

# crop production



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## HIGHLIGHTS OF U. S. CROP REPORT AS OF MARCH 1, 1971

Citrus production, down 5 percent from a month earlier, is expected to be 7 percent more than last season. Prospects declined during February for oranges, grapefruit, lemons and tangelos.

Orange production is forecast at 197.1 million boxes, down 10.8 million boxes (5.2 percent) from February 1, but is 6 percent (11.4 million boxes) above last season. Prospects declined in Florida and Arizona, were unchanged in California, but increased in Texas.

Grapefruit production is placed at 57.4 million boxes, down 2.4 million boxes (4.0 percent) from last month but 6 percent (3.5 million) above the 1969-70 crop. Reductions from a month ago occurred in all States except Texas.

Lemon production, at 17.8 million boxes, is 0.2 million boxes (1.1 percent) below a month earlier, but 15 percent (2.3 million) more than last season. Prospects declined in Arizona, but remained unchanged in California.

Winter potato production is forecast at 3.2 million cwt., down 5 percent from a month earlier, and 12 percent less than last year.

Early spring potato acreage for harvest is 29,400, slightly less than the 29,600 acres harvested in 1970.

Winter wheat in the Great Plains received much needed moisture during February, but more is needed in Texas and western Oklahoma.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE      CROP REPORTING BOARD

Cr Pr 2-2 (3-71)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

CITRUS FRUITS PRODUCTION 1/

Crop	1968-69	1969-70	Indicated 1970-71	
			February 1	March 1
1,000 boxes				
Oranges	183,880	185,660	207,900	197,100
Grapefruit	54,170	53,910	59,800	57,400
Lemons	15,810	15,520	18,000	17,800

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

IRISH POTATOES

Seasonal group	Acreage		Yield per harv. acre				Production		
	Harv. 1970	For harv. 1971	1969	1970	Indi-cated 1971	1969	1970	Indicated 1971	
	1,000 acres		Cwt.					Feb. 1	Mar. 1
Winter	18.8	17.7	193	191	179	3,828	3,582	3,329	3,170
Early spring	29.6	29.4	175	161	Apr. 9	5,687	4,757	April 9	

APPROVED:

*Richard Lyng*

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## GENERAL CROP SUMMARY AS OF MARCH 1, 1971

A stormy February brought above normal precipitation to the Eastern half of the Nation, but in the West, precipitation was well below normal. Many Texas areas completed their fifth straight month receiving less than half normal moisture. Late February rain and snow benefited the winter wheat crop in the previously dry Central Plains. However, wet fields in the Central Plains and South stopped fieldwork late in the month.

Livestock are in generally good condition, but were on heavy feed rations during the severe cold and stormy periods. In the Central Plains, a late February blizzard stranded many livestock herds without feed for up to 3 days. Conditions have been favorable for calving and lambing in the West with only normal death losses.

### February Temperatures Near Normal

Temperatures averaged near normal during February. However, colder spots did exist: Temperatures were 4° to 6° below normal in Kansas, western Kentucky, Tennessee and northern Alabama. Areas averaging the highest temperatures above normal were western Montana, northern Idaho and eastern Washington. The month started out cold in the eastern section of the Nation. Freezing temperatures occurred in all the 48 States on February 2. Frost dipped into southern Florida and Texas during the month. The western half of the country generally had above normal temperatures until late in February when a cold wave hit.

Warmer weather late in the month reduced the Midwest snow cover caused by a blizzard, and melting snow brought some flooding to Nebraska.

### February Precipitation Above Normal

A stormy February in the East produced above normal precipitation east and south of a line from central Montana through western Kansas and into Mississippi. Over twice the normal moisture was received from Kansas to the Great Lakes, and large amounts were recorded along the Appalachian Mountain Range.

In the West, little precipitation fell except in the Pacific Northwest, and extremely dry weather continued over most of Texas and the Southwest. For Texas, this was the 5th consecutive month that moisture was less than 50 percent of normal. Moisture is needed immediately to aid germination and plant growth, and to allow planting of spring crops.

Tornadoes were commonplace during February, and the Deep South suffered the most life and property loss. A severe blizzard in late February from the Texas Panhandle northward to Nebraska and Wyoming isolated livestock herds for up to 3 days without feed. Care and feeding of livestock was difficult as drifting snow, mud and high water (flooding) prevented farmers and ranchers from reaching their herds. Wet soils delayed fieldwork in most of the South Atlantic States, but tobacco growers were able to seed their plant beds. Potato planting also started in Alabama.

As of February 1 the irrigation water outlook was good to excellent in most of the 11 Western States. However, Arizona and New Mexico could face late summer shortages because of the below average water supply.

### Winter Wheat Prospects Variable

Winter wheat benefited from February precipitation. The Great Plains received rain and heavy snow late in the month. However, strong winds caused drifting and left only a light covering on fields. Growing areas in western Oklahoma and all of Texas need more precipitation.

By March 1, much of the snow had melted and snow cover was limited to the northern States. Southwestern States received little moisture in February.

Kansas wheat continued in good condition, despite relatively short top growth and a lack of ground cover in most areas. Above normal precipitation in February benefited the crop. Nevertheless, more moisture will be needed in western counties to prevent wind erosion in coming weeks. Growth of wheat in Oklahoma was limited during February but the crop responded to warmer temperatures and additional moisture late in the month. More moisture is needed in the western half of Oklahoma. Most of the crop in the northwestern part of the State is in poor to fair condition, and in fair to good condition in other areas. Dryland wheat in the High and Low Plains of Texas received heavy snowfall. However, cumulative precipitation, December through February, is only two-thirds normal in the Northern High Plains and even less than that in other areas of the State.

Winter wheat in Colorado remains in good condition. February precipitation offset earlier topsoil moisture shortages. The crop remains dormant in all of the Eastern Plains and is vulnerable to wind damage as top growth is short.

Nebraska fall-seeded grains were in good condition but still dormant on March 1. Snow cover varied over the State on March 1, but most topsoils were moist. In South Dakota, some wind damage was reported at the beginning of February, but was alleviated when snow arrived late in the month.

The Pacific Northwest and Montana had generally above normal February temperatures but below average precipitation, except in southwestern Montana, where precipitation was above average. Montana's good snow cover of early February melted with warmer weather. Fall-planted wheat in Washington was in good condition, although stands in some areas were spotty. Some reseeding to spring wheat was underway in areas of severe erosion. Fall-seeded grains in Oregon are generally in good condition.

Winter grains in Missouri and eastern Corn Belt States remain in satisfactory condition although subjected to a variety of unfavorable weather conditions during the month. Wheat in other areas east of the Mississippi River has generally wintered well.

#### Field Work Delayed During February

Farm work in the North Atlantic States was limited largely to routine activities during February. Near the end of the month maple sirup producers in southern New England and parts of Pennsylvania started tapping trees. Some pruning of fruit trees and vineyards was accomplished as weather permitted.

In most North Central States cold weather and snow restricted farm work to the necessary care and feeding of livestock. Fieldwork was held to a minimum as soils were frozen.

The unusually cold weather of January continued through the first half of February in the South Atlantic and eastern South Central States. This area also had above normal precipitation during the month, which delayed field activity. Warmer weather in late February saw farmers busy top dressing small grain acreage, plowing for spring planting and seeding tobacco beds.

Spring grain seeding started slowly in the Central and Southern Great Plains. Conditions in Oklahoma and Kansas were too dry for seeding early in the month, and a late February snow caused wet fields. Seeding of oats in Kansas is only 2 percent completed compared with 17 percent a year ago. Dry planting conditions also plagued Texas growers. Cotton and sorghum planting has just started in the Coastal Bend and Lower Valley, but many farmers are waiting for rain before planting.

Very little fieldwork was possible in the central and northern Rocky Mountain States during February. In the Southwest planting of small grains and safflower was completed. Many Arizona cotton fields are ready for planting and cotton planting started in the Imperial Valley of California. Limited cutting of alfalfa hay got underway in California and Arizona. California field preparation and planting of early crops is on schedule. Plowing and seeding of spring grains began in the Pacific Northwest, and fruit orchards were being pruned for the new crop year.

ORANGES: The Nation's 1970-71 orange crop, as of March 1, is forecast at a record high 197.1 million boxes, 10.8 million less than the forecast a month earlier, but 6 percent above last season and 7 percent more than the 1968-69 crop. Over the past six seasons, the March 1 orange forecasts have differed from actual production an average of 6.11 million boxes, ranging from 0.94 to 10.58 million boxes.

Prospective production of oranges in Florida is record high at 149.0 million boxes, 11.0 million boxes less than the February 1 forecast, 8 percent above last season and 7 percent above the previous record of 139.5 million boxes. In the past 6 seasons, during which forecasting methods were comparable, Florida's March 1 forecasts have differed from actual production, an average 4.5 million boxes, ranging from 1.5 to 6.5 million boxes. Rains during February relieved the dry conditions of a month earlier, and tree condition is greatly improved: Trees partially defoliated by the January freeze are growing new feathery leaflets, and on most of the completely defoliated trees, some new growth is evident. Open bloom is pronounced on Navels and Valencias. Harvest of early and midseason oranges was at high levels during early February but was slowing in the normal seasonal decline by March 1. Abundant labor has greatly facilitated the salvage of damaged crops.

California's orange production is placed at 39.0 million boxes, unchanged from a month ago. This is the same as last season but 12 percent less than the 1968-69 output. Cold weather hit the citrus districts during the first week of March, but little damage is expected. Adequate frost protection taken in the central valley districts and winds in the southern California district, helped keep temperatures above freezing. Desert area Valencias suffered some damage, and groves escaping the January freeze were hit by the March freeze. Harvest of Navel oranges continued through February, and quality of the packed fruit is very good. The Valencia crop continued to develop well and fruit color to become more pronounced.

Production of Texas oranges is forecast at 5.7 million boxes, 0.6 million more than on February 1 and 36 percent above last season. Trees, generally in good condition, are beginning to bloom. Irrigation is active in the Lower Rio Grande Valley due to the prolonged dry spell. Picking of early and midseason oranges continued active and was in the final stages by March 1. Harvest of Valencias remained relatively light, because most shippers were cleaning up early and midseason varieties before moving into Valencias.

Arizona's 1970-71 orange crop is forecast at 3.4 million boxes, 0.4 million boxes below the February 1 forecast, and 1.4 million less than last season. Harvest of Navels and sweets was completed in February. Picking of Valencias was just getting underway on March 1 and a greater loss of fruit is being realized than was estimated on February 1. A larger than normal amount of the remaining fruit will go for juice. Trees are recovering nicely from the freeze damage; however, freezing temperatures on March 1 and 2 resulted in new growth being damaged.

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 1.21 gallons per box. Last season's yield was 1.24 gallons per box. The projected yield is based on past relationships between pounds solids 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 Cannery Association. This yield can differ from the final yield because of sampling error, weather, harvest schedule, and changes in factors or recovery rates.

GRAPEFRUIT: The Nation's 1970-71 grapefruit crop is expected to total 57.4 million boxes, down 2.4 million boxes from the February 1 forecast. Production at this level is 6 percent above both last season's harvest and the 1968-69 crop. Changes in U. S. production between the March 1 forecast and final production have averaged 2.35 million boxes over the past six seasons, ranging from 0.93 to 4.38 million.

Florida's crop is forecast at 41.0 million boxes, 2.0 million less than forecast on February 1. Production at this level is still 10 percent above last season's output and 3 percent above the 1968-69 production. Changes in Florida's grapefruit production between the March 1 forecast and the final production over the past six seasons, using comparable methods of forecasting, have averaged 1.8 million boxes, ranging from 0.4 to 4.1 million boxes. Harvest is running well ahead of previous years. Tree condition greatly improved during February. Irrigation was considerable the first week of the month, but soaking rains fell during the second week. On trees partially defoliated by the January freeze, new feathery leaflets are forming and on most trees completely defoliated, some new growth is in evidence. Grapefruit bloom is progressing rapidly.

The Texas crop is forecast at 8.8 million boxes, up 0.3 million from the February 1 forecast. This is 9 percent above last season and nearly one-third larger than the 1968-69 crop. Harvest was at peak volume in the Lower Rio Grande Valley during February and is expected to remain active during March. Irrigation continued because of the prolonged dry conditions during February. Trees are generally in good condition and are beginning to bloom.

Arizona's grapefruit prospects, at 2.5 million boxes, are down 0.4 million from last month and 21 percent below last season's output. By March 1, about 45 percent of the crop had been harvested. Two more nights of freezing temperatures occurred on March 1 and 2. This froze back nearly all the new growth that had begun and is expected to curtail bloom and fruit set for the 1971-72 season.

California's grapefruit crop is placed at 5.1 million boxes, 0.3 million below the February 1 forecast and 3 percent less than last season. In the Desert Valleys, packinghouses are very selective as injury is evident in many lots. Color and texture as well as quality and flavor are mostly all good for packed fruit. Harvest of the "other areas" grapefruit should get underway during April. Growth and development of this crop appears normal at this time; however, some frost damage has occurred in the lower San Joaquin Valley.

**LEMONS:** Lemon production in California and Arizona is expected to total 17.8 million boxes, 0.2 million less than last month but still 15 percent above last season. Prospects are unchanged in California but are down slightly in Arizona. In California, picking in the San Joaquin Valley was approximately 70 percent complete by March 1. The southern coastal district, the most important area, had moved about 25 percent of the crop. Most of the March supplies should originate from the south coast. In Arizona, harvest was completed during February and the major portion of the crop harvested since January 1 was used for juice. Lemon trees appear to have sustained severe damage from the winter freezes and many mature trees may not survive.

**TANGELOS:** Florida's tangelo production is now forecast at 2.7 million boxes, down 0.1 million from February 1, but still 0.2 million above a year ago. Picking was nearly complete by March 1.

**TANGERINES:** The U. S. tangerine crop is estimated at 4.7 million boxes, unchanged from February 1, and 18 percent above last season's output. Harvest was nearly complete in all three States by March 1.

**TEMPLES:** In Florida, a crop of 5.5 million boxes is expected, unchanged from February 1, and 0.3 million above last season. About 2.0 million boxes remained for harvest on March 1. This crop was the hardest hit of all by the January freezes.

**POTATOES:** Production of winter crop potatoes is estimated at 3,170,000 cwt., 12 percent less than the 1970 crop of 3,582,000 cwt. Cold, dry weather in Florida during the growing season reduced crop prospects to 1,537,000 cwt. compared with 1,627,000 cwt. for 1970. Digging is active in Dade County and the crop is generally of good quality. Volume supplies are expected into April. Harvest is nearing completion on "red" types in the Fort Myers-Immokalee area but getting underway on "whitea."

The California crop is estimated at 1,633,000 cwt., unchanged from a month ago but 16 percent less than 1970 production of 1,955,000 cwt. February weather was generally good and harvest proceeded without interruption. Digging was around the halfway point by March 1. Good supplies are expected into early April.

The early spring potato crop is estimated at 29,400 acres for harvest in 1971. This is slightly less than the 29,600 acres harvested in 1970. The Florida crop, with 23,200 acres for harvest in the Hastings area and 2,400 acres for "other" Florida, compares with 24,500 acres at Hastings and 1,900 "other" Florida areas last year. Strong winds and freezing temperatures the first week of March damaged the crop in the Hastings area. Defoliation was heavy where plants lacked protection.

The Texas crop is estimated at 3,800 acres for harvest in 1971 compared with 3,200 acres harvested last year. Growth progressed well during the prevailing mild weather of the early season, although a few fields were nipped by light frosts on March 4. Digging of early fields is expected to start about April 10.

CROP REPORTING BOARD

CITRUS FRUITS, PRODUCTION 1/

Crop and State	1968-69	1969-70	Indicated: 1970-71	1968-69	1969-70	Indicated 1970-71
ORANGES:	1,000 boxes 2/			Equivalent tons		
EARLY, MIDSEASON & NAVEL VARIETIES: 3/:						
Calif.	18,600	21,200	18,000	698,000	795,000	675,000
Fla.	69,700	72,900	84,000	3,136,000	3,281,000	3,780,000
Texas	2,800	2,800	4,000	126,000	126,000	180,000
Ariz.	1,270	1,120	900	47,600	42,000	33,800
Total Above Varieties	92,370	98,020	106,900	4,007,600	4,244,000	4,668,800
VALENCIAS:						
Calif.	25,700	17,800	21,000	964,000	668,000	788,000
Fla.	60,000	64,800	65,000	2,700,000	2,916,000	2,925,000
Texas	1,700	1,400	1,700	76,500	63,000	76,500
Ariz.	4,110	3,640	2,500	154,000	137,000	93,800
Total Valencias	91,510	87,640	90,200	3,894,500	3,784,000	3,883,300
ALL ORANGES:						
Calif.	44,300	39,000	39,000	1,662,000	1,463,000	1,463,000
Fla.	129,700	137,700	149,000	5,836,000	6,197,000	6,705,000
Texas	4,500	4,200	5,700	202,500	189,000	256,500
Ariz.	5,380	4,760	3,400	201,600	179,000	127,600
U.S., All Oranges	183,880	185,660	197,100	7,902,100	8,028,000	8,552,100
GRAPEFRUIT:						
Fla., All	39,900	37,400	41,000	1,695,000	1,590,000	1,743,000
Seedless	27,700	27,900	30,000	1,177,000	1,186,000	1,275,000
Pink	10,700	10,200	10,000	455,000	434,000	425,000
White	17,000	17,700	20,000	722,000	752,000	850,000
Other	12,200	9,500	11,000	518,000	404,000	468,000
Texas	6,700	8,100	8,800	268,000	324,000	352,000
Ariz.	2,510	3,160	2,500	80,300	101,000	80,000
Calif., All	5,060	5,250	5,100	165,300	171,500	166,400
Desert Valleys	3,260	2,950	3,000	105,000	94,400	96,000
Other Areas	1,800	2,300	2,100	60,300	77,100	70,400
U.S., All Grapefruit	54,170	53,910	57,400	2,208,600	2,186,500	2,341,400
LEMONS:						
Calif.	12,300	12,700	14,500	468,000	483,000	551,000
Ariz.	3,510	2,820	3,300	134,000	107,000	125,000
U. S. Lemons	15,810	15,520	17,800	602,000	590,000	676,000
TANGELOS: Fla.	1,800	2,500	2,700	81,000	113,000	122,000
TANGERINES:						
Fla.	3,400	3,000	3,700	162,000	143,000	176,000
Ariz.	170	220	200	6,380	8,250	7,500
Calif.	640	760	800	24,000	28,500	30,000
Total Tangerines	4,210	3,980	4,700	192,380	179,750	213,500
TEMPLES: Fla.	4,500	5,200	5,500	202,000	234,000	248,000

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.

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 STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE  
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IRISH POTATOES

Seasonal group and State	Acreage			Yield per harv. acre			Production		
	Harvested 1969	1970	For harvest 1971	1969	1970	Indi-cated 1971	1969	1970	Indi-cated 1971
	1,000 acres			Cwt.			1,000 cwt.		
<u>Winter:</u>									
Fla.	11.0	10.3	10.6	180	158	145	1,980	1,627	1,537
Calif.	8.8	8.5	7.1	210	230	230	1,848	1,955	1,633
Total	19.8	18.8	17.7	193	191	179	3,828	3,582	3,170
<u>Early Spring:</u>									
Fla.-Hastings	26.3	24.5	23.2	185	165	Apr. 9	4,866	4,043	Apr. 9
Other	3.1	1.9	2.4	135	140	"	418	266	"
Texas	3.1	3.2	3.8	130	140	"	403	448	"
Total	32.5	29.6	29.4	175	161	"	5,687	4,757	"