandler, Chico, Howard, Tulare (2005 & Earlier); 50-55, 59-124, 4946, Amigo, Ashley, Bardoni, Cisco, Earhorn, Grove, Gustine, Honeycutt, Houston, Jensen, Lompoc, Marchetti, Nuggett, Payne, Pedro, Serr, Sunland, Tehama, Trinta, UCD 67-13, Vina, Westside (2004 and Earlier); Franquette, Franquette Scharsch, Mayette, Placentia, Poe, Willsons/Willsons Wonder, Woodland (2002 & Earlier); all other varieties not specified (2003 & Earlier).

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