

CROP PRODUCTION



Statistical Reporting
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HIGHLIGHTS

CITRUS--Production is expected to total 15.0 million tons, down 1 percent from last month but 2 percent above the 1975-76 crop.

ORANGES--Production is forecast at 244.6 million boxes, down 2 percent (4.1 million boxes) from February 1, but 1 percent (2.2 million boxes) above last season. By March 1, harvest of the U. S. crop was 49 percent complete.

GRAPEFRUIT--Production is forecast at 69.9 million boxes, unchanged from February 1 but slightly (0.2 million boxes) below the 1975-76 crop. About 40 percent of the crop had been harvested by March 1.

LEMONS--Prospects at 26.6 million boxes are unchanged from last month's forecast but are 49 percent above the previous season.

WINTER POTATOES--Final production is estimated at 2.5 million cwt., 5 percent above last month's forecast but 17 percent below the 3.0 million cwt. harvested in 1976.

SPRING POTATOES--Acreage for harvest is estimated at 91,300 acres, 8 percent below the 99,000 acres harvested in 1976 but 8 percent more than in 1975.

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

CROP	1975-76	INDICATED 1976-77	
		FEB 1	MAR 1
		1,000 BOXES	
ORANGES	242,380	248,600	244,550
GRAPEFRUIT	70,080	69,900	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.

SEASONAL GROUP	POTATOES			
	AREA PLANTED		AREA HARVESTED	
	1976	INDICATED 1977	1976	INDICATED 1977
	1,000 ACRES			
WINTER	14.6	13.6	14.4	13.6
SPRING	100.9	91.9	99.0	91.3
SEASONAL GROUP	YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION	
	1976	INDICATED 1977	1976	INDICATED 1977
			FEB 1	MAR 1

SEASONAL GROUP	CWT		1,000 CWT	
	1976	INDICATED 1977	1976	INDICATED 1977
WINTER	207	182	2,984	2,356
SPRING	250	APR 8	24,779	APR 8 2,469

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

CROP	1975-76	INDICATED 1976-77	
		FEB 1	MAR 1
		METRIC TONS	
ORANGES	9,506,390	9,733,190	9,581,690
GRAPEFRUIT	2,585,480	2,583,660	2,583,660
LEMONS	614,160	917,160	917,160

SEASONAL GROUP	POTATOES			
	AREA PLANTED		AREA HARVESTED	
	1976	INDICATED 1977	1976	INDICATED 1977
	HECTARES			
WINTER	5,910	5,500	5,830	5,500
SPRING	40,830	37,190	40,060	36,950
SEASONAL GROUP	YIELD PER HECTARE		PRODUCTION	
	1976	INDICATED 1977	1976	INDICATED 1977
			FEB 1	MAR 1

SEASONAL GROUP	METRIC TONS		METRIC TONS	
	1976	INDICATED 1977	1976	INDICATED 1977
WINTER	23.22	20.36	135,350	106,870
SPRING	28.06	APR 8	1,123,950	APR 8 111,990

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 continued dry, but the bitter cold 1976-77 winter temperatures moderated during the month. February temperatures averaged well above normal west of the Mississippi River and only slightly below normal in the East. The dry weather characterizing the 1976-77 winter continued with many western States receiving less than 25 percent of normal precipitation. Above normal moisture was limited to the northern Great Plains, upper Great Lakes area and other small, scattered areas. Much of the moisture in the northern Great Plains and the West fell during the last week of the month.

The month began with bitter cold temperatures persisting across the eastern half of the country. The Ohio Valley and the area south of the Great Lakes had the largest departures, averaging 12 to 15° below normal. Much of the western and northern Plains were near normal. Little or no moisture fell over the parched western States. Snow and high winds buffeted the Buffalo, N.Y. area during the week. The southern and central Plains experienced a period of warming but cooled rapidly again at the week's end. Record low temperatures were set at numerous locations the morning of the 6th; Columbus, Ohio -11°, Madison, Wis. -19°, Roanoke, Va. 8° and Birmingham, Ala. 17°.

The second week saw unusually warm temperatures prevail over the western two-thirds of the Nation. Temperatures in the plains averaged 18 to 21° above normal. Most of the precipitation during the week was associated with a low pressure system which moved from Texas northeastward through New England spreading rain in its path. The rain was heavy in east Texas but rather light as the low moved northeastward. Some rain fell in the Pacific Northwest and northern California but not nearly enough to relieve the drought.

The unseasonably mild temperatures continued to persist from the Mississippi River to the West Coast during the week of February 14-20. Temperatures in the intermountain Plateau region averaged 10 to 13° above normal and most of Montana was 15 to 20° warmer than normal. On the other hand, Florida averaged 6 to 8° below normal and several frosty mornings were reported. Precipitation was generally light across the Nation, but rain did start again at the end of the week in Washington, Oregon and northern California. The New England area received additional snow, bringing depths up to 60 inches in northern Maine.

February ended with the wettest week of the winter. With a few minor exceptions, some moisture fell over the entire country. Record breaking warmth also covered many parts of the Nation. The area east of the Rockies was at least 6° above normal except in the Upper Great Lakes, New England and Florida. Moisture amounts across the Pacific Northwest totaled 2 to 4 inches along the coast and up to 1 inch further inland. Heavy rains also fell across the Southeast with over 3 inches in parts of Alabama and Mississippi.

WINTER WHEAT

Most of the United States, including the major winter wheat areas, reported low soil moisture supplies through February. Most of the winter wheat crop had very little snow cover during February but wind damage was light until high winds on the 22nd and 23rd caused extensive erosion in some fields, particularly in eastern Colorado and western Kansas. At the end of the month, light precipitation helped settle the dust in areas subject to blowing and held the soil in place. Moderate temperatures helped green the winter wheat crop as far north as south central Montana.

Kansas winter wheat was in poor to fair condition and the limited vegetative cover made the crop susceptible to wind damage. After midmonth the crop began greening, but soils were dry and strong winds eroded fields and damaged some wheat. The Oklahoma winter wheat crop ended the month in fair to good condition. Precipitation near midmonth in all areas of the State except the Panhandle, along with higher temperatures, helped establish root systems and enabled plants to make some much needed top growth. Small plants in the Panhandle remained susceptible to blowing and near the end of the month winds damaged some of the crop in the western Panhandle. High temperatures and winds evaporated topsoil moisture quickly and the crop needed more moisture at the end of the month.

The Texas winter wheat crop was generally dormant at the beginning of February. Snow provided very little moisture and disappeared rapidly, leaving dryland stands vulnerable to wind erosion. Wheat began growing on the High Plains near midmonth but needed more soil moisture. Farmers irrigated where facilities existed. Near the end of the month, blowing soil plagued wheat fields on the Plains. Snow helped settle the dust and offered a measure of relief to dry soils.

Precipitation was below normal in Colorado and winter wheat conditions declined. High winds on the 22nd and 23rd extensively eroded soils and damaged wheat. New Mexico dryland wheat rated poor and irrigated wheat fair. High winds hampered small grain irrigation.

The Washington winter wheat crop was in good condition but dependent on future rains. In California, recent rains helped the wheat crop but more rain is needed.

FEBRUARY FIELDWORK VERY LIMITED

Major spring fieldwork activity has begun slowly due to the lingering effects of the severe winter weather. Fieldwork was concentrated mostly in the southern areas of the Nation, followed by the Mountain and Pacific Coast States. Corn Belt field activities were mostly confined to spreading fertilizer and disking old crop residue. Wet fields delayed land preparation and planting in southern Texas where earliest field crop planting usually begins. Orchard pruning and spraying progressed well throughout the Country and was almost finished in some southern areas and the northwest. Tobacco plant bed preparation advanced into Virginia, but earlier cold weather held plant development in check.

Cotton producers planted some fields in Arizona and Texas. Less than 1 percent of the crop was planted in the Lower Rio Grande Valley by March 1, about the usual progress by that date. Texas producers planted sorghum in the central and southern areas, but less than 1 percent of the State's crop was planted compared with 6 percent last year and the average. Less than 1 percent of the Texas corn crop was planted, lagging the 3 percent in 1976 and 4 percent average. Farmers also planted early corn in Georgia and Florida.

ORANGES: U. S. orange production is expected to total 244.6 million boxes, down 2 percent from the February 1 forecast but 1 percent above the 1975-76 crop. Florida prospects indicate a crop of 181.0 million boxes, 1 percent less than forecast last month and slightly less than last year. Early and mid-season oranges are now expected to total 112.0 million boxes, up 2 percent from last month's forecast and 13 percent above last season. The Valencia forecast at 69.0 million is 5 percent below last month and 16 percent below last season. Harvest of early and mid-season varieties was at record rates during February and was 91 percent complete by March 1.

In California, orange crop prospects declined 4 percent during the month and a total of 53.0 million boxes is now expected. The Navel crop is now forecast at 27.0 million boxes, down 7 percent from last month and 5 percent below last year. Harvest of navel oranges was 47 percent complete as of March 1. Quality remains good, however, maturity is earlier than normal due to stress resulting from insufficient irrigation water available in the Southern San Joaquin Valley. Valencia prospects at 26.0 million boxes are unchanged from February 1 but are 8 percent above last season. The crop is in good condition and sizes are larger than last year.

The Texas crop is expected to total 6.6 million boxes, unchanged from last month but 6 percent above last season. Production of early and mid-season varieties is estimated at 4.2 million boxes, 11 percent above last season. The Valencia crop estimated at 2.4 million boxes is the same as last season. Harvest of early and mid-season varieties was in the final stages on March 1. Valencia harvest is 10 percent complete compared with 28 percent on March 1 last season.

Prospects in Arizona at 3.95 million boxes are down slightly from last month but 47 percent above last season. The Navel harvest is virtually complete while Valencia harvest is just getting underway.

Changes between the March 1 U. S. orange production forecast and final production have averaged 4.6 million boxes over the past 10 seasons, ranging from 0.5 million boxes in 1972-73 to 10.6 million boxes in the 1975-76 season.

FLORIDA FROZEN CONCENTRATED JUICE YIELD: The all orange juice yield for 1976-77 is projected at 1.12 gallons of 45 degree brix concentrate per box. Final yield from the 1975-76 crop was 1.29 gallons per box. This frozen concentrate orange juice yield forecast is down from 1.17 gallons per box predicted in February and also below the January pre-freeze forecast of 1.29 gallons per box. The reduction from January is principally attributable to the freeze.

GRAPEFRUIT: The 1976-77 U.S. grapefruit crop is expected to total 69.9 million boxes, unchanged from last month and only slightly below the 1975-76 season. Prospects in Florida at 49.0 million boxes compare with 49.1 million last season. Picking for fresh market has been very active in the areas which had the least freeze damage. The Texas crop, forecast at 11.5 million boxes, is unchanged from last month but is 7 percent above the 1975-76 crop. The quality remains good although sizes are smaller than usual. California expects to harvest 6.5 million boxes, 10 percent less than last season. Flavor is good and harvest continues at the normal rate. Arizona prospects at 2.9 million boxes are 6 percent below the 1975-76 crop.

Harvest of the U.S. grapefruit crop was 40 percent complete by March 1 compared with 51 percent on March 1 last season.

Changes in the U.S. production estimate between the March 1 forecast and final production have averaged 2.3 million boxes over the past 10 seasons, ranging from 280,000 boxes in 1975-76 to 4.2 million boxes in 1966-67.

LEMONS: The California and Arizona lemon crop is expected to total 26.6 million boxes, the same as last month's forecast but 49 percent above the 1975-76 season. The California production forecast at 21.0 million boxes is 36 percent above last season. Arizona production which is forecast at 5.6 million boxes is more than double the 1975-76 crop.

Harvest in the two states combined is nearing the half way mark with 79 percent completed in Arizona compared with 100 percent last year. In California picking is 40 percent complete compared with 48 percent last year. Harvest is being completed in the Desert area and is heavy in the central and southern areas. Some fruit will be unharvested due to dry conditions that reduce quality.

TANGELOS: Florida's tangelo crop is set at 4.9 million boxes, unchanged from last month but 11 percent below last season. Harvest is virtually complete.

TANGERINES: Production is expected to total 5.6 million boxes, 2 percent below last month's forecast but 3 percent above last season. The Florida utilization estimate of 3.3 million boxes is 3 percent below last month (the total crop that reached 210 size or larger was 5.8 million boxes). Harvest in Florida is complete. The California and Arizona crops are placed at 1.5 million and 0.8 million boxes, respectively, and are unchanged from last month. About 60 percent of the California crop has been harvested with the Minneola variety currently being harvested.

TEMPLES: Production in Florida is estimated at 3.5 million boxes, 17 percent above last month but 36 percent below last season. Harvest is 80 percent complete.

POTATOES: The final forecast of 1977 winter potato production in California and Florida is 2.5 million cwt., 17 percent below the 3.0 million cwt. harvested in 1976. Yield prospects have improved from the previous month in California where about 3/4 of the crop is now harvested. Digging will continue into early April. Harvest was active in the Everglades, Martin County and Fort Myers areas in Florida but light in Dade County. Harvest will be delayed by several weeks in Dade County as the crop recovers from the January freeze. Crop is good.

Producers of spring potatoes are expected to harvest 91,300 acres, down 8 percent from the 99,000 acres harvested in 1976 but 8 percent more than in 1975. The crop is making good progress in California with occasional frosty mornings causing only negligible damage. A major concern of growers is the extent of available water supplies. Early planted potatoes in Arizona are progressing well. Most of the acreage in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas was planted by mid-February and planting continues active in the Winter Garden area. In the Knox-Haskell areas, planting was underway by mid-February and completed by early March. Planting is nearly complete in Alabama with early fields up. In the Hastings area of Florida, planting continued into early March. Early plantings are just emerging but with lower temperatures the crop is expected to be delayed in reaching maturity. Cold weather in February has delayed growth in West Central areas of Florida. Some potatoes were planted in Coastal Counties of North Carolina in late February.

FIVE-MONTH AVERAGE CORN AND GRAIN SORGHUM PRICES, UNITED STATES,
OCTOBER 1976 - FEBRUARY 1977

MONTH AND YEAR	CORN		GRAIN SORGHUM	
	AVERAGE PRICE	AVERAGE PERCENT	AVERAGE PRICE	AVERAGE PERCENT
	PER BU 1/	OF SALES 2/	PER CWT 1/	OF SALES 2/
	DOLLARS	PERCENT	DOLLARS	PERCENT
OCT 1976	2.33	13.0	3.68	12.9
NOV 1976	2.02	13.9	3.30	14.0
DEC 1976	2.24	8.9	3.51	11.1
JAN 1977	2.34	11.5	3.59	12.3
FEB 1977	2.31	7.8	3.53	5.0
5 MONTHS: <u>3/</u>	2.24		<u>4/3.52</u>	

1/ PRICES PUBLISHED IN AGRICULTURAL PRICES, OCTOBER, 1976 THROUGH FEBRUARY 1977.

2/ WEIGHTED AVERAGE OR PERCENT SOLD FOR YEARS 1973-75 AS SHOWN IN FIELD CROPS - PRODUCTION, FARM USE, VALUE, SALES, MAY 4, 1976 AND CROP PRODUCTION, DECEMBER 10, 1976. WEIGHTS USED TO COMPUTE WEIGHTED AVERAGE WERE TOTAL SALES FOR 1973, 1974, AND 1975 AS SHOWN IN FIELD CROPS - PRODUCTION, FARM USE, VALUE, SALES MAY 12, 1975 AND MAY 4, 1976.

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

4/ \$1.97 PER BUSHEL.

POTATOES, 1977 CROP

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	AREA					
	PLANTED			HARVESTED		
	1975	1976	IND 1977	1975	1976	IND 1977
	1,000 ACRES					
<u>WINTER:</u>						
CALIF	4.9	5.2	4.5	4.9	5.2	4.5
FLA	9.5	9.4	9.1	9.4	9.2	9.1
TOTAL	14.4	14.6	13.6	14.3	14.4	13.6
<u>SPRING:</u>						
ALA	10.6	11.5	11.0	10.6	11.5	11.0
ARIZ	6.2	6.8	6.5	6.2	6.8	6.5
CALIF	27.6	34.8	29.5	27.6	34.2	29.5
FLA-HASTINGS	16.2	19.5	19.5	16.2	19.3	19.5
-OTHER	1.9	3.0	1.8	1.9	2.5	1.8
LA	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.4
MISS	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.9
N C	12.2	13.1	13.5	12.0	13.0	13.4
TEX	5.6	7.3	5.5	5.5	7.1	5.3
TOTAL	85.4	100.9	91.9	84.5	99.0	91.3
	YIELD			PRODUCTION		
	1975	1976	IND 1977	1975	1976	IND 1977
	CWT			1,000 CWT		
<u>WINTER:</u>						
CALIF	215	220	235	1,054	1,144	1,058
FLA	195	200	155	1,833	1,840	1,411
TOTAL	202	207	182	2,887	2,984	2,469
<u>SPRING: 1/</u>						
ALA	130	140		1,378	1,610	
ARIZ	245	270		1,519	1,836	
CALIF	380	395		10,488	13,509	
FLA-HASTINGS	195	210		3,159	4,053	
-OTHER	185	160		352	400	
LA	70	75		182	195	
MISS	90	95		171	190	
N C	160	145		1,920	1,885	
TEX	150	155		825	1,101	
TOTAL	237	250		19,994	24,779	

1/ YIELD AND PRODUCTION FOR 1977 TO BE RELEASED APRIL 8, 1977

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 & NAVAL 3/						
ARIZ	920	730	800	35	27	30
CALIF	28,000	28,300	27,000	1,050	1,061	1,013
FLA	96,600	98,800	112,000	4,347	4,446	5,040
TEX	2,930	3,800	4,200	125	162	179
U S	128,450	131,630	144,000	5,557	5,696	6,262
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	69,000	3,452	3,708	3,105
TEX	1,610	2,400	2,400	68	102	102
U S	109,460	110,750	100,550	4,688	4,783	4,300
ALL ORANGES						
ARIZ	4,970	2,680	3,950	187	100	148
CALIF	55,100	52,300	53,000	2,066	1,961	1,988
FLA	173,300	181,200	181,000	7,799	8,154	8,145
TEX	4,540	6,200	6,600	193	264	281
U S	237,910	242,380	244,550	10,245	10,479	10,562
TEMPLES						
FLA	5,300	5,500	3,500	239	248	158
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	3,300	147	162	157
U S	5,330	5,410	5,550	231	238	241
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/ NAVAL AND MISCELLANEOUS VARIETIES IN CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA. EARLY AND MIDSEASON VARIETIES IN FLORIDA AND TEXAS, INCLUDING SMALL QUANTITIES OF TANGERINES IN TEXAS.