

California Avocado Association 1937 Yearbook 21: 95-97

Calavo Growers Offset Many Freeze Troubles

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In the first freeze of January, 1937, Calavo members lost about 10 per cent of their estimated 1936-37 crop; in the second freeze they lost an additional 28 per cent. This 38 per cent loss represented the equivalent of approximately 314,000 flats.

For final figures on fruit loss by districts, see Calavo Annual Report Section.— (Yearbook Editor.)

Calavo fieldmen surveys show 31 per cent of the avocado trees of members are able to bear a normal crop next season; 25 per cent of the trees can produce half a normal crop; 26 per cent are judged to be out of production for one year, and 18 per cent out of production for at least two years. Some of the trees in this last classification undoubtedly will never recover.

The crop outlook for 1937-38 has shown substantial improvement as a result of the warm weather during April. Trees that had been thought set back at least a year are showing growth which could possibly set a partial crop for 1937-38. The minimum 6 million pound crop for Calavo members for 1937-38, forecast in February, 1937, is now believed to be extremely conservative. A 60 per cent of normal crop is anticipated for 1937-38, and production should be some 50 per cent greater during the following year.

Calavo-Puertes in the February Pool returned growers 85c per flat, or 6½ per pound. While this fruit was being sold in packed flats there were thousands of tons of damaged fruit being offered orchard-run at as low as 1c per pound. Fuertes were reported by the Los Angeles Federal-State Market News Service as being offered to retailers at as low as 2c per pound.

Packout at the Calavo plants increased from 65,183 flats in February to 88,078 flats during March. For April, over 90,000 flats are expected to be handled. Production will drop in May to approximately 60,000 flats; and will thereafter taper off sharply until the new crop comes on next fall. Prices were strengthened several times by Calavo growers during March, despite the 35 per cent heavier packout over February. Most of the frost-distressed fruit was cleaned up by early March, making it possible to strengthen selling prices. The relatively higher price levels failed to "hold," however, and prices softened somewhat during mid-April.

At the beginning of March, 1937, Calavo Growers had some 225,000 flats of Fuertes alone still to be harvested, or some 35 per cent more Fuertes than at the same time a year ago. As of April 1, 1937, Calavo Growers estimated it would handle for the 1936-37 season a total of approximately 618,000 flats.



Fig. 1. FUERTE (PLANTED 1930). Minimum temperature 22°-23° F.
 A. Tree condition on April 6, 1937. B. Tree condition on May 23, 1937. C. Tree condition on August 11, 1937.



Fig. 2. ANAHEIM (PLANTED 1931)
 Minimum temperature about 24° F. Photographs taken on same days as in Fig. 1.
 More severely injured than Nabal.