

# CROP PRODUCTION

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## HIGHLIGHTS

CITRUS production is expected to total 14.3 million tons (13.0 million metric tons), virtually the same as the January 1 level and 6 percent below the 1976-77 season.

ORANGE output is forecast at 221.4 million boxes (8.7 million metric tons), unchanged from the month earlier level, but 9 percent less than last season's total.

GRAPEFRUIT production is placed at 75.7 million boxes (2.8 million metric tons), unchanged from last month but 2 percent above the 1976-77 total.

LEMON production is estimated at 25.1 million boxes (865 thousand metric tons), unchanged from January 1 prospects but 2 percent below last season.

POTATO production for the 1978 winter season is forecast at 2.8 million cwt. (128 thousand metric tons), 2 percent below January 1 but 6 percent above a year earlier.

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

CROP	1976-77	INDICATED 1977-78	
		JAN 1	FEB 1
		1,000 BOXES	
ORANGES	244,250	221,420	221,420
GRAPEFRUIT	74,500	75,700	75,700
LEMONS	25,600	25,100	25,100

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		
	1977	INDICATED	1977	INDICATED	1977	INDICATED 1978	
	1,000 ACRES	1978	CWT	1978		JAN 1	FEB 1
WINTER	13.4	12.6	199	223	2,660	2,864	2,814

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

CROP	1976-77	INDICATED 1977-78	
		JAN 1	FEB 1
		METRIC TONS	
ORANGES	9 611 620	8 691 740	8 691 740
GRAPEFRUIT	2 747 860	2 795 040	2 795 040
LEMONS	882 690	865 450	865 450

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 HECTARE		PRODUCTION		
	1977	INDICATED	1977	INDICATED	1977	INDICATED 1978	
	HECTARES	1978	METRIC TONS	1978		JAN 1	FEB 1
WINTER	5 420	5 100	22.26	25.03	120 650	129 910	127 640

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 Washington headquarters and the State Statistical Offices.

APPROVED:

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### JANUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

January was a severe winter month for all of the Nation east of the Rocky Mountains. Surges of cold air from central Canada came one behind the other causing temperatures to drop further and further below normal. The average temperature for January was 10 to 13 degrees colder than normal in most of the Plains and Midwest. Precipitation was above normal from east Texas to New England. Low pressure systems forming as cold air flowed over the warm Gulf of Mexico and moved northeastward causing heavy rain and some sleet or snow in the South and heavy snow northward. Record low barometer readings were noted, as a low off the East Coast merged with one moving up the west side of the Appalachians. The accompanying blizzard in the Ohio Valley and eastern Great Lakes paralyzed the area.

West of the Rockies, the opposite condition prevailed with warm temperatures persisting throughout the month. Some almond trees were in premature bloom in the lower San Joaquin Valley. Rain with snow at higher elevations was well above normal in all of the West.

A welcome return to normal or better precipitation began the year on a pleasant note for the West. During the first week of the month moderate rain fell along the West Coast, but only light amounts were recorded in the central and southern Plateau region. Elsewhere, little or no rain fell in the dry area of west Texas and Oklahoma, Kansas and eastern Colorado. A low pressure system formed at midweek in Missouri and rain moved through the South and was borne northward to New England. Cold air moved southward behind the low pressure to usher in the first cold outbreak east of the Rockies. Temperatures remained well above normal west of the Continental Divide.

Most of the Nation measured some precipitation during the second week. Rain or snow persisted in the West and spread inland across the Plateau to the Rockies. Some heavy amounts were added to northern California and the Sierras. Cold air enveloped the area east of the Rockies early in the week. A low pressure system formed in the Gulf of Mexico and moved eastward and then northeastward. Moderate rain fell in east Texas and Arkansas and all along the East Coast. Temperatures were warm in the West and very cold east of the Rockies.

Cold air continued to flow southward from Central Canada during the third week of January and caused the formation of two massive winter storms which originated in the Gulf of Mexico. The first moved northward west of the Appalachians and dumped heavy snow in the Ohio Valley and northward. The second storm charged up the Atlantic Coast and produced heavy snowfall from the mid-Atlantic area through New England. Freezing rain and/or snow reached into the Deep South where cold temperatures touched the Florida citrus. Precipitation continued west of the Rockies providing welcome runoff for the streams and reservoirs.

The last week of January brought some respite from the persistent rain in California although the last day of the month saw rain in southern California and the southwest. Generally light but welcome precipitation fell in west Texas. Elsewhere one of the most intense storms of record blitzed the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes region with blizzard conditions. Heavy rain fell in the South. Ten inches flooded areas around Mobile, Alabama. The rain or snow extended into New England. Another outbreak of cold air continued the deep freeze east of the Rockies while unusually warm weather persisted from the Plateau westward.

### WINTER WHEAT

The United States winter wheat crop rated fair to good during January in most major production areas. Near the end of the month, poor ratings cropped up in parts of the cold South and on drylands stands in the southern Great Plains. At the beginning of January, snow blanketed the northern third of the Nation. Snow cover extended into parts of the South as midmonth approached including parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Tennessee. At the end of January, the only wheat exposed was from the southern Great Plains, across the South and along the Atlantic Coast to Virginia. Areas which bore the brunt of late January's cold weather had the most snow cover.

Kansas winter wheat rated good. Strong winds swept through the State during the first half of the month but damage was light and limited to the western areas. A thin snow blanket afforded Kansas wheat only limited protection from subzero temperatures during the latter half of January; most fields were dormant but some stress was noted on unprotected southwestern fields. Oklahoma winter wheat rated fair to good. Dry soils persisted through most of January but snowfall remedied some of the dry conditions leaving only the west short of moisture. Texas wheat was nearly dormant in most areas because of low temperatures during the last part of January. Dryland stands on the High Plains were drought stressed with very little precipitation during January to relieve the situation. Irrigated High Plains stands rated fair to good. A light snow covered the Plains area at the end of January but was not sufficient to provide moisture relief to dryland fields. South central and east Texas have enough moisture for growth when temperatures rise. New Mexico irrigated wheat rated fair to good and was providing moderate grazing; dryland stands scored poor to fair. Wyoming wheat rated fair to good. Montana's crop had adequate to excellent snow cover and was in good condition. In the Pacific Northwest, Oregon wheat rated fair to good and Washington's crop had a protective snow cover. Mild temperatures and ample rainfall helped growth of California's wheat.

Low temperatures slowed wheat growth in the Southeast. Along the Atlantic Coast, North Carolina's wheat rated fair to good and Virginia's good to excellent. In the north central States, Illinois wheat rated good.

#### FLORIDA CITRUS FREEZE REPORT

Much of the Florida citrus was exposed to sub-freezing temperatures on two nights in January. Temperatures in the coldest citrus locations dropped to the mid-twenties for sufficient duration to cause some freezing of fruit, but most of the citrus crop escaped any serious damage.

Freezing effects to the orange crop are expected to show up primarily in reduced juice yields. Grapefruit were unaffected.

Fruit most susceptible to freezing, primarily temples and tangerines, received the most damage although much of this fruit escaped any freezing. Early and Mid-season oranges in historically cold spots received some damage which necessitated acceleration of harvest in affected blocks.

ORANGES: This season's U.S. orange crop is forecast as of February 1 at 221.4 million boxes (8.7 million metric tons), unchanged from last month but 9 percent less than was harvested in 1976-77. Florida's crop at 166.0 million boxes is 11 percent less than last season. The early and mid-season crops in Florida are expected to produce 88.0 million boxes, 23 percent less than last year. The Valencia crop prospects are unchanged from last month at 78.0 million boxes, 9 percent above last season.

In California, prospects for the crop are unchanged from last month at 45.0 million boxes, but are 3 percent below last season. The Navel crop at 20.0 million boxes is down 22 percent from last season. The Valencia crop is expected to total 25.0 million boxes, up 19 percent from last season.

In California, some Navel oranges are dropping because of the warm rains. The losses are expected to be minimal. The California Valencia crop is in good condition except for wind scaring in areas affected by recent storms.

As of February 1 the U.S. orange crop was 29 percent harvested compared with 48 percent on the same date last year. Harvest of the early mid-season and Navel crop is 58 percent complete compared with 79 percent on February 1 last year. Valencia harvest has not begun in volume yet.

Texas orange prospects, at 6.3 million boxes, are unchanged from last month but are 9 percent lower than the 1976-77 season total. The Arizona crop is placed at 4.1 million boxes, unchanged from last month but 4 percent above last season.

Changes in U.S. orange production between the February 1 forecast and final production have averaged 7.2 million boxes over the past ten seasons, ranging from 1.5 million boxes in 1971-72 to 18.5 million boxes in the 1970-71 season.

FLORIDA FROZEN CONCENTRATED JUICE YIELD: The all orange juice yield for the 1977-78 crop is projected at 1.25 gallons of 45 degree brix compared concentrate per box, compared with the January projection of 1.28 gallons. Final freeze reduced yield from the 1976-77 crop was 1.07 gallons per box.

GRAPEFRUIT: The 1977-78 U.S. grapefruit crop is forecast at a record 75.7 million boxes (2.8 million metric tons), unchanged from last month but 2 percent above last season. The Florida grapefruit crop is expected to total 54.0 million boxes, 5 percent above last season. The Texas crop at 10.7 million boxes is 14 percent less than last season. In California the crop is placed at 7.9 million boxes, 4 percent above the 1976-77 crop. The Arizona crop of 3.1 million boxes is 3 percent above last season.

Grapefruit harvest was 29 percent complete on February 1 compared with 37 percent on the same date last year. Picking in Florida was 32 percent complete compared with 45 percent on February 1 a year ago. Harvest is also lagging in California and Arizona but is ahead of last year in Texas where 34 percent of the crop has been picked.

Changes in the U.S. production between the February 1 forecast and final production have averaged 2.2 million boxes over the past ten seasons, ranging from 0.3 million boxes in 1975-76 to 4.6 million in 1976-77.

LEMONS: California's 1977-78 lemon crop is expected to total 20.0 million boxes, unchanged from last month's forecast but 3 percent less than the 1976-77 crop. Prospects for the Arizona crop at 5.1 million boxes are unchanged from a month earlier but 2 percent above last season. Picking in both States is lagging behind last season. Arizona with harvest 80 percent complete is 2 percentage points behind last season. California's harvest at 31 percent completion has fallen 9 percentage points behind last season.

TANGELOS: Florida's tangelo crop is now forecast at 4.8 million boxes, down 4 percent from last month but the same as last season. Harvest is 94 percent complete.

TANGERINES: The U.S. tangerine crop is expected to total 5.8 million boxes (226 thousand metric tons) 2 percent less than last month but slightly more than last season. Florida growers expect to utilize 3.2 million boxes of this year's crop, 200,000 boxes less than the forecast crop. California prospects improved and the crop is now expected to total 1.9 million boxes, 4 percent above last season. The Arizona crop is forecast at 0.7 million boxes, unchanged from last month but 8 percent above the 1976-77 season.

**TEMPLES:** Production of temples in Florida is forecast at 4.7 million boxes, down 0.5 million boxes from last month, but 24 percent above the freeze reduced 1976-77 crop. The crop was 31 percent harvested by February 1 compared with 39 percent on the same date last year.

**POTATOES:** Production of winter crop potatoes in California and Florida is now forecast at 2.8 million cwt., (128 thousand metric tons) 2 percent below the January 1 forecast but 6 percent above the 1977 crop.

California's production is estimated at 750,000 cwt., down 6 percent from the January 1 forecast and 29 percent below the 1977 crop. Harvested acres are below last month's anticipated level. Expected yields are up from the January 1 forecast to 250 cwt. per acre. About 40 percent of the State's acreage has been harvested. Yields are variable but averaging above normal.

The Florida crop is forecast at 2.1 million cwt., unchanged from the January 1 forecast but 29 percent above the 1977 crop. Light harvest continues with most of the activity centered in the Everglades. In the southwest area of the State, vine killing was active at the end of January. Harvest of red varieties is expected to begin the second week of February. In Dade County, where most of the winter potatoes are grown, harvest is expected to begin during the middle of February and increase rapidly into March. Yield prospects are very good at this time. There has been some cold weather but the crop has not suffered damage.

#### POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	AREA HARVESTED			YIELD			PRODUCTION		
	1976	1977	IND 1978	1976	1977	IND 1978	1976	1977	IND 1978
	1,000 ACRES			CWT			1,000	CWT	
WINTER:									
CALIF	5.2	4.5	3.0	220	235	250	1,144	1,058	750
FLA	9.2	8.9	9.6	200	180	215	1,840	1,602	2,064
TOTAL	14.4	13.4	12.6	207	199	223	2,984	2,660	2,814

## CITRUS FRUIT

1/

CROP AND STATE	PRODUCTION BOXES			PRODUCTION TON EQUIVALENT		
	UTILIZED		INDICATED	UTILIZED		INDICATED
	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
	1,000 UNITS		2/	1,000 UNITS		
ORANGES,EARLY MID & NAVEL 3/						
ARIZ	730	800	820	27	30	31
CALIF	28,300	25,600	20,000	1,061	960	750
FLA	98,800	115,000	88,000	4,446	5,175	3,960
TEX	3,700	4,400	3,900	157	187	166
U S	131,530	145,800	112,720	5,691	6,352	4,907
ORANGES,VALENCIA						
ARIZ	1,950	3,150	3,300	73	118	124
CALIF	24,500	21,000	25,000	919	788	938
FLA	82,400	71,800	78,000	3,708	3,231	3,510
TEX	2,400	2,500	2,400	102	106	102
U S	111,250	98,450	108,700	4,802	4,243	4,674
ALL ORANGES						
ARIZ	2,680	3,950	4,120	100	148	155
CALIF	52,800	46,600	45,000	1,980	1,748	1,688
FLA	181,200	186,800	166,000	8,154	8,406	7,470
TEX	6,100	6,900	6,300	259	293	268
U S	242,780	244,250	221,420	10,493	10,595	9,581
TEMPLES						
FLA	5,500	3,800	4,700	248	171	212
GRAPEFRUIT,WHITE SEEDLESS						
FLA	28,300	29,900	31,000	1,203	1,271	1,318
GRAPEFRUIT,PINK SEEDLESS						
FLA	13,000	12,500	15,000	553	531	638
GRAPEFRUIT,OTHER						
FLA	7,800	9,100	8,000	332	387	340
ALL GRAPEFRUIT						
ARIZ	3,080	3,000	3,100	99	96	99
CALIF						
DESERT	4,100	4,500	4,400	131	144	141
OTHER AREAS	3,100	3,100	3,500	104	104	117
TOTAL	7,200	7,600	7,900	235	248	258
FLA	49,100	51,500	54,000	2,088	2,189	2,296
TEX	10,700	12,400	10,700	428	496	428
U S	70,080	74,500	75,700	2,850	3,029	3,081
TANGERINES						
ARIZ	660	650	700	25	24	26
CALIF	1,300	1,820	1,900	49	68	71
FLA	3,400	3,300	3,200	162	157	152
U S	5,360	5,770	5,800	236	249	249
LEMONS						
ARIZ	2,420	5,000	5,100	92	190	194
CALIF	15,200	20,600	20,000	578	783	760
U S	17,620	25,600	25,100	670	973	954
TANGELOS						
FLA	5,500	4,800	4,800	248	216	216

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.

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