

Crop production



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HIGHLIGHTS OF U. S. CROP REPORT AS OF MARCH 1, 1972

Citrus production, down 0.3 percent from a month earlier, is expected to be 0.3 percent more than last season. Prospects are down from last month for oranges, lemons, tangerines, and temples. Prospects increased during February for grapefruit and tangelos.

Orange production is forecast at 189.7 million boxes, down 0.3 million boxes (0.2 percent) from February 1 and 0.5 percent (1.0 million boxes) below last season. Prospects declined in California, were unchanged in Texas and Florida, and increased in Arizona.

Grapefruit production is placed at 61.8 million boxes, up 0.2 million boxes (0.3 percent) from last month and 1.1 million boxes (1.8 percent) above the 1970-71 crop. Prospects increased in Texas but were unchanged in the other States.

Lemon production, at 17.3 million boxes, is 0.2 million boxes (1 percent) below a month earlier but 0.9 million boxes (5 percent) more than last season. Poorer prospects in California more than offset an increase in Arizona.

Winter potato production is forecast at 2.5 million cwt., 2 percent less than a month ago and 20 percent under 1971 production of 3.1 million cwt.

Early spring potato acreage for 1972 is estimated at 26,100 acres for harvest, 11 percent less than 29,200 acres harvested in 1971.

Winter wheat in the Great Plains received little precipitation during the month but subsoil moisture was generally adequate.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD

Cr Pr 2-2 (3-72)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

UNITED STATES CROP SUMMARY AS OF MARCH 1, 1972

CITRUS FRUITS PRODUCTION 1/

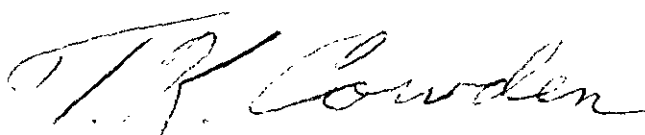
| Crop | 1969-70 | 1970-71 | Indicated 1971-72 | |
|-------------|---------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| | | | February 1 | March 1 |
| 1,000 boxes | | | | |
| Oranges | 185,530 | 190,660 | 190,000 | 189,700 |
| Grapefruit | 53,910 | 60,680 | 61,600 | 61,800 |
| Lemons | 15,120 | 16,450 | 17,500 | 17,300 |

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 | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------|-------|----------------------|------|---------|----------------|-------|---------|--------|
| | Harvested | | For | : | Ind- | : | Indicated 1972 | | | |
| | 1970 | 1971 | harv. | 1970 | 1971 | cated | 1970 | 1971 | Feb. 1 | Mar. 1 |
| | 1,000 acres | | | Cwt. | | | 1,000 cwt. | | | |
| Winter | 18.8 | 18.0 | 15.7 | 191 | 172 | 158 | 3,582 | 3,088 | 2,526 | 2,476 |
| E. Spring | 29.6 | 29.2 | 26.1 | 161 | 128 | Apr. 10 | 4,757 | 3,735 | Apr. 10 | |

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GENERAL CROP SUMMARY AS OF MARCH 1, 1972

A mild February brought very little precipitation to the western two-thirds of the Nation. Topsoil moisture is becoming short from southern California to the southern Great Plains, although subsoil moisture is generally adequate. Spring planting is off to a fast start in this region as fields are in workable shape. Wet soils are slowing fieldwork in the South and Atlantic Coast States.

Warmer late month temperatures and the absence of widespread severe storms (except in the East) favored livestock. Calving, lambing, and farrowing increased on many farms with the approach of spring. Ranchers in the Southwest began feeding heavier rations of hay and grain to their herds as dry pastures provided scantier grazing.

February Extremely Dry

Extremely light precipitation fell over the Nation in February. For the second straight month, the Southwest received less than 0.25 inches of moisture. Some localities in the Southwest have received only a few sprinkles of rain since late December. Less than 50 percent of normal precipitation fell south of a line from northern California to central Illinois during February. Subsoil moisture is adequate in most areas and partially alleviates the shortage of surface moisture. However, farmers will be waiting for March rains to replenish topsoil moisture. Only States along the Atlantic Coast and Canadian border (Idaho to Minnesota) received above-average precipitation. Frequent rains have slowed potato planting in Alabama. A large storm brought miserable weather to the eastern third of the Nation shortly after mid-month. Blizzards raged in many northeastern areas, blocking roads and barnyards. The heavy snow caused extra work on farms as far south as Virginia. Dairymen were hard hit by electric power shortages, especially at milking time. Some milk was dumped.

Less snow cover than usual has allowed frost to penetrate to its deepest depth since 1968 in Wisconsin. Central New York snowfall was near record levels.

While the Washington, Oregon, and northern California coast received generous rains during February, soils are becoming extremely dry in southern California. The entire Pacific Coast was frequently battered by high winds.

As of February 1 the irrigation water outlook was well above average in most of the 11 Western States. However, a dry spring could create some shortages in Arizona, New Mexico, and southern California.

February Temperatures Variable

Cold weather gripped most of the Nation in early February but by February 28 and 29 record-highs were registered in many States. Early March brought arctic air pouring back into the country. February temperatures averaged cooler than normal north of a diagonal line from upper Idaho to Florida, and warmer than normal in most areas south of that line. The first frost of the season hit central and south Florida on February 21, causing some losses to vegetable acreage. Winter wheat started greening on the southern and central Great Plains as growth was stimulated by the warm temperatures in late February.

Winter Wheat in Plains Needs Moisture

The Plains wheat area received only light precipitation during February but on March 1 subsoil moisture supplies were generally adequate. Outside the Plains most major wheat growing areas had adequate soil moisture. Some greening of winter wheat occurred as far north as southeastern Nebraska as a result of unusually warm weather after mid-February.

The Kansas winter wheat crop received no appreciable moisture during February. Some greening and growth took place in fields seeded at about the normal time last fall and with good root development. Some late planted fields and those that were heavily grazed during the winter months suffered light to moderate soil blowing on several windy days during the last 2 weeks of February. Subsoil moisture remained generally adequate. Wheat in Oklahoma was in good condition throughout the State. The crop was dormant until the latter part of the month when it responded to warmer temperatures. Growing conditions were good around March 1 but additional surface soil moisture would be beneficial. Moisture supplies were becoming short in many western localities but subsoil moisture remained mostly adequate. Farmers were busy topdressing fall seeded grains.

Wheat growth varied in Texas. On the High Plains, irrigated wheat made excellent progress while the dryland crop was beginning to show the effects of surface moisture shortages. Grazing was fair to good as livestock move off wheat and into feedlots.

In Colorado, the crop was beginning to green by the first of March. Wheat was in good to very good condition throughout the eastern Plains. Topsoil moisture was becoming short but subsoil moisture was adequate. Generally the plants have a good root system which will enable them to utilize the available moisture. While high winds affected many areas of the State during the month, they did little damage to fall-seeded grains. Snow cover in Nebraska was confined to the northern areas, leaving fall-sown crops exposed elsewhere. Winds caused minor erosion in western localities. Some wheat fields were starting to green up. Many winter wheat fields in South Dakota were bare and dry.

Montana's winter wheat was protected by snow cover during much of February. Winter wheat appears to have wintered well in Washington. Some fields in the southeastern section of the State suffered freeze damage and erosion was reported severe. In Oregon rains were general throughout the month. Fall seeded crops look good with little winter kill reported.

In Missouri, fall seeded crops were in good to excellent condition but soil moisture supplies were below normal. Snowfall occurred frequently in the northern portion of Illinois with the ground having some snow cover during most of the month. In southern sections, snow cover was light to absent. Soil moisture was reported mostly adequate throughout the State and winter damage should be light. In Indiana, snow cover was generally confined to northernmost counties although other areas had short periods of light cover. Only in southern counties has vegetation begun to green up. Snow cover for fall-seeded crops in Ohio was adequate during early February, and no severe temperatures occurred late in the month when the snow had melted away. Elsewhere east of the Mississippi River, prospects brightened late in the month as soil moisture was plentiful.

Fieldwork Limited During February

In the North Atlantic States, field activities were curtailed by cold and stormy weather during February. The major activity was tapping maple trees in southern areas of New England near the end of the month.

Farmwork was limited largely to winter chores in the North Central States. Maple trees were being tapped in Ohio and sap flow was reported good.

Wet soils curtailed field activity in the South Atlantic and eastern South Central States during most of the month. Farmers in Delaware, Maryland, and the Virginias are behind schedule in such winter jobs as spreading lime, topdressing grain fields, and seeding tobacco beds. Peach tree pruning was active in South Carolina when weather permitted. Pruning was essentially complete at the end of the month.

Spring grain seeding was getting off to a good start in the central and southern Great Plains. Planting of small grains in Oklahoma was nearing completion. Seeding oats in Kansas was about 6 percent completed, about usual for this date. In Texas, sorghum and corn have been planted as far north as the Blacklands. Planting of cotton and sorghum was delayed in the Coastal Bend, South Texas, and the Upper Gulf Coast by moderate to heavy rains late in the month. Cotton planting has progressed in the lower Rio Grande Valley with about two-fifths of the crop planted.

Virtually no progress was made in seedbed preparation for early spring crops in the central and northern Rocky Mountain States. Fieldwork in irrigated areas of Colorado was underway by March 1. Seeding of the small grain crop will start as soon as soil temperatures warm to acceptable levels. Land preparation and pre-planting activities were in full swing in Arizona and New Mexico during the month. Plantings of safflower and small grains were generally completed by mid-month in central and southwest areas of Arizona. Spring field preparation was started on the lighter, well-drained soils in Washington and Oregon. Pruning and training of caneberrries was active after mid-month. Planting sugarbeets, alfalfa and safflower was active in southern counties of California.

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ORANGES: As of March 1, the Nation's 1971-72 orange crop was forecast at 189.7 million boxes, 0.3 million less than a month earlier, slightly less than last season but 2 percent above 1969-70 crop. Over the past seven seasons, the March 1 orange forecasts have differed from actual production an average of 6.2 million boxes, ranging from 1.1 to 10.6 million boxes.

Prospective production of oranges in Florida, at 136.0 million boxes, is unchanged from the February 1 forecast, 4 percent less than last season, and 1 percent below the 1969-70 season. In the past seven seasons, Florida's March 1 forecasts have differed from actual production an average of 4.8 million boxes, ranging from 1.5 to 6.7 million boxes. Florida's trees are in excellent condition, flushed with new growth and with swelling buds of all sizes. Early February rains restored soil moisture, improving prospects for a favorable bloom period. Harvest of early and midseason varieties is declining. Some Valencia harvest is underway, but peak movement is a few weeks away.

California's orange production is placed at 43.0 million boxes, 1.0 million boxes below the February 1 forecast but 11 percent above last season's production and 10 percent more than the 1969-70 crop. Harvest of the Navel crop in the Central Valley continues to make good progress. In the Southern District frost damage has been minimal but some wind damaged fruit is showing up. The Valencia crop particularly in the Central Valley has not sized well due to lack of rainfall.

Production of Texas oranges is forecast at 6.0 million boxes, unchanged from last month and 0.2 million boxes less than last season. Trees are in good condition and fruit sizes are larger than last year. Trees began blooming in early March with the peak expected about mid-March. Light rains in February provided only limited moisture and irrigation continues. Picking of early and midseason varieties declined during February and was nearly complete by March 1. Harvest of Valencias became active during February and should be in full swing during March. Arizona's 1971-72 crop is forecast at 4.7 million boxes, up 0.7 million from February 1. This is nearly one-third more than harvested last year and 2 percent more than the 1969-70 crop. Trees have fully recovered from last year's freeze and, due to the warm weather, are flushed with new growth. Harvest of Navels was nearly complete by the end of February. The Valencia crop which is sizing rapidly is expected to be larger than estimated earlier.

FLORIDA FROZEN CONCENTRATED ORANGE JUICE YIELD: Florida's February 1 maturity and juice yield tests suggest a yield of 1.31 gallons of 45° Brix frozen concentrated orange juice per box in the 1971-72 season. This compares with 1.29 gallons last month and last season's final yield of 1.21 gallons per box. This indicated yield can differ from the final yield because of weather and decisions within the citrus industry.

GRAPEFRUIT: The Nation's 1971-72 grapefruit crop is expected to total 61.8 million boxes, up 0.2 million boxes from the February 1 forecast. At this level, production is 2 percent above last season's harvest and 15 percent above 1969-70 crop. Changes in U. S. production between the March 1 forecast and final production have averaged 2.5 million boxes over the past seven seasons--ranging from 0.9 to 4.4 million boxes.

Florida's crop is forecast at 44.0 million boxes, unchanged from the February 1 forecast. This is 3 percent more than was harvested last season and 18 percent above the 1969-70 output. Changes in Florida's production between March 1 forecasts and final production have averaged 1.8 million boxes over the past seven seasons--ranging from 0.4 million to 4.1 million boxes. Grapefruit trees are in excellent condition following the extremely mild winter weather. General rains during early February restored soil moisture. Flush of new growth and swelling of buds of all sizes are general in all areas. As picking of early and midseason oranges tapers off, the harvest of grapefruit is increasing. About 60 percent of the crop was off the trees by March 1.

The Texas crop is forecast at 10.2 million boxes, up 0.2 million from a month earlier. This is 1 percent above last season and more than one-fourth larger than the 1969-70 crop. Trees are in good condition although light rains during February provided only limited moisture and irrigation continues. Trees began blooming in early March with peak bloom expected to occur about mid-March. Grapefruit harvest is at peak with good movement to both fresh and processing channels. Harvest was about two-thirds complete by March 1.

Arizona's grapefruit prospects remain at 2.4 million boxes, 120,000 boxes less than last season and nearly one-fourth less than harvested in 1969-70. Trees are in good condition and putting on an abundance of new growth. About one-fifth of the fruit had been harvested by March 1 but peak movement is not expected until near April 1.

California's grapefruit crop is placed at 5.2 million boxes, unchanged from February 1 and 1 percent more than last season. In the Desert Valleys movement was very active during the first 2 weeks of February, particularly to processing outlets. Harvest tapered off during the last half of the month. The very active period occurred as growers were trying to remove frost damaged fruit from the trees before injury became apparent. About 28 percent of the Desert Valleys crop had been harvested by March 1. Fruit growth of grapefruit in other areas has been hindered by lack of rain. However, prospects continue good for a nearly normal crop and harvest should get underway this month.

LEMONS: Lemon production in California and Arizona is expected to total 17.3 million boxes, down 0.2 million boxes from February 1 but 5 percent more than last season and 14 percent above the 1969-70 crop. Prospects are down 0.5 million boxes from last month in California but increased 0.3 million boxes in Arizona. Harvest in Arizona is virtually complete but less than half the crop has been harvested in California. Fruit development in California is below normal due to lack of rainfall and small sized fruit is predominant in many groves.

TANGELOS: Florida's tangelo crop is now forecast at 3.8 million boxes, up 0.1 million boxes from last month and 1.1 million more than was picked last season. Harvest is nearing completion.

TANGERINES: The U. S. tangerine crop is placed at 4.2 million boxes, down 0.2 million from last month and 14 percent less than last season. All of the reduction from last month occurred in Florida where harvest is nearly complete. In Arizona, harvest is finished. Harvest in California is making good progress with some fruit remaining in both the Desert Valleys and the Central district.

TEMPLES: In Florida, a crop of 5.5 million boxes is expected, down 0.5 million from February 1 but 0.5 million boxes more than last season. Due to a large amount of late bloom fruit harvest has been slow and less than half the crop had been picked by March 1. With the completion of harvest of early and midseason oranges more labor will be available and picking should increase.

POTATOES: Winter crop production is estimated at 2,476,000 cwt., 2 percent less than the February 1 forecast and 20 percent less than the 1971 production of 3,088,000 cwt. Florida prospects were lowered to 1,450,000 cwt., which compares with 1,500,000 cwt. a month ago and the 1971 crop of 1,526,000 cwt. California's production is estimated at 1,026,000 cwt., unchanged from a month ago but a third less than the 1971 crop of 1,562,000 cwt.

Early March harvesting of the Florida crop was curtailed by wet fields but digging is expected to increase by March 10. Volume supplies of reds and moderate supplies of whites are expected during most of March and April. In the Ft. Myers-Immokalee area, reds are in decreasing supply but harvesting of white types is increasing. The Martin County harvest of the winter crop is completed. The California harvest moved along rapidly during February under favorable weather conditions and good volume supplies are expected through early April.

The early spring crop is estimated at 26,100 acres for harvest this year, compared with 29,200 acres in 1971 and 29,600 acres harvested in 1970. In the Hastings Florida area, the 21,000 acres for 1972 compares with 23,000 last year and 24,500 acres harvested in 1970. Comparable "other" Florida acreages are 2,200 acres for harvest in 1972, 2,400 in 1971, and 1,900 in 1970. Plantings were delayed in the Hastings area by recurring rains but were generally completed by March 1. There was some replanting of poor stands and some frost burning, which may delay the start of harvest. The Texas plantings were completed in January and crop development has been good. Harvest is expected to get underway in early April.

CROP REPORTING BOARD

CITRUS FRUITS, PRODUCTION 1/

| Crop and State | 1969-70 | 1970-71 | Indicated | 1969-70 | 1970-71 | Indicated |
|---|----------------|---------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1,000 boxes 2/ | | | Equivalent tons | | |
| ORANGES: | | | | | | |
| EARLY, MIDSEASON & NAVAL VARIETIES: 3/ | | | | | | |
| Calif. | 21,200 | 17,900 | 22,000 | 795,000 | 671,000 | 825,000 |
| Fla. | 72,900 | 82,100 | 69,000 | 3,281,000 | 3,695,000 | 3,105,000 |
| Texas | 2,800 | 4,000 | 3,800 | 126,000 | 180,000 | 171,000 |
| Ariz. | 990 | 760 | 800 | 37,100 | 28,500 | 30,000 |
| Total Above Varieties | 97,890 | 104,760 | 95,600 | 4,239,100 | 4,574,500 | 4,131,000 |
| VALENCIAS: | | | | | | |
| Calif. | 17,800 | 20,700 | 21,000 | 668,000 | 776,000 | 788,000 |
| Fla. | 64,800 | 60,200 | 67,000 | 2,916,000 | 2,709,000 | 3,015,000 |
| Texas | 1,400 | 2,200 | 2,200 | 63,000 | 99,000 | 99,000 |
| Ariz. | 3,640 | 2,800 | 3,900 | 137,000 | 105,000 | 146,000 |
| Total Valencias | 87,640 | 85,900 | 94,100 | 3,784,000 | 3,689,000 | 4,048,000 |
| ALL ORANGES: | | | | | | |
| Calif. | 39,000 | 38,600 | 43,000 | 1,463,000 | 1,447,000 | 1,613,000 |
| Fla. | 137,700 | 142,300 | 136,000 | 6,197,000 | 6,404,000 | 6,120,000 |
| Texas | 4,200 | 6,200 | 6,000 | 189,000 | 279,000 | 270,000 |
| Ariz. | 4,630 | 3,560 | 4,700 | 174,100 | 133,500 | 176,000 |
| U. S., All Oranges | 185,530 | 190,660 | 189,700 | 8,023,100 | 8,263,500 | 8,179,000 |
| GRAPEFRUIT: | | | | | | |
| Fla., All | 37,400 | 42,900 | 44,000 | 1,590,000 | 1,824,000 | 1,870,000 |
| Seedless | 27,900 | 31,100 | 34,000 | 1,186,000 | 1,322,000 | 1,445,000 |
| Pink | 10,200 | 10,900 | 12,000 | 434,000 | 463,000 | 510,000 |
| White | 17,700 | 20,200 | 22,000 | 752,000 | 859,000 | 935,000 |
| Other | 9,500 | 11,800 | 10,000 | 404,000 | 502,000 | 425,000 |
| Texas | 8,100 | 10,100 | 10,200 | 324,000 | 404,000 | 408,000 |
| Ariz. | 3,160 | 2,520 | 2,400 | 101,000 | 80,600 | 76,800 |
| Calif., All | 5,250 | 5,160 | 5,200 | 171,500 | 168,700 | 169,000 |
| Desert Valleys | 2,950 | 3,260 | 3,200 | 94,400 | 105,000 | 102,000 |
| Other Areas | 2,300 | 1,900 | 2,000 | 77,100 | 63,700 | 67,000 |
| U. S., All Grapefruit | 53,910 | 60,680 | 61,800 | 2,186,500 | 2,477,300 | 2,523,800 |
| LEMONS: 4/ | | | | | | |
| Calif. (Nov. 1-Oct. 31) | 12,700 | 13,500 | | 483,000 | 513,000 | |
| Calif. (Aug. 1-July 31) | 12,300 | 13,300 | 14,000 | 468,000 | 506,000 | 532,000 |
| Ariz. | 2,820 | 3,150 | 3,300 | 107,000 | 120,000 | 125,000 |
| U. S. Lemons | 15,120 | 16,450 | 17,300 | 575,000 | 626,000 | 657,000 |
| TANGELOS: | | | | | | |
| Fla. | 2,500 | 2,700 | 3,800 | 113,000 | 122,000 | 171,000 |
| TANGERINES: | | | | | | |
| Fla. | 3,000 | 3,700 | 3,300 | 143,000 | 176,000 | 157,000 |
| Ariz. | 350 | 390 | 300 | 13,100 | 14,600 | 11,300 |
| Calif. | 760 | 800 | 600 | 28,500 | 30,000 | 22,500 |
| Total Tangerines | 4,110 | 4,890 | 4,200 | 184,600 | 220,600 | 190,800 |
| TEMPLES: | | | | | | |
| Fla. | 5,200 | 5,000 | 5,500 | 234,000 | 225,000 | 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. 4/ Beginning with the 1971-72 crop, the crop year for California lemons was changed from (November 1-October 31) to (August 1-July 31) of each year. Data for prior years are presented on both the new and old basis.

IRISH POTATOES

| Seasonal group and State | Acreage | | | Yield per acre | | | Production | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------|----------|----------------|------|---------|------------|-------|---------|
| | Harvested | | For | Indi- | | Indi- | | Indi- | |
| | 1970 | 1971 | harvest: | 1970 | 1971 | cated | 1970 | 1971 | cated |
| | | | 1972 | | | 1972 | | | 1972 |
| | 1,000 acres | | | Cwt. | | | 1,000 cwt. | | |
| <u>Winter:</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Fla. | 10.3 | 10.9 | 10.0 | 158 | 140 | 145 | 1,627 | 1,526 | 1,450 |
| Calif. | 8.5 | 7.1 | 5.7 | 230 | 220 | 180 | 1,955 | 1,562 | 1,026 |
| Total | 18.8 | 18.0 | 15.7 | 191 | 172 | 158 | 3,582 | 3,088 | 2,476 |
| <u>Early Spring:</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Fla.-Hastings | 24.5 | 23.0 | 21.0 | 165 | 132 | Apr. 10 | 4,043 | 3,036 | Apr. 10 |
| Other | 1.9 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 140 | 125 | Apr. 10 | 266 | 300 | Apr. 10 |
| Texas | 3.2 | 3.8 | 2.9 | 140 | 105 | Apr. 10 | 448 | 399 | Apr. 10 |
| Total | 29.6 | 29.2 | 26.1 | 161 | 128 | Apr. 10 | 4,757 | 3,735 | Apr. 10 |