

crop production



Released:
March 9, 1976
3:00 P.M. ET

HIGHLIGHTS

CITRUS--Production is expected to total 14.3 million tons, up slightly from last month but 2 percent below the 1974-75 crop.

ORANGES--Production is forecast at 231.8 million boxes, up 1.1 million boxes from February 1, but down 3 percent (6.2 million boxes) from last season. Prospects improved in California and Texas but declined in Arizona. By March 1, harvest of the U.S. crop was 47 percent complete.

GRAPEFRUIT--Production is forecast at 69.8 million boxes, unchanged from February 1 and 14 percent (8.4 million boxes) above the 1974-75 crop. About one-half of the crop had been harvested by March 1.

LEMONS--Prospects at 18.8 million boxes are down 3 percent (0.5 million boxes) from last month's forecast and are 36 percent below the previous season's record high production.

WINTER POTATOES--Production is forecast at 3.0 million cwt., a 3 percent decline from last month but 5 percent above the 2.9 million cwt. harvested in 1975.

SPRING POTATOES--Acreage for harvest is estimated at 97,600 acres, 16 percent above the 84,500 acres harvested in 1975 but 6 percent less than 1974.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD

CrPr 2-2 (3-76)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

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

CROP	1974-75	INDICATED 1975-76	
		FEB 1	MAR 1
		1,000 BOXES	
ORANGES	237,910	230,650	231,750
GRAPEFRUIT	61,370	69,800	69,800
LEMONS	29,400	19,300	18,800

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

POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION		
	1975	INDICATED	1975	INDICATED	1975	INDICATED 1976	
		1976		1976		FEB	MAR
	1,000 ACRES		CWT		1,000 CWT		
WINTER	14.3	14.6	202	207	2,887	3,123	3,024
SPRING	84.5	97.6	237	APR 9	19,994	APR 9	

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

CROP	1974-75	INDICATED 1975-76	
		FEB 1	MAR 1
		1,000 METRIC TONS	
ORANGES	9,294	9,044	9,084
GRAPEFRUIT	2,264	2,586	2,586
LEMONS	1,014	665	648

POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD PER HECTARE		PRODUCTION		
	1975	INDICATED	1975	INDICATED	1975	INDICATED 1976	
		1976		1976		FEB	MAR
	1,000 HECTARES		QUINTALS		1,000 METRIC TONS		
WINTER	5.8	5.9	226	232	131	142	137
SPRING	34.2	39.5	265	APR 9	907	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:

Richard E. Bell

ACTING SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

CROP REPORTING BOARD:

B. M. Graham, Chairman,
M. L. Koehn, Secretary,
J. W. Kirkbride, F. E. Rolf,
R. S. Crickenberger, D. J. Fedewa,
W. G. Hamlin, R. H. Hettinger,
D. H. Johnson, P. M. Williamson.

FEBRUARY WEATHER

The outstanding feature of February weather was the above normal temperature which enveloped all but the extreme northwest portion of the Nation. The cold air that normally moves south in the western U. S. and then spreads to the rest of the country stayed north and only occasionally dipped into the Great Lakes area and then eastward. The average temperature for the month was as much as 10° to 12° above normal in the central U. S., up to 15° above in Montana and 10° above normal extending to east central U.S. Precipitation was below normal over much of the country and was less than 10 percent of normal in some areas of the already dry southern and central Great Plains. Much-needed rain finally came to California, especially the southern portion where irrigation water was rapidly being used up. Above normal February precipitation in the major corn producing States from Ohio to eastern Nebraska should assure adequate soil moisture for spring planting. Southern Minnesota and the northern Great Plains remained somewhat dry.

The month began on a dry note. Significant precipitation was confined to the area east of the Appalachians but during the week ending February 8th a semi-stationary storm system in the Pacific off southern California began pouring moisture-laden air into the Southwest. Rain fell in all of California except the extreme northern section. Some areas of southern California recorded more than 4 inches of rain. Three or more feet of snow were added to some mountain areas during the week. Elsewhere rain skipped the High Plains and was scarce in most areas. Much of the U. S. was cold except for the Southwest. Temperatures in the Midwest were as much as 9° below normal but warming began in the Plains late in the week as Chinook winds boosted temperatures.

In the following week, rain continued in California and spread throughout the West. Though some very light precipitation fell in winter wheat areas of the southern Great Plains, little benefit resulted as high winds rapidly evaporated surface moisture and eroded many fields. Texas, the southern part of the Gulf States, the Southeast and Florida recorded no precipitation. Precipitation was less than one inch in all areas east of the Rockies. The week was very warm with some areas in the Plains averaging as much as 18 to 20° above normal. Above normal temperatures enveloped most of the Nation.

The week following midmonth continued warm over nearly all of the U. S. The exception was the Plateau area of the West where temperatures averaged near normal to 3° below. In the vicinity of the Ohio River Valley and the middle eastern States, temperatures averaged 15 to 20° above normal. Precipitation was concentrated in the lower Mississippi Valley, the Ohio Valley and the eastern Lakes area where more than 2 inches fell. Up to 1/2 inch fell in Kansas in the form of snow, but high winds swept the snow from wheat fields and left the crop vulnerable to wind erosion.

The last week in the month was very dry and very warm. The only significant areas of precipitation were in the Northwest where 2 inches were recorded along the coast from northern California up through Washington, and the southern tip of Florida where the area around Miami had over 2 inches. Lesser amounts fell in the northern Rockies and along the northern border States. No precipitation was recorded in at least 3/4 of the country. Nearly all of the Nation had above normal temperatures, and up to 18° above normal was experienced by many areas of the Midwest. Many record high temperatures for late February were recorded.

WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat prospects deteriorated during February in the dry southern and central Great Plains, but in other wheat areas mild temperatures and adequate soil moisture put the crop in good condition. Unseasonably high temperatures and the absence of a protective snow blanket in the northern Great Plains dried topsoils making some localities susceptible to wind erosion. Winter wheat broke dormancy earlier than normal as most of the United States except the Pacific Northwest enjoyed above normal temperatures. Precipitation was below normal through most of the major Great Plains wheat area.

Non-irrigated winter wheat acreage in the Oklahoma Panhandle, Texas High Plains, southwest Kansas and adjacent areas of Colorado and New Mexico is in poor condition. Some dryland wheat germinated poorly last fall, received little winter precipitation and has been subjected to serious wind erosion. Some acreage has already been abandoned with farmers concentrating their efforts on limiting soil blowing losses. Other dryland wheat has fairly uniform stands but little growth. March precipitation is essential to maintain growth and to limit further acreage abandonment.

In Kansas the winter wheat crop outlook continued to deteriorate. Topsoil and subsoil moisture was short across most of the State. Dry soils with subnormal wheat growth in southwestern Kansas are extremely vulnerable to soil erosion. The most serious soil blowing was in the southwest but some damage occurred in central and south central areas.

By the end of February almost all of the topsoil in Oklahoma was dry, and over half the State's area was short of subsoil moisture. A good supply of subsoil moisture maintained much of the wheat through the winter but now wheat in the Panhandle is in poor condition with some dryland acreage abandoned. The main wheat producing area in north central Oklahoma is under stress. Considerable late planted acreage did not develop good ground cover or root systems, making it very susceptible to blowing dust and sand and unable to reach subsoil moisture supplies. Mild temperatures promoted rapid growth in the southwest quickly consuming precious subsoil moisture. Principal wheat areas have been hit hard by greenbugs and armyworms and, although losses from insects were light, control sprays were expensive.

In Texas wheat condition declined from the effects of drought and wind erosion. The crop greened up in response to warm temperatures but most growth was restricted to irrigated stands. A few abandoned dryland stands were plowed up on the Northern High Plains to reduce wind erosion. Upright growth started in South Texas where some early stands are in the boot stage. Greenbug numbers remained high but beneficial insects should hold the infestations in check.

The Colorado winter wheat crop was turning green where soil moisture was available. Top growth was short, making the crop vulnerable to wind damage. Moisture is needed soon to promote growth to protect the acreage from further loss. In New Mexico dryland wheat was in poor condition and irrigated wheat was fair to good. Some dryland wheat was abandoned. Nebraska winter wheat was fair to good but soil moisture was short. In South Dakota the crop greened up improving slightly as melting snows provided some moisture but was poor to fair in the west and south and fair to good elsewhere.

In Idaho and Washington the winter wheat condition was good to excellent. The wheat crop in the Corn Belt generally was in good condition. Along the Atlantic Coast wheat condition was good except in Florida where short soil moisture limited growth.

FEBRUARY FIELDWORK AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Springlike temperatures and the absence of excessive soil moisture produced good conditions for an early start on spring fieldwork. Chopping old crop residue, fertilizing, and plowing were all major activities nationwide except in western Washington where wet fields prevented use of heavy equipment. Orchard maintenance, including pruning and spraying, was progressing well throughout the country. Tobacco plant bed preparation and seeding moved rapidly in Kentucky and Tennessee. Along the Atlantic Coast, tobacco plants sized rapidly in response to mild temperatures.

On March 1, seedbed preparation for spring grains was far ahead of normal in Oklahoma, Kansas and Washington. Spring grain planting extended northward into South Dakota. Corn and sorghum planting was underway in Texas from the Blacklands southward to the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Cotton planting was active in the Coastal Bend and Lower Rio Grande Valley. In Arizona and New Mexico small grain planting was virtually complete. Irrigation and insect control of established fields had begun.

In the northern Mountain States land preparation was active. In the Columbia Basin, many growers were plowing, disking, and fertilizing but only limited spring wheat acreage had been seeded. Pruning and tree removal in Washington orchards was interrupted early in the month by extremely cold temperatures and later by local snowfalls.

Corn Belt farmers shredded stalks, fertilized and plowed where soil conditions permitted. In the North Atlantic States mild weather melted snow, and some plowing and fertilizing was done where soil conditions permitted. Pennsylvania and New England farmers prepared for the maple sap run and started some early tapping the third week of February.

ORANGES: U. S. orange production is expected to total 231.8 million boxes, up slightly from the February 1 forecast but 3 percent below last season. In Florida, prospects continue to indicate a crop of 172.0 million boxes, unchanged from last month and 1 percent below last season. Early and mid-season oranges are expected to total 98.0 million boxes, 1 percent above a year earlier. The Valencia crop, at 74.0 million boxes, is 4 percent below last season. Harvest of early and mid-season oranges was active during February and was about 94 percent complete as of March 1.

In California, orange crop prospects increased from February 1 and a total crop of 50.0 million boxes is now expected. The Navel crop is now forecast at 27.0 million boxes, up 4 percent (1.0 million boxes) from a month ago but 4 percent below last season. Harvest of Navel oranges was 42 percent complete as of March 1. Fruit has good color and flavor. Some drop is occurring in the Central Valley as a result of earlier frost damage. Valencia prospects at 23.0 million boxes are unchanged from February 1 and are 15 percent below a year earlier. Valencia development continues about normal with some early harvesting now underway.

The Texas crop is now expected to total 6.1 million boxes, 5 percent more than last month's forecast and 34 percent above the 1974-75 season. Production of early and mid-season varieties is estimated at 3.8 million boxes, unchanged from the February 1 forecast. The Valencia orange estimate at 2.3 million boxes is up 15 percent (0.3 million boxes) from last month. Harvest of early and mid-season varieties was in the final stages on March 1 while the Valencia harvest was active.

Prospects in Arizona at 3.7 million boxes declined 5 percent (0.2 million boxes) from February 1 due to a smaller expected crop of Valencias. Harvest was nearly complete for Navels and just getting underway for Valencias.

Changes in U. S. production between the March 1 forecast and final production have averaged 4.2 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 juice yield for 1975-76 is projected at 1.30 gallons of 45 degree brix concentrate per box. Final yield from the 1974-75 crop was 1.31 gallons per box.

GRAPEFRUIT: U.S. production of grapefruit is expected to total 69.8 million boxes, unchanged from last month, but 14 percent above last season. Prospects in Florida, at 50.0 million boxes, are 12 percent above last season. The Texas crop at 11.0 million boxes, is 51 percent above last season's short crop. The California crop is expected to total 5.7 million boxes, 15 percent below last season. Arizona prospects indicate a crop of 3.1 million boxes, 12 percent above last season.

Harvest of U.S. grapefruit was about half complete by March 1, slightly behind last year.

Changes in the U.S. production estimate between the March 1 forecast and final production have averaged 2.4 million boxes over the past 10 years, ranging from 1.4 in 1967-68 to 4.2 million boxes in 1966-67.

LEMONS: The California and Arizona lemon crop is expected to total 18.8 million boxes, 36 percent below last season's record high production but 6 percent above the 1973-74 season. California production at 16.5 million boxes is 26 percent below last season while Arizona output at 2.3 million boxes is down 68 percent from last season's record crop.

Harvest is over 60 percent complete in Central California, where recent rains started fruit growth and delayed coloring. The Arizona crop is virtually all harvested.

ORANGES: Florida's record high tangelo crop is estimated at 5.5 million boxes, unchanged from last month, but 17 percent above the previous record set last season. Harvest is virtually complete.

TANGERINES: Tangerine production is expected to total 5.6 million boxes, 6 percent above last season. The Florida production estimate of 3.4 million boxes is for that portion of the crop that was utilized. (The total crop that reached 210 size or larger was 5.3 million boxes.) Harvest is nearly complete in Florida. The California and Arizona crops at 1.5 million and 0.7 million boxes respectively, are unchanged from last month. The Minneola variety, which accounts for the bulk of California's volume, is currently being harvested.

TEMPLES: Florida's temple crop is forecast at 5.5 million boxes, unchanged from last month but 4 percent above the 1974-75 season. Harvest is about two-thirds complete.

POTATOES: The final forecast of winter potatoes in California and Florida is 3.0 million cwt., 5 percent above the 2.9 million cwt. harvested in 1975. Forecasted yield in both States declined slightly from the previous month. Quality of California's crop remains variable. Harvest is well along with moderate supplies expected this month and into early April. Harvest of reds in the Ft. Myers area of Florida will continue until mid-month. Whites will begin in early March. In Dade County digging is expected to increase sharply during March.

Producers of spring potatoes are expected to harvest 97.6 thousand acres, up 16 percent from the 84.5 thousand acres harvested in 1975, but 6 percent less than in 1974. Planting in Alabama is nearly complete. California planting will continue until about March 15. Early fields are in good condition. Early plantings in Florida are in good condition with planting nearly complete in the Hastings area. Planting in north and west Florida should be complete by mid-March. Planting in North Carolina was approximately one-fourth complete by March 1. Most of the planting in Texas was complete by the end of February. A light frost in the lower Rio Grande Valley in late February caused some light damage, but no acreage is expected to be abandoned.

POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	AREA HARVESTED			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	1974	1975	INDICATED: 1976	1974	1975	INDICATED: 1976	1974	1975	INDICATED: 1976
	1,000 ACRES			CWT			1,000 CWT		
WINTER:									
CALIF	4.4	4.9	5.2	265	215	220	1,166	1,054	1,144
FLA	9.3	9.4	9.4	190	195	200	1,767	1,833	1,880
TOTAL	13.7	14.3	14.6	214	202	207	2,933	2,887	3,024
SPRING: 1/									
ALA	12.5	10.6	11.0	145	130		1,813	1,378	
ARIZ	8.6	6.2	6.7	260	245		2,236	1,519	
CALIF	35.5	27.6	33.5	385	380		13,668	10,488	
FLA - HASTINGS	18.8	16.2	19.0	175	195		3,290	3,159	
- OTHER	2.8	1.9	2.7	170	185		476	352	
LA	2.8	2.6	2.9	90	70		252	182	
MISS	2.0	1.9	2.0	95	90		190	171	
N C	13.0	12.0	13.0	165	160		2,145	1,920	
TEX	7.4	5.5	6.8	130	150		962	825	
TOTAL	103.4	84.5	97.6	242	237		25,032	19,994	

1/ YIELD AND PRODUCTION FOR 1976 TO BE RELEASED APRIL 9, 1976.

CITRUS FRUIT 1/

CROP AND STATE	PRODUCTION BOXES			PRODUCTION TON EQUIVALENT		
	UTILIZED		INDICATED	UTILIZED		INDICATED
	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
	1,000 UNITS		2/	1,000 UNITS		
ORANGES,EARLY MID & NAVAL 3/:						
ARIZ	450	920	750	17	35	28
CALIF	21,900	28,000	27,000	821	1,050	1,013
FLA	92,100	96,600	98,000	4,145	4,347	4,410
TEX	4,200	2,930	3,800	179	125	162
U S	118,650	128,450	129,550	5,162	5,557	5,613
ORANGES,VALENCIA						
ARIZ	2,960	4,050	2,900	111	152	109
CALIF	18,500	27,100	23,000	694	1,016	863
FLA	73,700	76,700	74,000	3,317	3,452	3,330
TEX	2,400	1,610	2,300	102	68	98
U S	97,560	109,460	102,200	4,224	4,688	4,400
ALL ORANGES						
ARIZ	3,410	4,970	3,650	128	187	137
CALIF	40,400	55,100	50,000	1,515	2,066	1,876
FLA	165,800	173,300	172,000	7,462	7,799	7,740
TEX	6,600	4,540	6,100	281	193	260
U S	216,210	237,910	231,750	9,386	10,245	10,013
TEMPLES						
FLA	5,300	5,300	5,500	239	239	248
GRAPEFRUIT,WHITE SEEDLESS						
FLA	25,900	25,900	28,000	1,101	1,101	1,190
GRAPEFRUIT,PINK SEEDLESS						
FLA	12,200	11,500	13,000	519	489	553
GRAPEFRUIT,OTHER						
FLA	10,000	7,200	9,000	425	306	383
ALL GRAPEFRUIT						
ARIZ	2,050	2,770	3,100	66	89	99
CALIF						
DESERT	2,360	3,750	3,200	76	120	102
OTHER AREAS	2,290	2,950	2,500	77	99	84
TOTAL	4,650	6,700	5,700	153	219	186
FLA	48,100	44,600	50,000	2,045	1,896	2,126
TEX	10,700	7,300	11,000	428	292	440
U S	65,500	61,370	69,800	2,692	2,496	2,851
TANGERINES						
ARIZ	680	610	650	26	23	24
CALIF	1,360	1,540	1,500	51	58	56
FLA	2,800	3,100	3,400	133	147	162
U S	4,840	5,250	5,550	210	228	242
LEMONS						
ARIZ	2,900	7,200	2,300	110	274	87
CALIF	14,900	22,200	16,500	566	844	627
U S	17,800	29,400	18,800	676	1,118	714
TANGELOS						
FLA	3,700	4,700	5,500	167	212	248

- 1/ THE CROP YEAR BEGINS WITH THE BLOOM OF THE FIRST YEAR SHOWN AND ENDS WITH YEAR HARVEST IS COMPLETED.
- 2/ NET LBS PER BOX: ORANGES- CALIF & ARIZ-75, FLA-90, TEX-85; GRAPEFRUIT- CALIF DESERT & ARIZ-64, CALIF OTHER-67, FLA-85, TEX-80; LEMONS-76; TANGELOS & TEMPLES-90; TANGERINES- CALIF & ARIZ-75, FLA-95.
- 3/ NAVAL AND MISCELLANEOUS VARIETIES IN CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA, EARLY AND MIDSEASON VARIETIES IN FLORIDA AND TEXAS, INCLUDING SMALL QUANTITIES OF TANGERINES IN TEXAS.

AVERAGE CORN AND GRAIN SORGHUM PRICES FOR UNITED STATES,
OCTOBER 1975 - FEBRUARY 1976

MONTH AND YEAR	CORN		GRAIN SORGHUM	
	AVERAGE PRICE PER BU 1/	AVERAGE PERCENT OF SALES 2/	AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT 1/	AVERAGE PERCENT OF SALES 2/
	DOLLARS	PERCENT	DOLLARS	PERCENT
OCT 1975	2.62	11.2	4.43	12.6
NOV 1975	2.33	13.9	4.05	14.5
DEC 1975	2.37	10.3	4.00	12.5
JAN 1976	2.44	12.3	4.06	13.0
FEB 1976	2.48	7.6	4.09	4.9
5 MONTHS: <u>3/</u>	2.44		<u>4/</u> 4.13	

1/ PRICES PUBLISHED IN AGRICULTURAL PRICES, OCTOBER, 1975 THROUGH FEBRUARY 1976.

2/ WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF PERCENT SOLD FOR YEARS 1972-74 AS SHOWN IN FIELD CROPS-PRODUCTION, FARM USE, VALUE, SALES, MAY 12, 1975 AND CROP PRODUCTION, DECEMBER 10, 1975. WEIGHTS USED TO COMPUTE WEIGHTED AVERAGE WERE TOTAL SALES FOR 1972, 1973, AND 1974 AS SHOWN IN FIELD CROPS-PRODUCTION, FARM USE, VALUE, SALES, MAY 10, 1974 AND MAY 12, 1975.

3/ FIVE MONTHS WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE USING AVERAGE PERCENT OF SALES AS WEIGHTS.

4/ \$2.31 PER BUSHEL.