

CROP PRODUCTION

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HIGHLIGHTS

CITRUS production is now expected to total 15.2 million tons, off 12 percent from the January 1 level but 3 percent greater than the 1975-76 season. The reduction from last month was primarily due to the January freeze damage to Florida's crops.

ORANGE output is now forecast at 248.6 million boxes, an 11 percent decline from month earlier levels, but still 3 percent larger than last season's total.

GRAPEFRUIT production is now placed at 69.9 million boxes, down 11 percent from last month but only slightly below the 1975-76 total.

LEMON production is now estimated at 26.6 million boxes, unchanged from January 1 prospects but 49 percent above the short crop last season.

POTATO production for the 1977 winter season is forecast at 2.4 million cwt., 17 percent below January 1 and 21 percent below a year earlier.

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

CROP	1975-76	INDICATED 1976-77	
		JAN 1	FEB 1
		1,000 BOXES	
ORANGES	242,380	278,650	248,600
GRAPEFRUIT	70,080	78,750	69,900
LEMONS	17,820	26,600	26,600

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		
	1976	INDICATED 1977	1976	INDICATED 1977	1976	INDICATED 1977	
						JAN 1	FEB 1
	1,000 ACRES		CWT		1,000 CWT		
WINTER	14.4	13.6	207	173	2,984	2,855	2,356

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

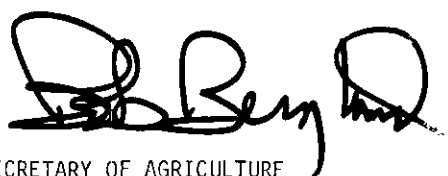
CROP	1975-76	INDICATED 1976-77	
		JAN 1	FEB 1
		METRIC TONS	
ORANGES	9,506,390	10,959,700	9,733,190
GRAPEFRUIT	2,585,480	2,925,670	2,583,660
LEMONS	614,160	917,160	917,160

POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD PER HECTARE		PRODUCTION		
	1976	INDICATED 1977	1976	INDICATED 1977	1976	INDICATED 1977	
						JAN 1	FEB 1
	HECTARES				METRIC TONS		
WINTER	5,830	5,500	23.22	19.43	135,350	129,500	106,870

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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JANUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

January brought record low temperatures east of the Rockies. For the month as a whole, the largest negative departures from normal encompassed the States of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, northern Kentucky and western Pennsylvania where average temperatures for the month were 16 to 19° below normal. Many stations in this area and in the South reported average January temperatures to be the coldest of record. Shortly after midmonth, the cold air swept over Florida. Snow fell as far south as Miami Beach; meanwhile, Alaska experienced unusually balmy weather. Precipitation was below normal in a large portion of the Nation. The central Rockies and areas west of the Plateau had much less than normal precipitation. The Pacific Northwest, much of California and northern Nevada had one-third or less of their normal precipitation, further intensifying extremely dry conditions.

January began with a storm in the Southwest that moved eastward into a very cold air mass. Snow fell on the Plateau, the southern Rockies and from the central Plains southward to northern Texas. The storm continued eastward and a variety of precipitation fell along the Gulf Coast from Texas to northern Florida. Rain along the Coast, freezing rain from northeast Texas through northern Alabama, and snow north of this area resulted from the storm.

A series of cold outbreaks continued to pour cold air into the U. S. east of the Rockies and on January 7th and 8th the cold air swept southward through the Plains. At midmonth, the cold air still enveloped most of the nation although the area west of the Rockies was not as cold as the previous week. East of the Rockies, it was 20 to 24° colder than normal from North Dakota to Illinois. Precipitation excluded the Southwest and was very light in the Plains. The South, the lower Mississippi Valley and New England reported significant amounts of snow or rain.

In the week following midmonth, the cold air was centered in the Ohio Valley where temperatures were 22 to 26° below normal. Average temperatures ranged 5 to 10° in this area. A lull in the input of cold air into the northern Plains allowed some warming in the Plains. However, the Southeast was not so fortunate as temperatures in Florida were as much as 18 to 20° below normal and freezing temperatures occurred for five successive nights. Severe damage to fruit and vegetable crops resulted. Snow fell as far south as the Everglades. Snow also covered areas in Alabama and Georgia. During the latter part of the week, rain, with snow at higher elevations, fell from the California Sierras into Arizona and the central Rockies.

The short lull in the flow of cold air from central Canada halted abruptly during the last week of the month when an extremely cold arctic air mass plunged southward and eastward. High wind, snow, blowing snow and bitter cold temperatures combined to create severe blizzard conditions along and behind the advancing cold air as it moved through the northern Plains, the Lakes area, the north central States and the Northeast. The extreme cold and penetrating winds halted most activities and a number of storm related deaths were reported.

As the cold air penetrated the deep South, snow, sleet and freezing rain fell from north central Texas to Georgia and northern Florida. Light rain or drizzle was reported along the north Pacific Coast but otherwise dry weather persisted in the West.

WINTER WHEAT

The United States winter wheat crop was under stress during January from generally dry soils and subnormal temperatures. Snow blanketed most of the major winter wheat producing areas during the early part of the month, but later the snow line receded northward and exposed the crop in the southern and central Great Plains. In the northern Great Plains and North Central States, snow protected the winter wheat throughout the month. Very little wheat acreage was damaged by winds.

The Kansas winter wheat crop rated only poor to fair. During early January, snow protected some of the crop but winds swept many fields after midmonth, taking away the potential soil moisture represented by the snow cover. Most of the Oklahoma winter wheat was in fair condition. Cold weather kept the crop dormant until near the end of the month when relatively warm but subnormal temperatures began to green some wheat fields. Dry topsoils in the major producing areas and the possibility of winterkill concerned Oklahoma farmers.

Texas wheat fields on the High Plains lacked adequate soil moisture but weeks of cold weather kept most fields dormant. Elsewhere in Texas, some fields were so wet cattle could not graze the crop early in the month. By midmonth, fields began to dry and the crop responded to milder weather but development lagged normal.

Montana winter wheat was in fair condition. Snow cover ranged from poor to fair except for some good cover in eastern areas. The Washington winter wheat crop was in good condition with warm temperatures melting the snow cover by the end of January. Oregon winter wheat stands rated poor to fair in the East and had very little snow cover during the month.

In the North Central States, snow insulated most winter wheat fields from the record sub-normal temperatures which prevailed over most of the area throughout the month.

FLORIDA CITRUS FREEZE DAMAGE

The cold wave of January 18-20 brought temperatures in the low to mid-20's for several hours duration throughout all Florida citrus producing districts. A sample survey the morning of January 20 found some ice in nearly all oranges sampled. Cool weather during the balance of January was beneficial in minimizing loss of fruit through droppage and deterioration, and harvest of the Early and Mid-season orange crop has proceeded at a record rate since the freeze.

A total embargo was placed on all shipments of Florida citrus fruit for fresh market for the period January 24 through February 2 to prevent the shipment of freeze-damaged fruit. A fruit damage survey as of February 1 found 35 percent of oranges and 68 percent of grapefruit with no damage. At that same date, 14 percent of the sample orange trees and 5 percent of the sample grapefruit trees showed serious to very serious leaf damage. Long term freeze effects to citrus trees cannot yet be fully evaluated although damage is much lighter than for the 1962-63 freeze. Fruit damage will again be surveyed at mid-February to determine if further freeze damage has developed.

By February 7, about 74 million boxes of Early-midseason oranges had been harvested, but only 17 million boxes of grapefruit. Light picking of Valencias has begun but significant volume will not be picked until March or later when fruit maturity levels are attained. Citrus crop losses due to the freeze will be closely related to weather during the remainder of the harvest season--temperatures above 65°-75° will promote fruit droppage and deterioration, which have been light thus far. The forecasts as of February 1 reflect significant fruit losses from the freeze resulting from an expected heavier fruit droppage and from fruit weight losses which are already evident in lower per-box juice yields.

ORANGES: This season's U. S. orange crop is forecast as of February 1 at 248.6 million boxes, off 11 percent from a month ago but 3 percent higher than the 1975-76 total. Florida's freeze-damaged crop is now estimated at 183.0 million boxes, a 14 percent reduction from the January 1 level but 1 percent more than last season's output. Production prospects for early and mid-season oranges in Florida are off 9 percent from last month to 110.0 million boxes.

Harvest of early and mid-season oranges on February 1 was about 59 percent complete compared with 69 percent on the same date a year earlier. Weekly harvest for processing is currently running at about 11.0 million boxes. The continued cool weather since the freeze has benefited fruit utilization. The Valencia crop in Florida is forecast at 73.0 million boxes, down 21 percent from a month ago and 11 percent less than the 1975-76 season. Maturity of Valencias has not reached the harvest point, so the more seriously damaged groves cannot yet be harvested and loss will result.

California production, estimated at 55.0 million boxes is unchanged from last month but up 5 percent from last season. Navel orange output is placed at 29.0 million boxes, unchanged from the January 1 estimate but 2 percent above the 1975-76 season. California's Valencia orange crop, at 26.0 million boxes, is up 8 percent from last season.

Texas orange prospects, at 6.6 million boxes, are unchanged from last month and 6 percent higher than the 1975-76 season total. The Arizona crop is now forecast at 4.0 million boxes, down slightly from last month's level, but 49 percent greater than last season's short crop.

Changes in U. S. orange production between the February 1 forecast and final production have averaged 7.2 million boxes over the past 10 seasons, ranging from 1.5 million boxes in 1971-72 to 18.3 million boxes in the 1970-71 season.

FLORIDA FROZEN CONCENTRATED JUICE YIELD: The all orange juice yield for the 1976-77 crop is projected at 1.17 gallons of 45 degree brix concentrate per box. Final yield from the 1975-76 crop was 1.29 gallons per box.

GRAPEFRUIT: The 1976-77 U.S. grapefruit crop is now forecast at 69.9 million boxes, slightly below last season and down 11 percent from a month ago as a result of the freeze damage to Florida's crop. In Florida, growers now expect to harvest 49.0 million boxes, down 16 percent from last month, but only slightly below last season's record crop and well above 1974-75 output. Basic loss in grapefruit is from fruit droppage after freezing weather with some weight loss in the processed portion of the crop. Internal damage is not as severe in grapefruit as in other fruit but stem adherence is weakened. The Texas crop, at 11.5 million boxes, is 7 percent above last season and unchanged from last month. California production is forecast at 6.5 million boxes, off 10 percent from last season, and the Arizona crop is forecast at 2.9 million boxes compared with 3.1 million in 1975-76.

Grapefruit harvest was 29 percent complete on February 1 compared with 35 percent on the same date last year. Picking in Florida was 34 percent complete, off from the 38 percent on February 1 last season. Harvest is also lagging in California, Arizona and Texas.

Changes in the U.S. production between the February 1 forecast and final production have averaged 2.1 million boxes over the past ten years, ranging from 0.3 million boxes in 1975-76 to 4.3 million in 1968-69.

LEMONS: California's 1976-77 lemon crop is expected to total 21.0 million boxes, unchanged from last month but 36 percent above last season's production. Prospects for Arizona's crop, at 5.6 million boxes, remain unchanged from last month. If realized, Arizona's 1976-77 lemon production will be more than double last season's total.

Picking in both States is lagging behind last season. Arizona, with harvest 78 percent complete, is well behind last year's 96 percent completion for the same time. California's harvest, at 33 percent complete, has fallen 6 percent behind last season.

TANGELOS: Florida's tangelo crop is now forecast at 4.9 million boxes, down 11 percent from both last month and the 1975-76 season. Harvest, which was well on the way to completion at the time of the freeze, is 92 percent complete, about the same as on February 1 last year. Considerable icing was evident in most of the remaining fruit, and those few undamaged groves will be rapidly harvested for the fresh trade.

TANGERINES: The Nation's tangerine production is forecast at 5.7 million boxes, 4 percent higher than the 1975-76 season of 5.4 million boxes. In Florida, the crop to be utilized is now estimated at 3.4 million boxes. (The total crop that reached 210 size or larger was 5.8 million boxes.) In Florida the freeze came after the major fresh harvest season and picking is nearing completion in the few remaining undamaged groves. Picking will proceed rapidly as holding quality declines. The California and Arizona crops, at 1.5 and 0.8 million boxes, respectively, are unchanged from a month earlier, but well above production during the 1975-1976 season.

TEMPLES: Production of temples in Florida is now expected to total 3.0 million boxes compared with the forecast of 5.7 million last month and the 5.5 million box crop last season. As of February 1, harvest was 46 percent complete, compared with 33 percent on the same date a year ago. Serious freeze damage occurred to most of the States remaining temples. Because of the thin skin characteristics, the balance of the crop will have to be picked quickly to avoid loss due to drying.

POTATOES: Production of winter crop potatoes in California and Florida is now forecast at 2.4 million cwt, 17 percent below the January 1 forecast and 21 percent below the 1976 crop.

California's production is estimated at 945,000 cwt., down 9 percent from January 1 and down 17 percent from 1976. Expected yields are down 20 cwt per acre from last month to 210 cwt per acre. Cold weather, water shortages and continued dry weather have kept potato growth below normal. About a fourth of the crop has been harvested with size running small. Current harvest activity is centered primarily in Riverside County. Continued cold has delayed volume harvesting in the central San Joaquin counties.

The Florida crop is now forecast at 1.4 million cwt, 22 percent below January 1 and 23 percent below 1976's crop. Expected yields are down sharply from 200 cwt per acre on January 1 to 155 cwt as the recent freeze caused heavy damage to the winter crop. Very little if any loss of acreage is expected but reduced yields are expected on more than half of the total acreage planted. Early acreage suffered only a slight reduction in yield as many growers were getting ready to dig. Acreage that was several weeks away from harvest was the most severely damaged. Late planted acreage is expected to recover and yields should be average although harvest is expected to be delayed.

POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	AREA HARVESTED			YIELD			PRODUCTION		
	1975	1976	IND 1977	1975	1976	IND 1977	1975	1976	IND 1977
	1,000 ACRES			CWT			1,000 CWT		
WINTER:									
CALIF	4.9	5.2	4.5	215	220	210	1,054	1,144	945
FLA	9.4	9.2	9.1	195	200	155	1,833	1,840	1,411
TOTAL	14.3	14.4	13.6	202	207	173	2,887	2,984	2,356

CITRUS FRUIT 1/

CROP AND STATE	PRODUCTION BOXES			PRODUCTION TON EQUIVALENT		
	UTILIZED		INDICATED	UTILIZED		INDICATED
	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
	1,000 UNITS 2/			1,000 UNITS		
ORANGES,EARLY MID & NAVEL 3/						
ARIZ	920	730	850	35	27	32
CALIF	28,000	28,300	29,000	1,050	1,061	1,088
FLA	96,600	98,800	110,000	4,347	4,446	4,950
TEX	2,930	3,800	4,200	125	162	179
U S	128,450	131,630	144,050	5,557	5,696	6,249
ORANGES,VALENCIA						
ARIZ	4,050	1,950	3,150	152	73	118
CALIF	27,100	24,000	26,000	1,016	900	975
FLA	76,700	82,400	73,000	3,452	3,708	3,285
TEX	1,610	2,400	2,400	68	102	102
U S	109,460	110,750	104,550	4,688	4,783	4,480
ALL ORANGES						
ARIZ	4,970	2,680	4,000	187	100	150
CALIF	55,100	52,300	55,000	2,066	1,961	2,063
FLA	173,300	181,200	183,000	7,799	8,154	8,235
TEX	4,540	6,200	6,600	193	264	281
U S	237,910	242,380	248,600	10,245	10,479	10,729
TEMPLES						
FLA	5,300	5,500	3,000	239	246	135
GRAPEFRUIT,WHITE SEEDLESS						
FLA	25,900	28,300	30,000	1,101	1,203	1,275
GRAPEFRUIT,PINK SEEDLESS						
FLA	11,500	13,000	11,000	489	553	468
GRAPEFRUIT,OTHER						
FLA	7,200	7,800	8,000	306	332	340
ALL GRAPEFRUIT						
ARIZ	2,770	3,080	2,900	89	99	93
CALIF						
DESERT	3,750	4,100	3,700	120	131	118
OTHER AREAS	3,160	3,100	2,800	106	104	94
TOTAL	6,910	7,200	6,500	226	235	212
FLA	44,600	49,100	49,000	1,896	2,088	2,083
TEX	7,300	10,700	11,500	292	428	460
U S	61,580	70,080	69,900	2,503	2,850	2,848
TANGERINES						
ARIZ	610	660	800	23	25	30
CALIF	1,620	1,350	1,450	61	51	54
FLA	3,100	3,400	3,400	147	162	162
U S	5,330	5,410	5,650	231	238	246
LEMONS						
ARIZ	7,200	2,420	5,600	274	92	213
CALIF	22,200	15,400	21,000	844	585	798
U S	29,400	17,820	26,600	1,118	677	1,011
TANGELOS						
FLA	4,700	5,500	4,900	212	248	221

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/ NAVEL AND MISCELLANEOUS VARIETIES IN CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA. EARLY AND MIDSEASON VARIETIES IN FLORIDA AND TEXAS, INCLUDING SMALL QUANTITIES OF TANGERINES IN TEXAS.
