



Pacific Region Fruit & Nut Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and Hawaii and Nevada Departments of Agriculture
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MARCH CROP COMMENTS - CALIFORNIA

Weed control was ongoing in orchards. Stone fruits were in full bloom and orchards continued to be treated with bloom sprays. Pruning continued in vineyards. In San Joaquin County, cherry orchards were blossoming, with later varieties still in bloom by the middle of the month. In Fresno County, nectarine, peach, apricot, and plum orchards continued to be pruned, fertilized, and treated for weed control. Early varieties of peaches and nectarines began to bloom in the southern region of the county. Orchard maintenance continued to be hampered during the month due to rainfall. Both mechanical and chemical weed control were ongoing. In Tulare County, stone fruit trees continued to bloom with many of the varieties leafing out and setting fruit. Repeated fungicide applications to protect the bloom and young fruit were being completed as rains continued throughout the month. Grape vines continued to be pruned and tied, with some vineyards beginning to bud-out. In Madera County,

grape buds pushed, with some growth reported up to about one inch. Old vineyards continued to be pushed to make way for new plantings. In Fresno and Madera Counties, applications of copper and sulfur on grapes began mid-month. Pomegranate and persimmon orchards began to leaf-out. Kiwis were being trellised and new plants were planted. In San Joaquin County, almond orchard pollination was complete early in the month. Walnut orchards continued to be pruned, with fungicide being sprayed on blossoms before rain. In Fresno County, almond buds began an early push in some orchards. Growers continued to replace and replant new almond, walnut, and pistachio orchards. In Yuba County, preventive disease control continued in walnut orchards as blooms and flowers were exposed to rain. Almond growers reported continued rapid growth in many counties.

CALIFORNIA CITRUS

In Tulare County, some citrus trees were still being topped, hedge rowed, and skirted, with the prunings being shredded. Seedless tangerines continued to be netted in preparation for the citrus bloom period. Navel oranges,

Oro Blanco grapefruit, Mandarins, Minneola tangelos, grapefruit, and lemons continued to be packed for foreign and domestic markets.

FLORIDA CITRUS

In the citrus growing region, reported daily high temperatures were well above average for this time of the year. Most reporting stations had highs in the mid to upper 80s while a few stations had highs reaching over 90 degrees. Morning lows ranged from the 40s to the lower 70s. Rainfall was very sporadic in the citrus growing region. There were only two or three days of heavy rainfall, where totals were more than a half of an inch, and less than ten days where any rainfall was present. About half of the monitored weather stations recorded more than two inches of rainfall for the month. Five of eighteen monitored counties had totals higher than historical averages. The most rainfall was in Kenansville (Osceola County), at 5.16 inches, followed by Okeechobee (Okeechobee County), at 5.11 inches. According to the March 29, 2016 U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire citrus region is drought free.

All processing plants were running Valencia oranges at full capacity. Red and white grapefruit were being harvested primarily for the processed market. Packinghouse activity focused on Valencia oranges, Honey tangerines, and red grapefruit. By the end of the month, all other varieties were relatively complete for the season. Most citrus trees were in full bloom or were beginning petal drop. Some trees had already formed pea size fruit for next season. Irrigation was widespread across all areas, as well as applications of herbicides and fertilizer. Growers were promptly applying bactericides in foliar applications. Other grove activity included mowing before harvest, hedging, and topping. Some of the larger growers were pushing non-productive blocks and putting new trees in the ground. Some groves heavily affected by greening were being abandoned. General maintenance was being performed in blocks where growers were planning on keeping groves in business.

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

Crop and State	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
	1,000 Cartons		
ORANGES: ¹			
California, All	99,000	97,200	105,000
Navel & Misc.	77,400	78,200	84,000
Valencia	21,600	19,000	21,000
Florida	209,400	193,900	152,000
Texas	3,554	2,904	3,140
U.S. Total	311,954	294,004	260,140
GRAPEFRUIT: ²			
California, All	7,700	8,600	7,800
Florida	31,300	25,800	21,400
Texas	11,400	8,500	10,400
U.S. Total	50,400	42,900	39,600
LEMONS: ³			
California	37,600	41,200	42,000
Arizona	3,600	4,000	3,000
U.S. Total	41,200	45,200	45,000
TANGERINES & MANDARINS: ⁴			
California ⁵	29,400	37,000	44,000
Florida	5,800	4,530	2,800
Arizona ^{5 6}	300	340	(NA)
U.S. TOTAL	35,500	41,870	46,800

(NA) Not available.

¹ ORANGES: California, 1 carton = 40 lbs; Florida, 1 carton = 45 lbs; Texas 1 carton = 42.5 lbs; Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs

² GRAPEFRUIT: California, 1 carton = 40 lbs; Florida, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs; Texas, 1 carton = 40 lbs

³ LEMONS: 1 carton = 40 lbs

⁴ TANGERINES: California, 1 carton = 40 lbs; Florida, 1 carton = 47.5 lbs; Arizona, 1 carton = 40 lbs

⁵ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors

⁶ Estimates discontinued in 2015-2016