

# crop production



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## HIGHLIGHTS OF U. S. CROP REPORT AS OF MARCH 1, 1973

Citrus production, up 1.2 percent from a month earlier, is expected to be 14 percent more than last season. Prospects increased during February for oranges, grapefruit, lemons and tangerines.

Orange production is forecast at a record 225.2 million boxes, up 3.3 million boxes (1.5 percent) from February 1 and 34.2 million boxes (18 percent) above last season. Prospects improved in both California and Texas and remained unchanged in Florida and Arizona.

Grapefruit production is placed at 63.6 million boxes, up 400,000 boxes (0.6 percent) from last month, but 240,000 boxes (0.4 percent) less than the 1971-72 crop. Prospects increased in Texas, were unchanged in Florida and California but decreased in Arizona.

Lemon production, at a record 21.2 million boxes, is 700,000 boxes (3 percent) above a month earlier, and 4.5 million boxes (27 percent) more than last season. Better prospects in California more than offset a decline in Arizona.

Winter potato production is forecast at 2.5 million cwt., slightly less than a month ago, but 7 percent more than 1972 production of 2.3 million cwt.

Spring potato acreage, excluding California, is estimated at 62,800 acres for harvest, 3 percent less than the 64,800 acres harvested in 1972.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD

Cr Pr 2-2 (3-73)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

CITRUS FRUITS PRODUCTION 1/

Crop	1970-71	1971-72	Indicated 1972-73	
			February 1	March 1
1,000 boxes				
Oranges	189,560	191,000	221,900	225,200
Grapefruit	60,560	63,840	63,200	63,600
Lemons	16,450	16,680	20,500	21,200

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 acre			Production		
	Harvested 1971	For 1972	For 1973	1971	1972	Indicated 1973	1971	1972	Indicated 1973
	1,000 acres			Cwt.			1,000 cwt.		
Winter	18.0	15.4	13.6	172	151	183	3,088	2,327	2,539
Spring	107.3	96.0	April 9	220	219	April 9	23,658	21,026	April 9

APPROVED:



ACTING SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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## CROP REPORT SUMMARY AS OF MARCH 1, 1973

February was highlighted by mild temperatures over the northern Great Plains, below normal temperatures in the South, and less than normal precipitation for most of the Nation. The Southeast also received a record breaking snowfall. Soil moisture remained adequate to excessive in most areas because of abundant precipitation in December and January. Muddy conditions continued to make final harvesting difficult for remaining fields of corn, sorghum grain, cotton and soybeans. Wet soils also limited fieldwork and delayed the start of spring planting in the South and Atlantic Coast States.

Wintry weather in the southern Great Plains and Southern States retarded growth of small grain and winter grazing crops. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued at a heavy rate to offset the shortage of grazing. Warming weather across the Nation at month's end eased the winter stress on livestock, but thawing and rain caused muddy feedlots and soft pastures.

### Precipitation Less Than Normal

Precipitation was less than normal for most areas of the Nation during February, but this was not considered critical because of high soil moisture levels remaining from plentiful precipitation in December and January. Light precipitation, mostly falling as snow, sleet or freezing rain combined with existing muddy conditions in the North Central and South hindered completion of the final harvest for corn, sorghum grain, cotton and soybeans. Snow fell in record breaking quantities from Alabama to North Carolina.

The Great Plains received about half normal February precipitation, which together with frequent thawing temperatures made snow cover scarce. Precipitation was also less than normal over the East North Central, North Atlantic, South Central and northern Western States. Areas receiving more than normal precipitation included the South Atlantic States and the Southwest. A continuous area from southern California to West Texas received more than twice the normal monthly precipitation.

As of February 1, the irrigation water outlook was above average for most of the 11 Western States; however, a dry spring could create some shortages in Washington, Oregon and Montana.

### February Mild In The North Central and West, Cold In South Central and East

Temperatures during February were 3° - 9° warmer than average from the northern and central Great Plains to the Great Lakes in spite of several wintry arctic storms that pushed frigid air across the country. Snow cover was almost non-existent most of the month on winter wheat and small grain fields in the Dakotas and northeastern Montana where temperatures ranged from 6° - 10° above average and precipitation was about 50 percent of normal. Temperatures in most Western States were about 3° warmer than average with the exception of abnormally cold weather in parts of Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico. Cooler than average temperatures occurred south of a line from the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles to northern Maine. The Gulf Coast and lower Atlantic Coast States averaged about 3° below normal reflecting the persistent onslaught of cold, wet, wintry weather until late February. Freezing temperatures dipped into central Florida each of the first 3 weeks of February causing some damage to vegetable crops.

### Winter Wheat Growth Limited - Prospects Vary

Winter wheat prospects remained favorable March 1 although growth during February was limited. Soil moisture supplies were mostly adequate with the exception of Montana where winter precipitation has been well below normal. Snow cover in the United States was limited in early March, as it has been much of the winter. Concern was expressed in several areas regarding possible damage from freezing and thawing. Washington growers reseeded some fields during the month. Little wind damage has occurred as yet. Topdressing was active during February.

Winter wheat in the Great Plains made little growth during February, especially in Oklahoma and Texas where below normal temperatures most of the month retarded growth. Some greening and growth took place in Kansas and other Plains States to the north late in the month when temperatures were above normal. Soil moisture supplies were adequate to surplus throughout the Plains. Soil blowing has been light thus far. Nebraska farmers were concerned about water standing on wheat fields for extended periods. South Dakota growers were also concerned regarding possible winter losses.

Montana's winter wheat greened in late February. Winter precipitation has been well below normal and snow cover was light. Snow was also light in Washington and temperatures were above normal the last 3 weeks of the month. Some fields showed poor color while many others were greening up in patches. Some reseeding was accomplished during the month. Fall seedings in Oregon were in satisfactory condition and Idaho wheat was starting to green. Fall seeded grains in Missouri were in fair to good condition except in low areas where standing water was a problem. Little winter damage was evident in Illinois. In Ohio, earlier seedings were in fair to good condition but late seedings were in poor condition. Lack of snow cover is blamed for the low rating in most areas.

Other areas east of the Mississippi River received below normal temperatures and growth was limited except in some southern areas where warmer temperatures late in the month spurred growth. Concern was expressed of possible damage from alternate freezing and thawing.

#### Fieldwork Limited During February

Care and feeding of livestock were the main farm activities in the North Atlantic States with some limited tapping of sugar maple trees in southern areas of New England late in the month.

Farmwork in the North Central States consisted mainly of routine chores and harvesting of remaining corn and soybeans whenever fields were frozen enough to support equipment.

Wet soils, flooding rains and a record breaking snow slowed the usual pace of field activity in the South Atlantic States. Farmers were behind schedule in spreading lime, topdressing small grain fields and seeding tobacco beds. The heaviest snowfall in 100 years from Alabama to North Carolina did considerable damage to roofs of tobacco barns, poultry houses and livestock barns causing extra repair work. The cold weather damaged some Florida vegetable crops and slowed harvesting progress.

The start of spring grain seeding was delayed in the central and southern Great Plains by wet fields and wintry weather. By March 1, seeding of oats in Oklahoma was almost 50 percent complete, but only 4 percent complete in Kansas. Cold, wet weather delayed completion of the exceptionally late cotton harvest in Texas and Mississippi and delayed spring planting progress in South Texas about 2 weeks. Vegetable and citrus harvesting were also interrupted by the adverse weather. Considerable progress was made late in the month on the final harvest of soybeans and cotton throughout the South.

In the Pacific Northwest, growers worked in orchards and fields with some reseeding of winter wheat and seeding of spring grains. Seedbed preparation in Colorado was delayed by muddy fields and frozen ground. Recurring rain storms in California caused flooding and generally halted farm activities for a large part of the month. In Arizona, spring plantings progressed normally, but rain caused periodic delays in citrus and vegetable harvests.

ORANGES: On March 1, the 1972-73 orange crop was expected to fill 225.2 million boxes, 3.3 million more than a month earlier, 18 percent more than last season and 19 percent above the 1970-71 crop. Over the past eight seasons, the March 1 orange forecasts have differed from actual production an average of 5.3 million boxes, ranging from 1.1 to 10.5 million boxes.

Prospective production of oranges in Florida, at 168.0 million boxes, remains unchanged from the February 1 forecast, 23 percent more than last season, and 18 percent above the 1970-71 season. In the past eight seasons, Florida's March 1 forecasts have differed from actual production an average of 4.4 million boxes, ranging from 1.0 to 6.7 million boxes. Trees and fruit were in excellent condition March 1. Above average rain fell in most areas during February bringing soil moisture up to good levels. February temperatures were generally lower than during the other winter months, but no freeze damage was experienced. Trees were showing new growth and bloom buds by March 1. Harvest of early and midseason oranges was active in February and is expected to remain so through March. A few Valencias had been harvested by March 1.

Orange production in California is placed at 45.0 million boxes, 3.0 million boxes above the February 1 forecast, 4 percent above last season and 20 percent more than the 1970-71 crop. A slow harvest of Navel oranges in the San Joaquin Valley continued. Diversion to products was high due to the December and January freezes. During February there was a heavy drop of Navels. Some packing houses in areas experiencing cold temperatures closed down while waiting for fruit to dry out. In the southern area picking was active, although heavy rains made harvesting difficult. Valencia harvest continues in desert areas. Drop has been heavy in the San Joaquin Valley. Sizes of Valencias are improving due to the rains.

Production of Texas oranges is forecast at 7.1 million boxes, up 300,000 boxes from a month ago, 22 percent above last season's output and 15 percent more than the 1970-71 crop. Harvest of oranges was delayed during February in the Lower Rio Grande Valley by unseasonably cold weather and excessive rainfall. Picking of early and midseason oranges was active when weather permitted. Harvest is now concentrated on cleaning up the early and midseason crop. Picking of Valencias will gain momentum as the harvest of earlier varieties is completed. Orange trees are in excellent condition and fruit has sized well with the rains. Irrigation will be unnecessary in the March bloom period.

Arizona's 1972-73 crop is forecast at 5.1 million boxes, unchanged from February 1, but 200,000 boxes more than last season. Harvest of Navels was completed during February and Valencia harvest was nearing volume proportions March 1. Inclement weather interrupted picking operations several times in February. Trees made a good response to the warmer temperatures and rainfall. Trees are flushed with new growth and bloom buds are beginning to form.

FLORIDA FROZEN CONCENTRATED ORANGE JUICE YIELD: Florida's March 1 maturity and juice yield tests suggest a yield of 1.32 gallons of 45° Brix frozen concentrated orange juice per box in the 1972-73 season. This is the same as last month and more than last season's final, 1.2857 gallons per box. This indicated yield can differ somewhat from the final realized due to weather and decisions within the citrus industry.

GRAPEFRUIT: The Nation's 1972-73 grapefruit crop is expected to total 63.6 million boxes, up 400,000 from the February 1 forecast. This level of production falls slightly below last season's harvest, but 5 percent above 1970-71. Changes in the U. S. production between the March 1 forecast and final production have averaged 2.4 million boxes over the past eight seasons, ranging from 0.9 to 4.2 million boxes.

Florida's crop, forecast at 45.0 million boxes, remains unchanged from February 1. This is 4 percent less than was harvested last season, but 5 percent above the 1970-71 output. Changes in Florida's production between March 1 forecast and final production have averaged 2.0 million boxes over the past eight seasons--ranging from 0.4 million to 4.1 million boxes. Grapefruit trees, as well as the unharvested fruit, were in excellent condition March 1. Rainfall was above average during February in most areas providing excellent soil moisture levels. New growth on trees was evident by March 1, and bloom buds were pinhead to pencil eraser size. February harvest was active and on March 1, more than half the crop was picked.

The Texas crop is forecast at 11.0 million boxes, up 600,000 from February 1. This is 20 percent larger than last season and 9 percent above the 1970-71 output. An unseasonably cold February brought above normal rainfall, delaying grapefruit harvest. Active harvesting is expected during March. Slightly more than one-half the crop had been harvested by March 1. Trees are in excellent condition and the January and February rains increased fruit sizes.

Arizona's grapefruit prospects are 2.4 million boxes, down 200,000 from last month. This is 6 percent below last season and 5 percent less than the 1970-71 crop. Trees are in good condition; buds are prevalent in all areas and a heavy bloom is expected. Harvest operations are still limited Statewide and are not expected to reach full volume until late March. Fruit sizes are running smaller than normal in most areas.

Grapefruit production in California is expected to total 5.2 million boxes, unchanged from last month, but 100,000 boxes above last season. The Desert Valleys' crop is placed at 3.0 million boxes while the "other areas" crop is expected to total 2.2 million boxes. Movement of the Desert Valleys' crop continues active. The fruit is in excellent condition with large sizes. Fruit development in the "other areas" is progressing satisfactorily although recent rains may slow maturity. Some early fruit has been picked, but the main harvest should start in late March.

LEMONS: California and Arizona lemons are now expected to total a record 21.2 million boxes, up 700,000 boxes from February 1. At this level, the current crop is 27 percent above last season and 29 percent larger than the 1970-71 crop. March 1 prospects are up 800,000 boxes from a month earlier in California, but down 100,000 boxes in Arizona. Harvest of Arizona's record size crop is complete. Trees there have an abundant new growth in response to warm weather and rainfall. In California, above average rainfall and temperatures during February have increased sizes and improved condition of the trees. Current supplies are from the southern district and will continue through August. Rains slowed picking, but fruit continues to be extra large with excellent color and quality.

TANGELOS: Florida's tangelo crop is now placed at 3.6 million boxes, down 200,000 boxes from last month and 300,000 below last season. Harvest was nearing completion by March 1.

TANGERINES: The tangerine crop is placed at 4.4 million boxes, up 100,000 boxes from February 1 and slightly larger than last season's output. All of February's increase occurred in Florida where harvest is nearly complete. In Arizona, harvest is also nearing completion. Picking continues in California, mainly in the southern and desert areas. In the southern area, Minneola was the main variety packed during February and quality was good. In the desert areas, Kennow was the predominant variety.

TEMPLES: The Florida crop remains 5.0 million boxes, 300,000 less than last season, but the same as the 1970-71 output. February harvest was active, and by March 1 about three-fifths of the crop had been picked.

POTATOES: Production for the winter crop is forecast at 2,495,000 cwt., slightly less than a month ago, compared with 1972 production of 2,327,000 cwt. and 1971 production of 3,088,000 cwt. The Florida crop is estimated at 1,392,000 cwt., 44,000 cwt. less than estimated on February 1, compared with 1972 production of 1,358,000 cwt. California winter production at 1,103,000 cwt. remained unchanged from a month ago, but 14 percent above the small 1972 crop, 969,000 cwt.

Florida supplies of red potatoes should increase as South Dade County approaches peak harvest at mid-March. Harvest of whites is expected to get underway in the Ft. Myers-Naples area after mid-March. California digging made good progress with about 70 percent of the crop harvested by March 1. A good volume of supplies should be available into early April.

Spring crop States, excluding California, expect to harvest 62,800 acres in 1973 compared with 64,800 acres in 1972 and 71,100 acres in 1971. Estimated acres for harvest in California for the 1973 spring crop will be published in the April 9 release of Crop Production with the first forecast of production for all spring crop States.

Acreage for harvest in the Hastings area of Florida is estimated at 18,800 acres compared with 21,100 acres harvested in 1972 and 23,000 acres in 1971. Acreage declines are also indicated for Louisiana and Texas.

For Alabama, the estimated 11,000 acres for harvest at Baldwin compares with 9,000 last year and 8,700 in 1971. North Carolina, Mississippi and Arizona are also expected to harvest larger acreages this year than last.

Planting was generally complete in Alabama, Florida and the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas by March 1, but it ran later than normal in North Carolina and California.

CROP REPORTING BOARD

CITRUS FRUITS, PRODUCTION 1/

CROP AND STATE	1970-71	1971-72	INDICATED	1970-71	1971-72	INDICATED
	1,000 BOXES 2/			EQUIVALENT TONS		
			1972-73			1972-73
ORANGES						
EARLY, MIDSEASON & NAVEL VARIETIES: 3/						
CALIFORNIA	17,900	22,300	21,000	671,000	836,000	788,000
FLORIDA	82,100	68,800	91,000	3,695,000	3,096,000	4,095,000
TEXAS	4,000	3,800	4,800	180,000	171,000	216,000
ARIZONA	760	900	1,100	28,500	33,800	41,300
TOTAL ABOVE VARIETIES	104,760	95,800	117,900	4,574,500	4,136,800	5,140,300
VALENCIAS:						
CALIFORNIA	19,600	21,000	24,000	735,000	788,000	900,000
FLORIDA	60,200	68,200	77,000	2,709,000	3,069,000	3,465,000
TEXAS	2,200	2,000	2,300	99,000	90,000	104,000
ARIZONA	2,800	4,000	4,000	105,000	150,000	150,000
TOTAL VALENCIAS	84,800	95,200	107,300	3,648,000	4,097,000	4,619,000
ALL ORANGES:						
CALIFORNIA	37,500	43,300	45,000	1,406,000	1,624,000	1,688,000
FLORIDA	142,300	137,000	168,000	6,404,000	6,165,000	7,560,000
TEXAS	6,200	5,800	7,100	279,000	261,000	320,000
ARIZONA	3,560	4,900	5,100	133,500	183,800	191,300
U. S., ALL ORANGES	189,560	191,000	225,200	8,222,500	8,233,800	9,759,300
GRAPEFRUIT:						
FLORIDA, ALL	42,900	47,000	45,000	1,824,000	1,998,000	1,914,000
SEEDLESS	31,100	36,100	34,000	1,322,000	1,535,000	1,446,000
PINK	10,900	12,300	11,000	463,000	523,000	468,000
WHITE	20,200	23,800	23,000	859,000	1,012,000	978,000
OTHER	11,800	10,900	11,000	502,000	463,000	468,000
TEXAS	10,100	9,200	11,000	404,000	368,000	440,000
ARIZONA	2,520	2,540	2,400	80,600	81,300	76,800
CALIFORNIA, ALL	5,040	5,100	5,200	163,600	165,700	169,700
DESERT VALLEYS	3,260	3,200	3,000	104,000	102,000	96,000
OTHER AREAS	1,780	1,900	2,200	59,600	63,700	73,700
U. S., ALL GRAPEFRUIT	60,560	63,840	63,600	2,472,200	2,613,000	2,600,500
LEMONS:						
CALIFORNIA	13,300	13,600	16,300	505,000	517,000	619,000
ARIZONA	3,150	3,080	4,900	120,000	117,000	186,000
U. S. LEMONS	16,450	16,680	21,200	625,000	634,000	805,000
TANGELOS:						
FLORIDA	2,700	3,900	3,600	122,000	176,000	162,000
TANGERINES:						
FLORIDA	3,700	3,200	3,000	176,000	152,000	143,000
ARIZONA	390	570	700	14,600	21,400	26,300
CALIFORNIA	1,140	600	700	42,800	22,500	26,300
TOTAL TANGERINES	5,230	4,370	4,400	233,400	195,900	195,600
TEMPLES:						
FLORIDA	5,000	5,300	5,000	225,000	239,000	225,000

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.

IRISH POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	HARVESTED 1971	FOR 1972	HARVEST 1973	1971	1972	INDI- CATED 1973	1971	1972	INDI- CATED 1973
<b>WINTER:</b>									
FLORIDA	10.9	9.7	8.7	140	140	160	1,526	1,358	1,392
CALIFORNIA	7.1	5.7	4.9	220	170	225	1,562	969	1,103
TOTAL	18.0	15.4	13.6	172	151	183	3,088	2,327	2,495
<b>SPRING:</b>									
N. C. 1/	11.8	11.0	11.2	146	146	APRIL 9	1,726	1,606	APRIL 9
FLA. -HASTINGS	23.0	21.1	18.8	152	142	"	3,036	2,996	"
OTHER	2.4	1.8	2.0	125	140	"	300	252	"
ALABAMA	8.7	9.0	11.0	115	155	"	1,001	1,395	"
MISSISSIPPI	2.0	2.0	2.1	90	85	"	180	170	"
ARKANSAS	1.4	1.4	2/	65	65	2/	91	91	2/
LOUISIANA	2.9	2.9	2.6	70	75	APRIL 9	203	218	APRIL 9
TEXAS 1/	8.8	7.6	6.7	102	108	"	899	822	"
ARIZONA	10.1	8.0	8.4	280	300	"	2,828	2,400	"
8 STATES TOTAL:	71.1	64.8	62.8	144	154	APRIL 9	10,264	9,950	APRIL 9
CALIFORNIA	36.2	31.2	APRIL 9	370	355	APRIL 9	13,394	3/11,076	APRIL 9
TOTAL	107.3	96.0	APRIL 9	220	219	APRIL 9	23,658	21,026	APRIL 9

1/ SEE THE TABLE BELOW FOR PREVIOUSLY USED SEASONAL GROUPING AND AREA CLASSIFICATION.

2/ ESTIMATES DISCONTINUED.

3/ DOES NOT INCLUDE 1,369,000 HUNDREDWEIGHT NOT HARVESTED BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

POTATOES - ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION BY SEASONAL GROUPS, 1971 AND 1972 1/

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	CROP OF 1971			CROP OF 1972		
	HARVESTED	YIELD PER ACRE	PRODUCTION	HARVESTED	YIELD PER ACRE	PRODUCTION
<b>SPRING:</b>						
N. CAROLINA						
8 N. E. CO. (LSP)	9.6	150	1,440	8.8	150	1,320
OTHER (LSP)	2.2	130	286	2.2	130	286
N. C. TOTAL	11.8	146	1,726	11.0	146	1,606
TEXAS						
(ESP)	3.8	105	399	2.8	105	294
(LSP)	5.0	100	500	4.8	110	528
TEXAS TOTAL	8.8	102	899	7.6	108	822

1/ THE TABLE ABOVE SHOWS THE SEPARATE SEASONAL AND AREA ESTIMATES PREVIOUSLY USED FOR ESTIMATING THE NORTH CAROLINA AND TEXAS LATE SPRING (LSP) AND EARLY SPRING (ESP) POTATO CROPS FOR 1971 AND 1972. UNDER THE MODIFIED PROGRAM OF ESTIMATES ADOPTED IN 1972, THE SEPARATE AREA ESTIMATES FOR NORTH CAROLINA AND THE EARLY AND LATE SPRING CLASSIFICATIONS FOR TEXAS HAVE BEEN DISCONTINUED.