CROP PRODUCTION

Release:
April 9, 1971
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HIGHLIGHTS OF U. S. CROP REPORT AS OF APRIL 1, 1971

Citrus production is slightly more than last month and expected to be 8 percent more than last season. Increased production of oranges and grapefruit more than offset reductions for lemons and Florida temples.

Orange production is forecast at 198.1 million boxes, 1.0 million boxes (0.5 percent) more than March 1, and 6.7 percent above last season's production. Prospects increased from March 1 in California and Texas but are down slightly in Arizona.

Grapefruit production is placed at 58.8 million boxes, 1.4 million boxes (2.4 percent) more than last month and 9.1 percent above the 1969-70 crop. Increases in Florida and Texas more than offset reduced prospects in California.

Lemon production, at 16.8 million boxes, is 1.0 million boxes (5.6 percent) less than March 1, but 8.2 percent above last season.

Early spring potato production, at 4.4 million cwt., is 7 percent less than last year.

Late spring potato acreage, at 82,600 acres, is 2 percent more than the 1970 acreage.
CITRUS FRUITS, PRODUCTION 1/

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oranges</td>
<td>183,880</td>
<td>185,660</td>
<td>197,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grapefruit</td>
<td>54,170</td>
<td>53,910</td>
<td>57,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemons</td>
<td>15,810</td>
<td>15,520</td>
<td>17,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ Season begins with the bloom of the first year shown and ends with the completion of harvest the following year.

IRISH POTATOES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seasonal:</th>
<th>Acreage:</th>
<th>Yield per harv. acre:</th>
<th>Production:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1970:</td>
<td>1971:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,000 acres</td>
<td>Cwt.:</td>
<td>1,000 cwt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>193</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Spring</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>175</td>
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<tr>
<td>L. Spring</td>
<td>81.1</td>
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PASTURE

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<th>Month</th>
<th>Average 1950-69</th>
<th>1970</th>
<th>1971</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<td>Condition April 1/</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>71</td>
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</table>

1/ Average for 30 States.

CROP REPORTING BOARD:
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[Signature]

ACTING SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
GENERAL CROP SUMMARY AS OF APRIL 1, 1971

The prolonged drought in the Southwest became more severe during March according to the Crop Reporting Board. On April 1, the dry area extended from Texas westward into southern California. The western two-thirds of Texas and southwestern Oklahoma are hardest hit by the dry weather. Moisture is needed for winter wheat development and for planting and growth of spring crops and pastures. The April 1 condition of pasture, at 71 percent of normal, for the United States is a record low for the date, with conditions poorest in Texas.

March was cold over most of the country, with precipitation below normal in most regions except the South and Northwest. Field work is off to a fast start in the North Central States, but wet soils slowed progress in the South and Northwest. Dust storms were common in the Southwest and Central Great Plains during March.

The Nation’s 1970-71 citrus production is expected to be 8 percent above last year and is up slightly from March 1. Cold weather in the South delayed peach blooming. The early spring potato and vegetable crop output are both forecast below the last two years. Early spring potato production is forecast 7 percent below last year, with early spring vegetables 8 percent less.

**Peach Bloom Delayed by Cold Weather**

Peach trees in the southern States wintered well and generally received ample chilling hours to break dormancy. Cold weather retarded bloom one to two weeks in most areas. Freezing temperatures, occurring when some trees were in bloom, caused some damage in the Southern States, except in Mississippi. The cold weather damage differs by area, variety, and between orchards, but it is too early to evaluate the extent of the damage. Orchards in Arkansas and Southern Texas need moisture.

March temperatures in California generally favored development of deciduous fruit and nut crops. However, freezing temperatures during the first week of the month caused varying damage to early varieties of almonds and some minor damage to early varieties of plums, apricots, nectarines, pears and freestone peaches.

Total citrus production is expected to be 8 percent more than a year earlier and slightly above last month. California and Texas oranges and Florida and Texas grapefruit increased from a month earlier, more than offsetting reductions in Arizona oranges and California grapefruit and lemons.

**Less Early Spring Fresh Vegetables and Potatoes**

Production of early spring fresh vegetables is forecast 8 percent less than last year and 3 percent below 1969. Smaller crops than last year are expected for snap beans, cabbage, cauliflower, sweet corn, cucumbers, lettuce, and onions. Early spring broccoli and tomato production is expected to be more than a year earlier.

Early spring potato production is forecast 7 percent below last year, and 23 percent below 1969. However, late spring potato acreage is expected to be up 2 percent from last year.

**March Dry and Cold**

March temperatures averaged below normal over most of the Nation. The South was extremely cold and temperatures were mostly 3 to 6 degrees below normal. But, above normal averages were common from the Southwest quarter of the country northward into Montana and Minnesota.

The month was rather typical -- temperatures ranged widely and changed frequently. Extremely cold weather gripped the Nation the first week of March, but by the second week, readings were well above normal, except along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. Third week temperatures were near normal, but record lows were set in Florida. March ended extremely hot in the Southwest, with record high temperatures set for this early in the season in Arizona, Texas and Oklahoma. Readings of over 100 degrees were registered in Texas and Oklahoma. In the eastern half of the Nation, March ended as it began, with cold temperatures.
March was extremely dry over a large section of the country -- precipitation was almost nil in the Southwest, so that drought threatened both this region and southern Florida. Moisture was also below normal over most other areas of the Nation, except in the Pacific Northwest, Northern New England and a 6-State area from Louisiana to North Carolina, where precipitation was above average.

High winds during mid-March caused dust storms from the Southwest into the Central Great Plains. The dry winds rapidly helped deplete topsoil moisture, and by April 1 many areas were in urgent need of precipitation for plant growth. At Hays, Kansas, wind speeds remained at 65 m.p.h. or higher for three consecutive hours, gusting to 115 m.p.h.

Blizzards and widespread snow spread from the Northern Rockies to Georgia after mid-month. The heaviest snow of the year hit the middle Atlantic States from Virginia to Georgia, causing delays in field work. In many New England areas, seasonal snowfall was at record levels.

Texas completed its sixth consecutive month, receiving less than half the normal moisture. The entire Southwest is in dire need of moisture to allow crop planting and growth, and to replenish the short supply of irrigation water, but the outlook for irrigation water is excellent in other Western areas.

Good Field Work Progress in North Central States

Field work on April 1 lagged behind the usual schedule in the Southern States. Cold weather combined with heavy March precipitation delayed land preparation and spring planting. However, some corn was planted across the South from Texas to South Carolina. Tobacco transplanting was active from Florida into the Carolinas as April began, but cool, windy and wet conditions have been unfavorable on acreage already planted. A few warm, dry days will increase farming activity in the South. Planting of cotton and sorghum is ahead of last year in Texas; however, growers are hoping for rain to aid germination and growth.

Drying soils allowed farmers to get a good headstart on plowing, diskin and early spring planting in the Middle Atlantic and North Central States. Plowing for corn and soybeans was in progress by April 1 in Southern Corn Belt areas. Oats seeding made excellent headway and was well ahead of last year in most areas. Some Ohio farmers planted a few fields of corn in an effort to escape possible blight damage later this year. Farmers in the northerly areas from South Dakota to the Great Lakes are waiting for the frost to leave the ground. Farming should be active by mid-April in this area.

Field work got off to a fast start in the Central and Northern Rocky Mountain States; however, interruptions because of wind and rain were frequent. Weather conditions did not favor land preparation and plant growth which got off to a slow start by April 1 in the Pacific Northwest. Planting of California crops progressed well because of dry field conditions in the southern part of the State. Irrigation continues where water is available.

Winter Wheat Prospects Variable

The dry areas of Texas and Oklahoma received very little precipitation during March, and winter wheat prospects declined in this area. Elsewhere, wheat generally was in good condition although more moisture was needed in parts of Missouri, Kansas, Colorado and the Southwest. Cool temperatures in March, especially east of the Mississippi River, slowed growth and development.

Kansas wheat was growing on April 1 but still lacked top growth in many areas. Light precipitation and high winds during March depleted topsoil moisture in many western, south central and southeastern counties. Central and other eastern areas had mostly adequate moisture. Wheat badly needs moisture in the major producing areas of Oklahoma. March precipitation was only a fraction of normal and surface moisture was very short in the western two-thirds of the State. Extremely dry weather continued through March in much of Texas as precipitation was generally less than one-fourth of normal. Dryland wheat critically needed moisture.

Winter wheat in Colorado was generally in good condition although some areas needed moisture. The dryland crop in New Mexico is in fair condition but needs more moisture.

Fall seeded grains wintered well in Nebraska. There has been some greening, but cool weather slowed plant development. Winter wheat in South Dakota also was in good condition.

CROP PRODUCTION, April 1971 4 Crop Reporting Board, SRS, USDA
Moisture supplies in most of Montana and the Pacific Northwest improved during March, when precipitation was generally above normal. Fall seeded small grains are in good condition for the most part, although wheat shows some damage from snow mold and beavering in Washington. Seeding of spring wheat is underway in Washington and Oregon.

Fall seeded small grains generally wintered well in the eastern Corn Belt States and in Missouri. Soils were drying in central and southern Missouri, however. Small grains in other areas east of the Mississippi River generally were in good condition.

Pasture Prospects Poor

Pasture condition in the 30 States reporting on April 1 was a record low for the date -- 71 percent of normal. This is 7 percentage points below April 1, 1970 and 6 points below the 1960-69 April 1 average. Cold weather retarded pasture growth in the East. Prospects were poor in the Southwest because little or no moisture was received for growth.

Prospects for good pastures look best in the Northeast quarter of the country, where conditions of 80 percent or higher are at least equal to last year. Most Western States reported lower conditions than both last year and average. The drought in Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma largely contributed to the big decline in the West. In contrast, cold wet weather also retarded pasture growth in the Northeast.

Conditions ranged from a high of 87 percent in Utah to a record low 40 percent in Texas. The South reported conditions mainly in the 70 percent range, slightly below a year earlier.

ORANGES: The Nation's 1970-71 orange crop, as of April 1, is forecast at a record high 198.1 million boxes, 1.0 million boxes more than the forecast a month earlier, 7 percent above last season and 8 percent more than the 1968-69 crop. Over the past six seasons, the April 1 forecasts have differed from actual orange production an average of 4.0 million boxes, ranging from 0.9 to 5.6 million boxes.

Prospective production of oranges in Florida is a record high at 149.0 million boxes, the same as a month earlier, 8 percent above last season and 7 percent above the previous record of 139.5 million boxes. In the past 6 seasons, using comparable procedures, Florida's April 1 forecasts have differed from actual production an average of 4.8 million boxes, ranging from 0.7 to 7.7 million boxes. Harvest of early and midseason varieties slowed at the beginning of March and was virtually complete by April 1. Valencia harvest has not yet reached volume proportions. Orange trees are in excellent condition except for trees in chronically cold areas that were damaged by the January freeze. All healthy trees have abundant new leaf growth, and bloom was nearly over by the end of March. Growers used widespread irrigation to counter dry weather.

California's orange production is placed at 40.0 million boxes, up 1.0 million boxes from last month. This is 3 percent above last season but 10 percent less than the 1968-69 crop. Cold weather hit the orange areas during March but little damage is expected. Winds in southern California maintained temperatures above freezing levels, and frost protective devices adequately protected the crop in the Central Valley. Navel orange harvest continues and picking is about 70 percent complete. The quality of packed fruit is generally good. Light picking of the Valencia crop began last month and is expected to increase this month. The Valencias have sized well and are all nearly fully colored.

Production of Texas oranges is forecast at 5.8 million boxes, up 0.1 million from last month and 31 percent more than last season's output. Early and midseason harvest is nearly complete. Picking of Valencias is near peak and about half the crop had been harvested by April 1. Peak bloom occurred about mid-March. Below normal rainfall necessitated almost constant irrigation, and a possible shortage of irrigation water is worrying growers.

Arizona's 1970-71 orange crop is placed at 3.3 million boxes, down 0.1 million from last month and 31 percent less than last season's output. Harvest of Navelos is complete. Valencia harvest is in full swing in both the Yuma and Salt River Valley areas. Growers are recovering well from the January freeze. Bloom in the Yuma area was nearly over by April 1 and was nearing completion in the Salt River Valley.
**CITRUS UTILIZATION:**  
**Citrus Crop - Utilization to April 1**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>1969-70 Utilization</th>
<th>1970-71 Utilization</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fresh</td>
<td>Processed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oranges</td>
<td>25,270</td>
<td>75,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grapefruit</td>
<td>16,935</td>
<td>24,558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemons</td>
<td>3,495</td>
<td>3,249</td>
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</table>

By the end of March, 113.4 million boxes of oranges, about 57 percent of the U.S. crop, had been harvested compared with 100.7 million boxes or 54 percent of the crop harvested a year earlier. Processors have used 79 percent of the oranges harvested by April 1, compared with 75 percent a year earlier.

Grapefruit harvest was 83 percent complete by April 1, somewhat ahead of last April when 77 percent was harvested. To date, 64 percent of the crop harvested has been utilized by processors, compared with 59 percent a year earlier.

About 53 percent of the lemons had been picked by April 1, while last year at this time 43 percent had been picked. Thus far processors have utilized 52 percent of the crop, compared to 48 percent by April 1 last year.

**FLORIDA FROZEN CONCENTRATED ORANGE JUICE YIELD:** The projected season average frozen concentrated orange juice yield, adjusted to reflect current juice factors and plant recovery rates, is 1.20 gallons per box. The projected last month was 1.21 gallons and last season's yield was 1.24 gallons per box. The projected yield is based on past relationships between pounds solid yield for oranges reported in "The Maturity Test Results" and the season average yield per box of 45 degree Brix frozen concentrated orange juice reported by the Florida Canners Association. This yield can differ from the final yield because of sampling error, weather, harvest schedule and changes in juice factors or recovery rates.

**GRAPEFRUIT:** The U.S. 1970-71 grapefruit crop is expected to total 58.8 million boxes, up 1.4 million from the March 1 forecast. This is 9 percent more than last season's harvest and the 1968-69 crop. Production changes between the April 1 forecast and final production averaged 2.1 million boxes over the past six seasons—from 0.9 to 4.1 million.

Florida's crop is forecast at 42.0 million boxes, 1.0 million more than a month earlier; 12 percent above last season's output and 5 percent above the 1968-69 level. Production changes between the April 1 and final forecasts over the past six seasons, using comparable methods have averaged 1.6 million boxes—from 0.4 to 3.6 million boxes. Harvest continued through March, with limited supplies toward month's end. Trees were generally in excellent condition, except for those in historically cold locations that were damaged by the January freeze. Dryness was a problem, and light scattered showers were mostly offset by strong winds accelerating dehydration. Use of irrigation has been widespread. At the end of March, most older trees had open blooms and younger trees had dropped petals.

The Texas crop is forecast at 9.5 million boxes, up 0.7 million from the March 1 forecast. This is 17 percent larger than last year's crop and 42 percent above the 1968-69 crop. Movement was heavy during March and is expected to remain active during April. A large portion of the remaining fruit is expected to go for processing. Peak bloom occurred about mid-March. Trees need constant irrigation because of scant rainfall.

Arizona's grapefruit prospects, at 2.5 million boxes, are unchanged from a month earlier and 21 percent less than last season. Harvest was active through March, has not yet reached peak volume. Groves are recovering well from the January freezes. Bloom is over in the Yuma area and was nearing completion in the Salt River area on April 1.

California's grapefruit crop is placed at 4.8 million boxes, down 0.3 million from a month earlier and 9 percent less than last season. Movement has been slow from the desert valleys awaiting the completion of harvest in Florida and Texas. Quality of the fruit from this area is good. Harvest from the "Other areas" is underway in the central valley and should commence in southern California about mid-April. Some frost damage has been reported from both areas but fruit loss will be minor. Size and quality are both reported to be good.
LEMONS: Lemon production in California and Arizona is forecast at 16.8 million boxes, down 1.0 million from March 1 but 8 percent more than last season's output. All of the reduction from last month was in California as harvest is complete in Arizona. In California, a relatively dry, windy winter and frosts on February 27 and 28 have slowed fruit growth and reduced prospects for the late summer and fall fruit. More rain is needed in the south coast areas for normal crop sizing. Harvest volume continues near normal, although below a year ago. Storage lemons are in good condition, with minimum decay.

TANGELOS: Florida's tangelo production -- completely harvested -- is placed at 2.7 million boxes, unchanged from a month ago and 0.2 million boxes more than produced last season.

TANGERINES: The U.S. tangerine crop -- completely harvested -- is estimated at 4.7 million boxes, unchanged from last month and 18 percent above last season's crop.

TOMATOES: In Florida, a crop of 6.0 million boxes of Tomatoes is expected, down 0.5 million from March 1 and 0.2 million less than last season's output. Harvest of this heavily freeze-damaged crop nearing completion by April 1.

POTATOES: The early spring potato crop is forecast at 4,404,000 cwt., 7 percent less than last year and 23 percent smaller than the 1969 crop.

In the Hastings, Florida area, production is estimated at 3,712,000 cwt., compared with 4,003,000 cwt. in 1970, and in the "Other" Florida area at 312,000 cwt., up 17 percent from the 266,000 cwt. in 1970.

In the Hastings area, moisture is plentiful and the crop has recovered well from frosts earlier in the growing season. Harvest is expected to be later than usual although digging in the Federal Point area and in a few Flagler County fields should begin in late April. Harvest was getting underway in the "Other" Florida and south central areas the week ending April 10.

The Texas crop was nipped by an early March frost and hot dry winds also have reduced crop prospects. Harvest is expected to get underway about mid-April with volume shipments available by late April.

The late spring crop is estimated at 82,600 acres for harvest in 1971, 2 percent more than the 81,100 acres harvested last year.

California, at 39,900 acres, is up 1 percent from last year and has 48 percent of the estimated total late spring acreage for 1971. The Kern County harvest should start in the last week of April -- about 3 weeks later than a year ago.

Alabama and Texas also expect to harvest more acres than last year. The Alabama crop has made excellent early development and harvest is expected to start in the Baldwin area by mid-May. Arizona and Mississippi are expected to harvest less acreage than last year.

Production for the winter crop is estimated at 3,099,000 cwt., down 2 percent from the March 1 forecast and 13 percent less than the 1970 production. The Dade County, Florida harvest had passed mid-point by April 1, and in California harvest was nearly completed.

PASTURE: Pasture condition in the 30 States reporting on April 1 at 71 percent of normal was a record low for the date, 7 percentage points below a year ago and 6 points below the 1960-69 April 1 average. Temperatures averaged below normal over most of the Nation in March, but above normal temperatures were common in the Southwest and Rocky Mountain area. The Southwest and parts of the Great Plains were dry.

Reported pasture condition on April 1 ranged from 87 percent in Utah to 40 percent in Texas -- a 68-year record low for the date. Condition on April 1 in the North Atlantic, East and West North Central States was near average. Most South Atlantic States were slightly below last year and below average. South Central States reporting greatest differences were Mississippi with above average condition and Oklahoma and Texas with decidedly below both the
average and a year earlier. Most Western States reported condition less than both average and a year earlier. Western States reporting April 1 conditions ranged from Utah with 2 percentage points more than both a year ago and average, to New Mexico with 21 points below a year ago and 20 points below average.

PEANUTS: The revised peanut crop for 1970, at 2,979 million pounds (net weight) was nearly 18 percent above 1969, and the largest of record. A yield per acre of 2,031 pounds in 1970 exceeded the previous high in 1968 by 250 pounds. The downward revision in production from the preliminary December estimate is less than half of one percent.

Acreage harvested for nuts totaled 1,467,000 acres in 1970 -- 15,200 acres more than in 1969. Acres planted alone for all purposes totaled 1,518,300 acres, 11,000 more than a year earlier. Acreage increased because growers were permitted to sell, lease, or transfer peanut acreage allotments.

In the Virginia-North Carolina area a record production totaled 758 million pounds -- nearly 31 percent above the 1969 crop and 15 percent above the previous high in 1965. Yield per acre averaged 2,818 pounds, 661 pounds above 1969, and 384 pounds above the 1968 record of 2,434. Acreage harvested for nuts at 289,000 acres was unchanged from a year earlier. Weather favored growth and was nearly ideal for harvest.

Peanut production in the Southeast area is estimated at a record 1,581 million pounds -- 18 percent above the previous record crop of 1,338 million pounds. Average yield per acre was 2,059 pounds, surpassing the old record by 228 pounds. All States in the Southeast had record yields. Total production in both Georgia and Florida were at new highs. The acreage harvested for nuts totaled 767,800 acres -- 10,800 acres more than a year earlier. Favorable weather combined with new varieties and improved harvesting methods contributed to the record production.

The Southwestern peanut crop, at 340 million pounds, was about 5 percent higher than 1969. The yield per acre was 1,488 pounds -- 50 pounds above a year earlier. Acreage harvested for nuts totaled 430,200 compared with 424,700 acres in 1969. Production in Texas was at a record level -- exceeding the 1968 record by over 3 million pounds.

CROP REPORTING BOARD
## PEANUTS HARVESTED FOR NUTS

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<tr>
<td>Va.</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>102</td>
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<td>Total (Va.- N. C. area)</td>
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<td>273</td>
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<td>269</td>
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<td>518</td>
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<td>S. C.</td>
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<td>1,880</td>
<td>20,800</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Ga.</td>
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<td>85,680</td>
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1/ Revised.

CROP PRODUCTION, April 1971

Crop Reporting Board, SRS, USDA
**CITRUS FRUITS, PRODUCTION**

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<th>1969-70 1,000 boxes</th>
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1/ The crop year begins with the bloom of the first year shown and ends with completion of harvest the following year. 2/ Net content of box varies. Approximate averages are as follows: Oranges - California and Arizona, 75 lbs.; Florida and other States, 90 lbs.; Grapefruit - California, Desert Valleys, and Arizona, 64 lbs.; other California areas, 67 lbs.; Florida, 85 lbs. and Texas, 80 lbs.; Lemons - 76 lbs.; Tangelos - 90 lbs.; Tangerines - California and Arizona, 75 lbs.; Florida, 95 lbs.; and Temples - 90 lbs. 3/ Navel and Miscellaneous varieties in California and Arizona. Early and Midseason varieties in Florida and Texas, including small quantities of tangerines in Texas.

CROP PRODUCTION, April 1971

Crop Reporting Board, SRS, USDA
## Irish Potatoes

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<tr>
<td>California</td>
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CROP PRODUCTION, April 1971

Crop Reporting Board, SRS, USDA
## Pasture

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| Total | 30 States | 77 | 78 | 71 |

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CROP PRODUCTION, April 1971