

crop production



Release:
March 11, 1975
3:00 P. M. ET

HIGHLIGHTS

CITRUS production at a record 14.4 million tons is up 2 percent from last month and 8 percent above last season.

ORANGE production is forecast at a record 237.3 million boxes, an increase of 2 percent (3.7 million boxes) from February 1, and 10 percent (20.8 million boxes) above last season. Prospects, improved in Florida and California, but declined slightly in Texas. By March 1, harvest of the U. S. crop was 43 percent complete.

GRAPEFRUIT production is forecast at 59.0 million boxes, up slightly (0.2 million boxes) from February 1, but 9 percent (6.1 million boxes) below the 1973-74 crop. About 53 percent of the crop had been harvested by March 1.

LEMON production at a record 27 million boxes is up 6 percent (1.5 million boxes) from last month's forecast and 54 percent (9.5 million boxes) above last season.

WINTER POTATO production is forecast at 2.97 million cwt., a gain of 2 percent from last month and 1 percent more than the 1974 production of 2.93 million cwt.

SPRING POTATO acreage for harvest is estimated at 83,400 acres, 16 percent less than the 99,800 acres harvested in 1974.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD

CrPr 2-2 (3-75)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

UNITED STATES CROP SUMMARY
(DOMESTIC UNITS)
CITRUS FRUITS, PRODUCTION 1/

CROP	1973-74	INDICATED 1974-75	
		FEB 1	MAR 1
		1,000 BOXES	
ORANGES	216,510	233,600	237,300
GRAPEFRUIT	65,100	58,800	59,000
LEMONS	17,500	25,500	27,000

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-VESTED	FOR HARVEST	1974	INDI-CATED	INDICATED 1975	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	FEB 1	MAR 1
	1,000 ACRES		CWT		1,000 CWT	
WINTER	13.7	14.6	214	203	2,933	2,921
SPRING	99.8	83.4	243	Apr 9	24,297	Apr 9 2,970

UNITED STATES CROP SUMMARY
(METRIC UNITS)
CITRUS FRUITS, PRODUCTION 1/

CROP	1973-74	INDICATED 1974-75	
		FEB 1	MAR 1
		1,000 METRIC TONS	
ORANGES	8,524	9,154	9,292
GRAPEFRUIT	2,428	2,177	2,183
LEMONS	603	879	931

1/ SEASON BEGINS WITH BLOOM OF THE FIRST YEAR SHOWN AND ENDS WITH THE COMPLETION OF HARVEST THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

IRISH POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP	AREA		YIELD PER HECTARE		PRODUCTION		
	HARVESTED		1974	1975	1974	INDICATED 1975	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	FEB 1	MAR 1
	1,000 HECTARES		QUINTALS		1,000 METRIC TONS		
WINTER	5.5	5.9	242	229	133	132	135
SPRING	40.4	33.8	273	Apr 9	1,102	Apr 9	

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.

APPROVED:

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FEBRUARY WEATHER

February temperatures averaged above normal east of the Mississippi River and below normal in most areas West. Much of Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana averaged at least 6 degrees below normal due primarily to extremely cold temperatures early in the month. In contrast, a large part of Florida averaged at least 6 degrees above normal.

In the coldest spell of the winter, bitter cold temperatures moved into the northern Rockies during late January and continued until mid-February. Temperatures averaged as much as 24 degrees below normal during the week ending the 9th over most of Montana and well below normal all the way into south Texas. Helena, Montana averaged 6 degrees below zero, which was 29 degrees below normal. Most of the remainder of the Nation was also below normal except for parts of Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah. The cold weather in Montana and the central and northern Great Plains continued for a third week. However, most southern States warmed to above normal readings. Much of the eastern United States experienced near or above normal temperatures during the week ending the 23rd. The greatest above normal readings occurred in the eastern Corn Belt and New England where temperatures averaged at least 12 degrees above normal. The coldest departures occurred in the southern Great Plains; parts of Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico averaged 12 degrees below normal. Except for an area from Minnesota to the Gulf coast, the Nation ended the month with well above normal temperatures in many areas. Most of the western Great Plains averaged 3 to 6 degrees above normal. The Northeast experienced another warm week.

Precipitation was well above normal east of a line from Duluth, Minnesota, to El Paso, Texas, except for Florida and along the Gulf Coast around to Brownsville, Texas. Brownsville received only 7 percent of normal February rainfall. The Pacific Northwest was also well above normal. Eastern Montana, western North Dakota, much of South Dakota and Nebraska, western Kansas, eastern Colorado, and Wyoming were well below normal. Three storm systems moved across the Nation the first week of February, producing some precipitation in most areas. Heaviest amounts fell in the Southeast and along the Pacific coast. The same distribution of rainfall occurred during the week ending the 16th with very heavy rains in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Amounts of 3 to 4 inches were common in this area. Violent weather was associated with the heavy rains; tornadoes touched down at Innis, Louisiana, Rolling Fork, Mississippi, and Bay Minette, Alabama. Precipitation was moderate to heavy along the Pacific Coast all the way to the southern California border.

A storm packing heavy precipitation, tornadoes and high winds cut a path from eastern Oklahoma through the Ohio Valley February 22 to 24, dumping precipitation in excess of 3 inches. Heavy snow fell from eastern Oklahoma to northern Illinois with 10 inches or more in many areas. As this storm system moved northeastward, it was accompanied by high winds. Gusts of over 60 mph were recorded at Chicago and fourteen foot waves pounded the shores of Lake Ontario. In the Southeast, other storms dropped 2 to 5 inches of rain on the already water soaked soils.

WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat prospects varied considerably within States on March 1st. Overall condition of winter wheat declined reflecting a combination of cold temperatures, wetness or extremely dry weather. Snow cover helped to ease the threat of freeze damage in several northern States; however, strong winds left many areas unprotected. Precipitation was above normal in most major wheat areas east of the Mississippi River, much of Texas and the Pacific Northwest.

Great Plains wheat condition is somewhat below a year earlier, with an area composed of eastern Colorado, Wyoming, much of Nebraska, the western third of Kansas and the Oklahoma Panhandle well below March 1, 1974. Dry conditions still prevail from the Oklahoma Panhandle north into Montana. Below normal temperatures throughout the Great Plains kept the crop dormant much of February except in southern Texas.

The Kansas winter wheat crop outlook was quite variable across the State on March 1st. In the eastern two-thirds, moisture supplies were adequate, there was good ground cover and prospects were quite favorable. The western third was in need of moisture, top growth was short in many areas and fields were subject to soil blowing.

The Oklahoma wheat crop was in mostly good condition, but remained dormant most all month. Some growth did take place in late February in southern areas. Stands were thin in the Panhandle, and rain is needed. Some irrigation was being done in Texas County. Considerable top dressing has been done; however, it was reportedly below the usual amount because of price, scarcity of material, and muddy field conditions. Cattle were being moved from small grain fields during the last two weeks of February because of muddy fields and the lack of top growth.

Texas wheat was making good top growth on the High and Low Plains in response to recent excellent moisture conditions and prospects were favorable. Livestock were being moved off fields. Farmers were busy top dressing with nitrogen where moisture conditions permit.

In eastern Colorado, winter wheat remained in fair condition, but in critical need of moisture. Some light to moderate wind damage has occurred. Condition of winter wheat in Nebraska ranged from poor to good. The western two-thirds was mostly poor due to low moisture supplies and some wind erosion. The eastern third was fair to good with a good snow cover. Some wheat in the southeast had an ice cover. Winter wheat prospects look favorable in South Dakota if adequate moisture is received this spring. Most damage to date has been caused by wind erosion, but in some areas germination was poor due to the lack of moisture.

Snow protection on Montana wheat was generally fair to good on March 1st, but poor in a few eastern areas. Wind damage has been light. Fall seeded wheat looks very good in Oregon and in most of eastern Washington where some stands were showing growth. February's snow cover benefited dryland acreage in Washington, providing both protection from low temperatures and additional soil moisture supplies.

In Illinois, winter wheat was in mostly good condition. Excessive moisture was causing some discoloration in southern areas. Freeze damage has been minimal although snow cover was light in many areas. Surplus moisture supplies exist in the major Illinois wheat areas. In Ohio, numerous warming trends resulted in very little snow cover on wheat fields, but the crop continues good in most areas. Cold periods in Indiana, in the absence of snow cover, resulted in browning of small grains. Some freezing and thawing has caused concern with heaving.

FEBRUARY FIELDWORK VERY LIMITED

Above normal precipitation and wet soils sharply curtailed field activity in most South Atlantic and South Central States during the month. Tobacco plant bed preparation and seeding along with orchard pruning were about the only farm activities. Plowing, land preparation and fertilizing were lagging in most Southern States until late in the month when drier weather permitted good progress in Florida, Southern Louisiana, and Texas and limited work in Alabama, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Mississippi. On March 1, spring grain seeding had been held sharply below normal in most southern States. Oklahoma farmers were able to finish about one-fourth of their spring oats and one-third of their spring barley by mid-February; however, cold and wet weather kept fieldwork at a minimum during the last 2 weeks. Seeding of spring oats and barley was also delayed in Kansas by wet fields. In Texas, corn, cotton, sorghum and rice plantings were gaining momentum in the southern areas. Planting progress for corn, sorghum, and rice was slightly ahead of the 1974 level, while cotton planting was moving at the same pace. Rapid progress is expected as the weather moderates. Seedbed preparation for spring planting has been very limited in the Rocky Mountain States because of wet conditions. By the month's end, limited fertilizing, plowing and spring grain seeding began in the lower Columbia Basin of Washington. Orchard pruning was hampered by inclement weather conditions until late February in Washington while cleaning of hop yards and grape trellis repairs took place intermittently during the month. Land preparations made good progress in Arizona and California for planting the 1975 cotton and other row crops.

In the North Atlantic States, rain and snow generally restricted most outdoor farm activities. New England farmers were preparing for the spring maple sap run; early areas started the last week of February. Rain, snow and muddy fields limited farmwork mostly to winter chores in the North Central States. Limited harvesting was done on the remaining 1974 corn crop in Illinois and Indiana.

ORANGES: U. S. orange production is expected to total a record 237.3 million boxes, up 2 percent from the February 1 forecast and 10 percent above last season. In Florida, prospects for the Valencia crop increased and the total crop is now forecast at a record 176.0 million boxes, up 1 percent from last month and 6 percent above last season. Early and mid-season oranges are expected to total 97.0 million boxes--unchanged from February 1 but 5 percent above the previous record set last season. The Valencia crop is now forecast at 79.0 million boxes, up 3 percent from last month and 7 percent above last year. This crop is expected to be 1 percent below the record crop of 1972-73. Harvest of early and mid-season oranges was about 85 percent complete as of March 1.

In California, orange crop prospects increased from February 1 for both Navels and Valencias a total crop of 52.0 million boxes is now expected, the largest since 1946-47. Despite the sub-freezing temperatures in December and January the Navel crop is now forecast at 26.0 million boxes, up 4 percent from a month ago and 19 percent above last season. The Valencia crop is expected to total 26.0 million boxes, up 4 percent from last month and 38 percent above last year. Harvest of Navel oranges was about one-half complete as of March 1. Fruit has good color and flavor; however, packers report heavy elimination at the grading tables because of freeze damage. With the large crop, fresh market supplies are expected to be adequate.

The Texas crop is now expected to total 4.8 million boxes, 6 percent less than last month's forecast and 27 percent less than the 1973-74 season. Production of early and mid-season varieties is estimated at 2.9 million boxes, 9 percent below the February 1 forecast. The Valencia orange estimate at 1.9 million boxes is unchanged from last month. Harvest of early and mid-season varieties was virtually complete on March 1, while the Valencia harvest was approaching the half-way point.

Prospects in Arizona at 4.5 million boxes remained unchanged from a month ago. Harvest was almost complete for Navels and just getting underway for Valencias.

Changes in U. S. production between the March 1 forecast and final production have averaged 4.8 million boxes over the past 10 seasons, ranging from 0.5 million boxes in 1972-73 to 10.5 million boxes in 1968-69.

FLORIDA FROZEN CONCENTRATED JUICE YIELD: The all orange yield for 1974-75 is projected at 1.29 gallons of 45 degree brix concentrate per box. Final yield from the 1973-74 crop was 1.30 gallons per box.

GRAPEFRUIT: The Nation's 1974-75 grapefruit crop is expected to total 59.0 million boxes, up slightly from last month's forecast of 58.8 million boxes but 9 percent below last season. Prospects in Florida at 43.0 million boxes and Texas at 7.8 million boxes remain unchanged from February 1 but 11 percent and 27 percent smaller respectively, than a year ago. Arizona prospects at 2.5 million boxes are unchanged from last month but up 22 percent from last season. The California crop is now forecast at 5.7 million boxes, up 4 percent from last month and 34 percent above last year.

Harvest of grapefruit throughout the Nation was about 53 percent complete on March 1. This is slightly ahead of last season. Weekly harvest rates in Florida are expected to increase during the next few weeks as the mid-season orange harvest slows.

Changes in U. S. grapefruit production between the March 1 forecast and final production have averaged 2.2 million boxes over the past 10 seasons, ranging from 0.9 million boxes in 1964-65 to 4.2 million boxes in 1966-67.

LEMONS: The California and Arizona expected record crop continues to get larger. Prospects are for a crop of 27 million boxes, up 6 percent from last month and 54 percent above last season. California's production is expected to total 20.0 million boxes, up 3 percent from last month. Arizona prospects are now for a crop of 7 million boxes, up 1 million boxes from last month. The large crop this year is the result of a good set of fruit, large size and more bearing acreage than in recent years. These factors account for a U. S. crop expected to be 22 percent above the previous record set in 1972-73.

Almost 60 percent of the U. S. crop was harvested by March 1. Picking in the California Desert Valleys is nearly complete and the Central Valley harvest is about 75 percent done. These two areas account for about 14 percent of the California crop. Harvest of the Arizona crop is about 90 percent complete.

TANGELOS: Florida's tangelo production, at a record 4.7 million boxes, is up 7 percent from last month and 27 percent above last season. Harvest is now almost complete with about 4 percent of the crop remaining for harvest.

TANGERINES: The U. S. tangerine crop is expected to total a record 5.3 million boxes, up 2 percent from last month and 11 percent more than last season. Florida's production at 3.1 million boxes is virtually all harvested. California prospects, at 1.5 million boxes, are up 7 percent from last month. Harvest of Dancy and Satsuma varieties is virtually complete while the Minneola variety, accounting for the bulk of the California volume, is currently being picked.

TEMPLES: Florida's temple crop is forecast at 5.3 million boxes, unchanged from last month and the same as the 1973-74 season. Harvest as of the first of March is about 54 percent complete.

POTATOES: The final forecast of winter potatoes in California and Florida at 3.0 million cwt. is 1 percent above last year's production of 2.9 million cwt. Harvest is well along in California, but moderate supplies should be available during March and into early April. Harvesting is just getting underway in Dade County and the Ft. Myers area of Florida. Yields and quality have been good on early diggings. In Dade County, harvest should be in full swing by the second week of March. White varieties are in good condition in the Ft. Myers area.

Spring States are expected to harvest 83,400 acres in 1975, a decline of 16 percent from the 99,800 acres harvested in 1974. Acreage declines occurred or are expected in all States except Louisiana and Mississippi. Planting is almost complete in Alabama. Planting in California has progressed normally and will extend into March in later districts. Some early acreage in the Edison district sustained frost damage, causing stands to be uneven. Acreage is down 14 percent in the Hastings area of Florida. Planting was mostly completed by the first of March with early plantings making good progress. Harvest is expected to get underway in early April in the Hillsborough - Manatee and Martin County area. Wet conditions in North Carolina have delayed planting and only a small portion of this intended acreage has been planted.

IRISH POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	HARVESTED		FOR	INDI-		INDI-		INDI-	
	1973	1974	HARVEST	1973	1974	CATED	1973	1974	CATED
	1,000 ACRES			CWT			1,000 CWT		
WINTER:									
CALIF	4.9	4.4	4.9	220	265	220	1,078	1,166	1,078
FLA	9.1	9.3	9.7	195	190	195	1,775	1,767	1,892
TOTAL	14.0	13.7	14.6	204	214	203	2,853	2,933	2,970
SPRING:									
ALA	11.0	12.5	10.6	118	145	APR 9	1,298	1,313	APR 9
ARIZ	9.9	3.6	6.5	210	260	"	2,079	2,236	"
CALIF	34.7	35.5	30.2	325	385	"	11,278	13,668	"
FLA - HASTINGS	19.0	18.8	16.2	180	175	"	3,420	3,290	"
- OTHER	2.1	2.8	1.9	150	170	"	315	476	"
LA	2.3	2.8	2.9	83	90	"	191	252	"
MISS	2.0	2.0	2.2	85	95	"	170	190	"
N C	11.2	9.4	7.5	145	150	"	1,624	1,410	"
TEX	6.7	7.4	5.4	125	130	"	838	962	"
TOTAL	98.9	99.8	83.4	214	243	"	21,213	24,297	"

CITRUS FRUITS, PRODUCTION 1/

CROP AND STATE	1972-73	1973-74	INDICATED	1972-73	1973-74	INDICATED
	1,000 BOXES 2/			EQUIVALENT TONS		
ORANGES:						
EARLY, MIDSEASON & NAVEL VARIETIES: 3/						
ARIZ	1,060	450	900	39,800	16,900	33,800
CALIF	18,700	21,900	26,000	701,000	821,500	975,000
FLA	90,000	92,100	97,000	4,050,000	4,144,500	4,365,000
TEX	5,300	4,200	2,900	225,300	178,500	123,300
TOTAL ABOVE VARIETIES	115,060	118,650	126,800	5,016,100	5,161,200	5,497,100
VALENCIAS:						
ARIZ	4,000	2,960	3,600	150,000	111,000	135,000
CALIF	23,400	18,800	26,000	878,000	705,000	975,000
FLA	79,700	73,700	79,000	3,587,000	3,316,500	3,555,000
TEX	2,500	2,400	1,900	106,300	102,000	80,800
TOTAL VALENCIAS	109,600	97,860	110,500	4,721,300	4,234,500	4,745,800
ALL ORANGES:						
ARIZ	5,060	3,410	4,500	189,800	127,900	168,800
CALIF	42,100	40,700	52,000	1,579,000	1,526,300	1,950,000
FLA	169,700	165,800	176,000	7,637,000	7,461,000	7,920,000
TEX	7,800	6,600	4,800	331,600	280,500	204,100
U S ALL ORANGES	224,660	216,510	237,300	9,737,400	9,395,700	10,242,900
GRAPEFRUIT:						
ARIZ	2,640	2,050	2,500	84,500	65,600	80,000
CALIF, ALL	5,800	4,250	5,700	189,800	138,900	186,500
DESERT VALLEYS	3,000	2,350	3,000	96,000	75,200	96,000
OTHER AREAS	2,800	1,900	2,700	93,800	63,700	90,500
FLA, ALL	45,400	48,100	43,000	1,930,000	2,044,300	1,827,600
PINK SEEDLESS	11,700	12,200	11,500	497,000	518,500	488,800
WHITE SEEDLESS	23,500	25,900	22,500	999,000	1,100,800	956,300
OTHER	10,200	10,000	9,000	434,000	425,000	382,500
TEX	11,800	10,700	7,800	472,000	428,000	312,000
U S ALL GRAPEFRUIT	65,640	65,100	59,000	2,676,300	2,676,800	2,406,100
LEMONS:						
ARIZ	4,600	2,900	7,000	175,000	110,200	266,000
CALIF	17,600	14,600	20,000	669,000	554,800	760,000
U S LEMONS	22,200	17,500	27,000	844,000	665,000	1,026,000
TANGELOS: 4/						
FLA	3,100	3,700	4,700	139,500	166,500	211,500
TANGERINES:						
ARIZ	550	680	700	19,900	25,500	26,300
CALIF	1,600	1,310	1,500	60,000	49,100	56,300
FLA	3,000	2,800	3,100	143,000	133,000	147,300
TOTAL TANGERINES	5,150	4,790	5,300	222,900	207,600	229,900
TEMPLES:						
FLA	5,100	5,300	5,300	230,000	238,500	238,500

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, 90 LBS.; AND TEXAS, 85 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/ EXCLUDES K - EARLY CITRUS FRUITS.
