

crop production



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CROP REPORT HIGHLIGHTS - AS OF MARCH 1, 1974

CITRUS production is up 2 percent from February 1 but is expected to be 5 percent less than last season. Production prospects declined during February for grapefruit, lemons, and tangerines but increased for oranges.

ORANGE production is forecast at 211.9 million boxes, an increase of 3 percent (6.4 million boxes) from February 1, but 6 percent (12.4 million boxes) below last season's record. Prospects improved in Florida and California from last month but declined in Arizona and Texas. By March 1 about 45 percent of the oranges had been harvested.

GRAPEFRUIT production is forecast at 64.1 million boxes, 1 percent below the February 1 forecast and 2 percent below the 1972-73 crop. About one-half of this season's crop was harvested by March 1.

LEMON production at 17.4 million boxes is down 4 percent from February 1 and 22 percent below last season's record. Harvest is about one-half completed.

WINTER POTATO production is forecast at 2.8 million cwt., 5 percent more than a month ago, but 3 percent below the 1973 production of 2.9 million cwt.

SPRING POTATO acreage for harvest is estimated at 100,800 acres, 2 percent more than the 98,900 acres harvested in 1973.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD

CrPr 2-2 (3-74)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

CROP REPORT SUMMARY AS OF MARCH 1, 1974

Orange harvest progress is ahead of last season while grapefruit harvest is about the same as last year. In Florida, temperatures were generally cooler than the record highs of January. There was very minor frost damage to some new growth in low areas. The California crop is in good condition.

Harvesting of winter potatoes in California progressed satisfactorily and yield prospects in Florida improved. Spring crop acreage for harvest is slightly above last year.

The CROP PRODUCTION report contains State and National estimates with related information on selected agricultural commodities. These data were prepared and adopted by the Crop Reporting Board which consists of commodity statisticians from the Statistical Reporting Service's field offices and Washington headquarters.

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CITRUS FRUITS, PRODUCTION 1/

Crop	1972-73	Indicated 1973-74	
		February 1	March 1
		1,000 boxes	
Oranges	224,260	205,500	211,900
Grapefruit	65,240	64,600	64,100
Lemons	22,200	18,200	17,400

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	
	Har-	For	1973	Indi-	1973	Indicated 1974
	vested	harvest		cated		Feb. : Mar.
	1973	1974		1974		1 : 1
	1,000 acres		Cwt.		1,000 cwt.	
Winter	14.0	13.6	204	204	2,853	2,628 2,768
Spring	98.9	100.8	214	April 10	21,213	April 10

February Moisture Variable, Temperature Generally Mild

February precipitation varied from below normal in the West to about normal in the East. Most of the Great Plains and West got less than half what was normally expected. A serious moisture shortage continued to intensify in western Texas. Normal or slightly above normal precipitation fell on large portions of the Corn Belt, Southeast (except Florida), Oklahoma, North Dakota and Washington. Soil moisture in these areas generally ranges from adequate to excessive. Frequent rains, some heavy, pelted the southeast and upper Pacific Coast in February. Considerable precipitation fell in the central and eastern U. S. during the third week with heaviest amounts exceeding 2 inches concentrated in Oklahoma, Missouri and Illinois.

February snowfall was generally light and by March 1 much snow cover had melted, leaving snow on the ground only in the Rocky and Cascade-Sierra Nevada Mountains, from North Dakota to Michigan, and in the extreme Northeast.

As of February 1 the irrigation water supply outlook is satisfactory to excellent for nearly all Western areas and is one of the best outlooks in recent years. Reservoir storage is above average for this time of year in all 11 Western States except Montana and Washington and winter snow accumulation has been exceptionally good in most areas.

Unusually cold temperatures gripped most of the Nation the first 10 days of February, but this was replaced by unseasonably warm temperatures for the remainder of the month. Temperatures for the entire month averaged over 3° above normal over the Great Plains and across the Northwest while to the east temperatures averaged slightly above normal except over the Great Lakes, Northeast and extreme Southeast where temperatures averaged below normal. Sub-normal cold persisted over the southern Rockies with temperatures averaging as much as 14° below normal in western Colorado. Most of the Pacific Coast had slightly below normal temperatures. Freezing temperatures dipped deep into Florida and Texas twice during the month causing some light damage to vegetable crops. By March 1 soils were thawing across the North Central Region from Ohio to Nebraska, winter wheat was greening and farmers were looking forward to an early spring.

Winter Wheat In Plains Needs Moisture

The Great Plains winter wheat area received scant precipitation during February and this coupled with short top growth of wheat in western areas of Kansas and Oklahoma increased the risk of damage from blowing soil. Precipitation in the extremely dry Texas Panhandle area has been below normal for 5 consecutive months. Outside of the Plains most major wheat growing areas had normal precipitation and adequate soil moisture.

The Kansas winter wheat crop greened and made moderate growth in most areas. The crop was reported in good condition except in some localities of central and western Kansas where light to severe soil blowing occurred. By March 1, wheat was providing fair to good ground cover in the eastern third of Kansas, but only poor to fair ground cover in western areas. A general rain followed by 10 days to 2 weeks of mild weather is needed for wheat to grow beyond the stage where it is vulnerable to blowing damage. Nitrogen supplies for topdressing have been generally tight.

Oklahoma wheat is rated fair to good with nearly all of the crop growing, but western areas will need rain to sustain new growth. Top growth for grazing is short in western Oklahoma and several days of extremely high winds and blowing soil blasted wheat acreage in isolated areas. There has been some cutworm and greenbug damage, confined mainly to southwest and extreme westcentral areas. Wheat on the Texas High and Low Plains is in poor condition due to prolonged dryness, and grazing has been restricted to irrigated fields. Most livestock have been moved from wheat fields into feedlots.

In eastern Colorado, wheat is in good to very good condition with most fields greening. However, growth is generally quite short and many fields are subject to blowing soil damage. Soil moisture supplies are adequate but additional precipitation will be needed soon. Nebraska winter wheat is reported in good to excellent condition with adequate soil moisture and no blowing problems. However, lack of snow cover in South Dakota has permitted blowing and lowered wheat condition somewhat from its very good rating early in February.

Snow protection on Montana wheat also remained poor during February with moderate wind damage observed in central areas, but the crop is in fair to good condition. Fall seeded grains look good in Oregon and Washington. Monthly precipitation totaled above normal for most of the wheat growing areas in these two States. Heaving damage to some wheat has occurred in eastern Washington from freezing-thawing temperatures.

In Missouri, fall seeded crops are in fair to good condition with adequate soil moisture. Most wheat fields from Illinois to Ohio are in good to very good shape with no unusual winter damage reported. Snow cover was lacking most of the month except for periods following snow storms but precipitation was about normal and soil moisture is generally adequate. In the South Atlantic States, fall sown grains are thriving from good moisture and spring-like temperatures which have prompted very early growth.

Fieldwork Limited During February

In the North Atlantic States, periods of rain and snow generally restricted outdoor farm activities. Tapping of maple trees was very active in New England, but very little sirup was made. Snow, rain and muddy fields limited farmwork to winter chores in the North Central States.

Frequent precipitation and wet soils curtailed field activity in the South Atlantic and most South Central States. However, tobacco plant bed preparation and seeding and orchard pruning progressed about on schedule. Plowing and fertilizing for spring planting is lagging in Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee. Spring grain seeding made good progress in the central and southern Great Plains. By March 1, most of this activity was completed in Oklahoma and spring oat seeding in Kansas was 15 percent completed compared with a 10-year average of 10 percent. In Texas, cotton seeding gained momentum in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and a few fields have been planted in the Coastal Bend area. Sorghum planting is underway in the Lower Valley, Upper Gulf Coast, Coastal Bend and southcentral Texas. Most south Texas farmers are waiting for better moisture and warmer temperatures before starting planting.

Seedbed preparation for spring planting was just getting underway on a limited scale by March 1 in the central Rocky Mountain States. Wet weather limited fieldwork in much of Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. Some liming, fertilizing and late seeding of winter wheat was accomplished in Washington, as fields dried. Orchard pruning and clean-up work was active in the Northwest. Fieldwork progressed well in California and Arizona with preparations for planting the 1974 cotton crop well advanced.

ORANGES: U. S. orange production is expected to total 211.9 million boxes, up 3 percent from February 1 but 6 percent below the 1972-73 record. Florida's total production is forecast at 162.0 million boxes up 3 percent from February 1 but 5 percent below last season's record crop. Prospects in California now point to a crop of 40.0 million boxes, an increase of 5 percent from February 1 but 5 percent below last season. Texas production at 6.5 million boxes is down 7 percent from February 1 and 12 percent below last season. Arizona prospects at 3.4 million boxes are 3 percent less than last month and 33 percent below last season.

Harvest of oranges in the U. S. is ahead of last season with approximately 45 percent harvested as of March 1 compared with 39 percent last season. The Florida harvest continues active with about 47 percent of the crop harvested by March 1 compared with 40 percent at the same time last season. In Texas picking of early and mid-season oranges is virtually complete while the Valencia harvest is about 60 percent complete. Harvest of Navel and Sweet Oranges in Arizona was completed during February while Valencia harvest got underway. California harvest is about one-fourth complete.

U. S. March 1 orange forecasts have differed from actual production an average of 4.8 million boxes during the past 9 seasons, ranging from .9 million boxes in 1972-73 to 10.5 million boxes in 1968-69.

FLORIDA FROZEN CONCENTRATED JUICE YIELD: The all orange juice yield for 1973-74 is projected at 1.30 gallons of 45 degree brix concentrate per box. Final yield from the 1972-73 crop was 1.33 gallons per box.

GRAPEFRUIT: The Nation's 1973-74 grapefruit crop is forecast at 64.1 million boxes, down 1 percent from the February 1 estimate and 2 percent below last season. Prospects in Florida at 46 million boxes remain unchanged from February 1 but 1 percent above last season. California and Arizona forecasts are unchanged from last month but down 13 percent and 9 percent respectively from a year ago. The Texas crop at 11 million boxes is 4 percent less than February 1 and 7 percent below last season.

Harvest of grapefruit throughout the Nation was about one-half completed on March 1 and is progressing at about the same rate as last season. The Florida harvest is slightly behind last year with harvest on March 1 about one-half completed. Texas is ahead of last year with about 70 percent completed by March 1 compared with less than one-half on the same day of last season. Arizona is slightly behind last season while the California harvest is about the same.

Changes in U. S. production between the March 1 forecast and final production have averaged 2.3 million boxes over the past 9 seasons ranging from 0.9 million boxes in 1964-65 to 4.2 million boxes in 1966-67.

LEMONS: Prospects in California and Arizona declined from February 1. The crop is now forecast at 17.4 million boxes, 4 percent below February 1 and 22 percent below last season's record. California production at 14.5 million boxes is down 3 percent from February 1 and 18 percent below last season. The Arizona harvest is virtually complete, and is now estimated at 2.9 million boxes, down 9 percent from last month and 37 percent below last season.

TANGELOS: Florida's tangelo production at a record 4.2 million boxes is unchanged from last month but 20 percent above last season. Heavy volume movement is now completed with over 90 percent of the crop harvested.

TANGERINES: The portion of the tangerine crop expected to reach marketable size is forecast at 4.4 million boxes, down 8 percent from last month and 14 percent below last season. Harvest of the U. S. crop is about 70 percent complete with Florida about 95 percent complete. Harvest in California got underway in February.

TEMPLES: Florida's prospective temple crop at 5.0 million boxes is unchanged from last month but 2 percent less than last season. Harvest is over one-half complete.

Potatoes: Winter production in California and Florida is forecast at 2,768,000 cwt. and compares with 2,628,000 cwt. forecast a month ago. Current production is 3 percent below the 2,853,000 cwt. harvested last year but 19 percent more than the 2,327,000 cwt. harvested in 1972. The California crop at 1,140,000 cwt. remained unchanged from a month ago but 6 percent larger than the 1973 production. Florida winter production is estimated at 1,628,000 cwt., 140,000 cwt. more than estimated on February 1, compared with 1973 production of 1,775,000 cwt.

In California yields continue to be excellent in the major producing counties. Digging progressed rapidly during February under relatively dry weather conditions. Approximately 75 percent of the crop is harvested. Florida harvest is complete in the Everglades and Martin County, but is just getting underway in Dade County and the Ft. Myers area. Yield and quality on early diggings are excellent in Dade County which should be in full volume by mid-March. Fort Myers - Naples area harvest is expected shortly after mid-March.

Spring States are expected to harvest 100,800 acres in 1974 compared with 98,900 acres in 1973 and 95,800 acres in 1972. Estimated acreage for harvest in Alabama is forecast at 12,500 and compares with 11,000 acres harvested in 1973. California's acreage, at 36,400, increased 1,700 acres from a year ago. Increases in acreage from last year also occurred in Louisiana and Texas. Acreage in the Hastings area of Florida remained unchanged from 1973 at 19,000. Heavy late February frosts may result in some potential yield reduction to early plantings in the Hastings area. In North Carolina acreage for harvest declined to 9,300 from the 1973 total of 11,200.

Citrus Fruits, Production ^{1/}

Crop and State	1971-72	1972-73	Indicated 1973-74	1971-72	1972-73	Indicated 1973-74
	1,000 boxes ^{2/}			Equivalent tons		
<u>Oranges:</u>						
<u>Early, Midseason & Navel Varieties ^{3/}:</u>						
Arizona	900	1,060	400	33,800	39,800	15,000
California	22,300	18,700	21,000	836,000	701,000	788,000
Florida	68,800	90,000	90,000	3,096,000	4,050,000	4,050,000
Texas	3,800	5,000	4,300	171,000	225,000	194,000
Total Above Varieties	95,800	114,760	115,700	4,136,800	5,015,800	5,047,000
<u>Valencias:</u>						
Arizona	4,000	4,000	3,000	150,000	150,000	113,000
California	21,100	23,400	19,000	791,000	878,000	713,000
Florida	68,200	79,700	72,000	3,069,000	3,587,000	3,240,000
Texas	2,000	2,400	2,200	90,000	108,000	99,000
Total Valencias	95,300	109,500	96,200	4,100,000	4,723,000	4,165,000
<u>All Oranges:</u>						
Arizona	4,900	5,060	3,400	183,800	189,800	128,000
California	43,400	42,100	40,000	1,627,000	1,579,000	1,501,000
Florida	137,000	169,700	162,000	6,165,000	7,637,000	7,290,000
Texas	5,800	7,400	6,500	261,000	333,000	293,000
U. S., All Oranges	191,100	224,260	211,900	8,236,800	9,738,800	9,212,000
<u>Grapefruit:</u>						
Arizona	2,540	2,640	2,400	81,300	84,500	76,800
California, All	5,400	5,400	4,700	175,700	176,400	153,300
Desert Valleys	3,200	3,000	2,800	102,000	96,000	89,600
Other Areas	2,200	2,400	1,900	73,700	80,400	63,700
Florida, All	47,000	45,400	46,000	1,998,000	1,930,000	1,955,000
Pink Seedless	12,300	11,700	12,000	523,000	497,000	510,000
White Seedless	23,800	23,500	24,000	1,012,000	999,000	1,020,000
Other	10,900	10,200	10,000	463,000	434,000	425,000
Texas	9,200	11,800	11,000	368,000	472,000	440,000
U. S., All Grapefruit	64,140	65,240	64,100	2,623,000	2,662,900	2,625,100
<u>Lemons:</u>						
Arizona	3,080	4,600	2,900	117,000	175,000	110,000
California	13,600	17,600	14,500	517,000	669,000	551,000
U. S. Lemons	16,680	22,200	17,400	634,000	844,000	661,000
<u>Tangelos:</u>						
Florida	3,900	3,500	4,200	176,000	158,000	189,000
<u>Tangerines:</u>						
Arizona	570	530	400	21,400	19,900	15,000
California	1,260	1,600	1,100	47,300	60,000	41,300
Florida	3,200	3,000	2,900	152,000	143,000	138,000
Total Tangerines	5,030	5,130	4,400	220,700	222,900	194,300
<u>Temples:</u>						
Florida	5,300	5,100	5,000	239,000	230,000	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		For	1972	1973	Indi- cated 1974	1972	1973	Indi- cated 1974
	1972	1973	harvest 1974						
	1,000 acres			Cwt.			1,000 cwt.		
<u>Winter:</u>									
California	5.7	4.9	4.3	170	220	265	969	1,078	1,140
Florida	9.7	9.1	9.3	140	195	175	1,358	1,775	1,628
Total	15.4	14.0	13.6	151	204	204	2,327	2,853	2,768
<u>Spring:</u>									
Alabama	9.0	11.0	12.5	155	118	April 10	1,395	1,298	April 10
Arizona	8.0	9.9	9.4	300	210	"	2,400	2,079	"
Arkansas	1.4	1/		65	1/		91	1/	
California	31.2	34.7	36.4	355	325	April 10	2/11,076	11,278	April 10
Fla.-Hastings	21.1	19.0	19.0	142	180	"	2,996	3,420	"
Other	1.8	2.1	2.0	140	150	"	252	315	"
Louisiana	2.7	2.3	2.8	75	83	"	203	191	"
Mississippi	2.0	2.0	2.0	85	85	"	170	170	"
North Carolina	11.0	11.2	9.3	146	145	"	1,606	1,624	"
Texas	7.6	6.7	7.4	108	125	"	822	838	"
Total	95.8	98.9	100.8	219	214	"	21,011	21,213	"

1/ Estimates discontinued after 1972.

2/ Does not include 1,369,000 hundredweight not harvested because of economic conditions.



