

Orchard Notes for Cling Peach – April 2026

Sutter-Yuba Counties

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2026 Peach Harvest Timing

Clarissa Reyes, Orchard Systems Advisor, Sutter, Yuba, Butte and Placer counties

Peach harvest can be predicted fairly accurately by the temperatures in the first 30 days following bloom. Other factors such as weather near harvest, soil, tree nutrition, and water status can also have some effect on harvest date. On average, we accumulate about 6,000 growing degree hours (GDH) during the first 30 days after bloom. Accumulation of much more than 6,000 GDH in the first 30 days after bloom leads to earlier harvest dates and smaller fruit size under normal thinning practices.

The UC Davis Fruit & Nut Information Center hosts a peach [harvest prediction model](#) that calculates GDH based on CIMIS stations and predicts harvest dates of select cultivars.

Full bloom for Sutter-Yuba this year was March 3. Given the early bloom and warm temperatures throughout March, harvest will likely be very early this year. To achieve the best fruit size possible in this shortened amount of time to harvest, it is best to [thin early](#), which allows for more resources to reach each remaining fruit, compared to if you wait to thin later.

Growing Degree Hours			
Year	Full Bloom Date	(30 days after bloom)	Harvest Timing Prediction
2026	March 3	8,164	Very Early
2025	March 7	5,301	Slightly Later Than Normal
2024	March 12	5,909	Normal
2023	March 13	4,518	Later Than Normal
2022	March 4	6,634	--
2021	March 8	5,249	--
2020	March 3	4,726	Later Than Normal
2019	March 19	6,950	Late
2018	March 12	6,403	Slightly Early
2017	March 10	7,315	Slightly Early
2016	February 26	6,352	Very Early
2015	March 8	7,955	Very Early
2014	March 14	6,510	Slightly Early
2013	March 13	7,397	Early
2012	March 8	4,621	Later Than Normal
2011	March 14	4,963	Later Than Normal
2010	March 12	5,060	Later Than Normal
2009	March 16	6,117	Slightly Later Than Normal
2008	March 10	5,548	Normal
2007	March 9	7,420	Early
2006	March 14	4,375	Very Late
2005	March 3	6,153	Normal
2004	March 9	7,788	Very Early
2003	March 9	5,953	Normal

Table 1. Historical full bloom dates for Sutter-Yuba counties, growing degree hours 30 days after bloom since 2006 and the harvest prediction for 2026.

Announcement: Clarissa on Leave

Clarissa will be out of office on maternity leave from April 27 – approximately October 5, 2026. For any orchard-related questions or farm calls during this time, please contact Franz Niederholzer at 530-218-2359 or fjniederholzer@ucanr.edu for assistance.