CROP PRODUCTION

Crop Reporting Board

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Economics, Statistics, & Cooperatives Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Washington, D.C. 20250

HIGHLIGHTS

CITRUS production is expected to total 13.1 million tons (11.9 million metric tons), 2 percent below the January 1 forecast and 7 percent below the 1977-78 season.

ORANGE output is forecast at 205 million boxes (8.11 million metric tons), virtually unchanged from the month earlier level, but 7 percent less than last season's total.

GRAPEFRUIT production is placed at 67.4 million boxes (2.50 million metric tons), 5 percent below last month's forecast and 9 percent below last season.

LEMON production is estimated at 21.3 million boxes (734 thousand metric tons), 3 percent below January 1 prospects and 18 percent below last season.

POTATO production for the winter season is forecast at 2.72 million cwt. (124 thousand metric tons), 1 percent above the January 1 forecast and 4 percent more than a year earlier.

For Information Call: (202) 447-2127

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

CROP	1977-78	INDICATED 1978-79	
		JAN 1	FEB 1
	1,000 BOXES		
ORANGES	219,620	205,700	205,100
GRAPEFRUIT	73,700	70,700	67,400
LEMONS	26,100	22,000	21,300

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		
	1978	INDICATED 1979	1978	INDICATED 1979	1978	INDICATED 1979 JAN 1	INDICATED 1979 FEB 1
	1,000 ACRES		CWT		1,000 CWT		
WINTER	12.9	13.2	203	206	2,621	2,690	2,723

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

CROP	1977-78	INDICATED 1978-79	
		JAN 1	FEB 1
	METRIC TONS		
ORANGES	8 642 750	8 135 630	8 112 050
GRAPEFRUIT	2 720 650	2 624 490	2 502 920
LEMONS	899 930	758 410	733 910

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		
	1978	INDICATED 1979	1978	INDICATED 1979	1978	INDICATED 1979 JAN 1	INDICATED 1979 FEB 1
	HECTARES		METRIC TONS				
WINTER	5 220	5 340	22.78	23.13	118 890	122 020	123 510

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

Most of the Nation experienced above-normal precipitation in January. Many stations in the western Great Lakes area noted record amounts of snowfall. Exceptions to the above-normal precipitation included most of the Pacific Northwest with only 40 to 60 percent of normal, and across the northern tier of States along the Canadian border west of the Lakes. New England received well-above-normal precipitation; in the eastern portions of the region, rain caused some flooding. Southwest Texas had drier-than-normal weather.

January will be recorded as a very cold month as many stations broke records for the coldest January. From the northern Rockies to the central Plains, monthly averages dipped 13 to 16 degrees colder than normal.

During the first week of January, very cold air plunged into the western U.S. While low temperature records fell in the Plains, new record highs were set in the East. At the onset of the cold weather, vegetable harvest was delayed in California, but no damage was noted. As the cold air moved eastward, the South Texas vegetable and citrus area was not so fortunate. A moderate freeze inflicted considerable damage on the second and third days of January. Moving rapidly eastward, the cold air nipped parts of Florida, but only slight damage to tender foliage was reported. Rain or snow preceded the eastward moving cold air and became heaviest from East Texas to southern New England. Late in the week, heavy rain fell in southern California where the Los Angeles area measured more than four inches.

The drier-than-normal Pacific Northwest picked up 1 to 2 inches of precipitation during the second week of January. The rain (snow at higher elevations) extended southward well into California and the southern Plateau. Elsewhere, a storm system formed in Missouri and moved northeastward spreading snow to its north and west and rain to the east. An additional 6 inches of snow fell on the hard-hit Chicago area. Cold weather continued to dominate most of the Nation, but warming began in the West and southern Florida.

The Pacific storm affecting the Northwest moved southward along the California Coast and then into the Southwest during January's third week. Light to moderate rain or snow accompanied the storm. A minor disturbance added another couple of inches of snow to the southwestern Great Lakes area. A third system wound up in the lower Mississippi Valley and spread heavy rain in the South and freezing rain and then snow from the mid-Atlantic States northward. Colder-than-normal weather---but not as cold as the previous two weeks---persisted in the northern States and most of the Southeast. Warmer-than-normal temperatures spread from California into Alabama.

The last full week of January (Jan. 22-28) brought a return of the very cold weather to nearly all the U.S. Cold air plunged southward in the western region and then moved eastward. A low pressure system off the coast of Newfoundland---with its counterclockwise circulation---brought warmer air into the Northeast making that area the only part of the Nation where the temperatures averaged above normal. Nearly all parts of the U.S. received some precipitation, but most occurred in the South and the Northeast. Heavy rain in some New England areas caused local flooding. Thunderstorms rumbled over the South as the cold air encountered the warmer moist air. Nearly an inch of precipitation fell in Arizona and another six or more inches of snow plagued the western Lakes area.

During the last three days of January, the cold air displaced the warmer air in the Lakes area and parts of the Northeast. Only New England remained warmer than normal. Moisture from the Gulf spread northward into Texas and light snow fell from the central Plains to the Lakes.

WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat generally rated fair to good on February 1 in spite of the severe weather prevailing throughout January in most of the major production areas. Snowcover protected the crop from the subnormal temperatures and winds from Oklahoma northward. Winter wheat was virtually dormant on the southern Plains and appeared to have survived the low temperatures. Across the South stands rated mostly fair with some poor fields reported. Some areas of the South were dry during seeding and stands did not go into the winter in good condition. Low temperatures have slowed growth. Pacific Northwest growers expect some freeze damage to winter wheat as the crop was vulnerable to wintry temperatures early in the month. Snow finally arrived during the second half of January and brought protection to the Washington and Oregon crops. Growers in the Southwest continued to plant some late fields of winter wheat; wet field conditions influenced some producers to seed fields with aircraft. Earlier planted stands rated excellent and some growers were spraying for weed control. Most areas of the Nation appeared to have adequate soil moisture for vigorous growth when warm temperatures return.

Most Kansas winter wheat remained snow covered and insulated from the bitter cold during January but some wheat lay unprotected part of the month and may suffer some winterkill. Low temperatures on the Texas High and Low Plains pushed wheat into dormancy early in January. Stands furnished little or no grazing all month. Winter wheat from the Blacklands southward received damage from January freezes as these stands had tender top growth. Soil moisture rated adequate in most Texas areas but parts of the Plains could use additional moisture.

ORANGES: This season's U.S. orange crop is forecast at 205 million boxes (8.11 million metric tons), virtually unchanged from last month but 7 percent less than the 1977-78 crop.

Florida's crop at 163 million boxes is unchanged from last month but is 3 percent below last season. The early and mid-season crops in Florida are expected to produce 93.0 million boxes, 5 percent more than was harvested last season. The Valencia crop is forecast at 70.0 million boxes, 12 percent below the 1977-78 crop. Florida's early-mid harvest was active during January. Groves are in excellent condition.

In California prospects for the crop remain unchanged at 33.0 million boxes, 21 percent below last season. The Navel crop at 18.0 million boxes is down 10 percent from last year. The Valencia crop forecast at 15.0 million boxes is 32 percent less than was harvested in 1977-78. In California, the Navel shipping season is expected to end early. Quality of the fruit is fair. Valencia harvest will get underway in the desert this month.

Texas orange prospects at 5.70 million boxes are 10 percent below January 1 because of freezing temperatures on January 2nd and 3rd. Fruit suffered extensive damage and fruit droppage was widespread. Harvest of fallen fruit as well as freeze damaged fruit on trees was rapid during the month as juice processors operated at full capacity. The Arizona crop is placed at 3.40 million boxes, unchanged from last month but 9 percent below the 1977-78 season.

As of February 1 the U.S. orange crop was 33 percent harvested compared with 30 percent on the same data last year. Harvest of the early mid-season and Navel crop is 58 percent complete compared with 59 percent on February 1 last year. Valencia harvest has not begun in volume except in Texas.

Changes in U.S. orange production between the February 1 forecast and final production have averaged 7.08 million boxes over the past 10 seasons, ranging from 1.45 million boxes in 1971-72 to 18.5 million boxes in the 1970-71 season.

FLORIDA FROZEN CONCENTRATED JUICE YIELD: The Florida all orange juice yield for the 1978-79 crop is projected at 1.32 gallons of 45 degree brix compared with the January 1 projection of 1.29 gallons. The yield from the 1977-78 crop was 1.23 gallons per box.

GRAPEFRUIT: The 1978-79 U.S. grapefruit crop is forecast at 67.4 million boxes (2.50 million metric tons), 5 percent below the January 1 forecast and 9 percent below last season. The Florida grapefruit crop is expected to total 50.0 million boxes, 3 percent below last season. The Texas crop at 9.00 million boxes is 24 percent lower than a year earlier and 20 percent less than was expected on January 1. The decline from January 1 is attributed to a freeze on January 2 and 3 in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Fruit damage was extensive, and droppage and leaf defoliation were widespread. In California, the crop is placed at 6.00 million boxes, 20 percent less than last season. The Arizona crop of 2.40 million boxes is 17 percent below 1977-78.

U.S. grapefruit harvest was 39 percent complete on February 1 compared with 31 percent on the same date last year. Picking in Florida was 39 percent complete compared with 35 percent on February 1 a year ago. Harvest in Texas was 57 percent complete compared with 31 percent on the same date a year ago and the Arizona harvest at 30 percent complete is ahead of last year.

Changes in the U.S. production between the February 1 forecast and final production have averaged 1.93 million boxes over the past 10 seasons, ranging from 280 thousand boxes in 1975-76 to 4.70 million boxes in 1976-77.

LEMONS: The 1978-79 lemon production is forecast at 21.3 million boxes (734 thousand metric tons), 18 percent below last season. The crop in California at 15.0 million boxes is 26 percent below the 1977-78 season. Harvest in California is 38 percent complete compared with 30 percent on February 1 last year.

In California, packing continues in the desert and coastal areas with much fruit of substandard quality. Central Valley lemons show some tree damage and fruit is experiencing some dryness. Coastal lemons have been hit very hard with large amounts of defoliation. Ripe fruit remains on trees. Smaller fruit has already dropped because of the earlier freezes.

The Arizona crop at 6.30 million boxes is 10 percent below the January 1 forecast as a result of damage from low temperatures but is 11 percent above last season. Harvest is over 70 percent complete.

TANGELOS: Florida's tangelo crop is now forecast at 4.00 million boxes (163 thousand metric tons), 5 percent above the January 1 forecast but 18 percent below last season. Harvest is 95 percent complete.

TANGERINES: The U.S. tangerine crop is expected to total 5.40 million boxes (217 thousand metric tons), 9 percent below last month's forecast, but the same as last season. Florida growers expect to utilize 3.60 million boxes of this year's crop, 300 thousand boxes less than the estimated production of size 210 or larger fruit. The California crop, damaged by December freezes, continued to decline and is now expected to total 1.25 million boxes, 17 percent below last season. Fruit currently moving to fresh market is good quality. The Arizona crop is forecast at 550 thousand boxes, down 100 thousand boxes from last month and 21 percent below last season.

TEMPLES: Production of temples in Florida is forecast at 4.80 million boxes (196 thousand metric tons), unchanged from last month, but 2 percent below last season. The crop was 27 percent harvested by February 1 compared with 31 percent on the same date last year.

PAPAYAS: Hawaii papaya production during February is forecast at 4.00 million pounds (1810 metric tons), 5 percent higher than a year ago and up 9 percent from January. January's estimate of 3.67 million pounds (1660 metric tons) was down 10 percent from December. The decline was the result of a normal seasonal downturn which was compounded by an abnormally wet and windy period in mid-January. Production is forecast to drop to 3.90 million pounds (1770 metric tons) in March then begin to climb upward with expectations of 4.10 and 4.30 million pounds (1860 and 1950 metric tons) in April and May, respectively.

Estimated total area for harvest in January, at 2210 acres (890 hectares), was 65 acres more than December but was 70 acres below January 1978.

POTATOES: Production of winter crop potatoes in California and Florida is forecast at 2.72 million cwt. (124 thousand metric tons). This is 1 percent above the January 1 forecast as potatoes in California are turning out somewhat better than expected a month ago. The February 1 forecast is 4 percent above the 1978 output.

California's production is forecast at 792 thousand cwt., up 4 percent from the January 1 estimate with yields 10 cwt. higher than a month ago. Harvest is active in Kern and Riverside Counties as weather conditions allow. The earlier freeze has resulted in some additional cullage.

Florida's February 1 forecast at 1.93 million cwt. is unchanged from a month ago. Harvest has been slow but volume increased near the end of January as more growers began digging. Harvest is expected to be active during February. Quality has improved as more fields have come into production.

PAPAYAS - HAWAII

MONTH	AREA TOTAL IN CROP 1978	AREA TOTAL IN CROP 1979	AREA HARVESTED 1978	AREA HARVESTED 1979	UTILIZED PRODUCTION 1978	UTILIZED PRODUCTION 1979	FORECAST 1979
	ACRES				1,000 POUNDS		
DEC	3,275		2,145		4,084		
JAN	3,095	3,295	2,280	2,210	4,256	3,670	
FEB	3,100		2,270		3,804		4,000
MAR	3,150		2,210		4,317		3,900
APR	3,215		2,220		3,971		4,100
MAY	3,120		2,175		5,546		4,300
CUMULATIVE PRODUCTION JAN					4,256	3,670	

POTATOES

STATE	AREA HARVESTED 1977	AREA HARVESTED 1978	AREA HARVESTED 1979	YIELD 1977	YIELD 1978	YIELD 1979	PRODUCTION 1977	PRODUCTION 1978	PRODUCTION 1979
	1,000 ACRES			CWT			1,000 CWT		
WINTER									
CALIF	4.5	3.0	3.3	235	230	240	1,058	690	792
FLA	8.9	9.9	9.9	180	195	195	1,602	1,931	1,931
TOTAL	13.4	12.9	13.2	199	203	206	2,660	2,621	2,723

CITRUS FRUIT 1/

CROP AND STATE	PRODUCTION BOXES			PRODUCTION TON EQUIVALENT		
	UTILIZED		INDICATED	UTILIZED		INDICATED
	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79
	1,000 UNITS 2/			1,000 UNITS		
ORANGES, EARLY MID & NAVEL 3/						
ARIZ	800	820	700	30	31	26
CALIF	25,600	20,000	18,000	960	750	675
FLA	115,000	88,300	93,000	5,175	3,974	4,185
TEX	4,350	3,850	4,100	185	164	174
U S	145,750	112,970	115,800	6,350	4,919	5,060
ORANGES, VALENCIA						
ARIZ	3,150	2,900	2,700	118	109	101
CALIF	19,700	22,000	15,000	739	825	563
FLA	71,800	79,500	70,000	3,231	3,578	3,150
TEX	2,550	2,250	1,600	108	96	68
U S	97,200	106,650	89,300	4,196	4,608	3,882
ALL ORANGES						
ARIZ	3,950	3,720	3,400	148	140	127
CALIF	45,300	42,000	33,000	1,699	1,575	1,238
FLA	186,800	167,800	163,000	8,406	7,552	7,335
TEX	6,900	6,100	5,700	293	260	242
U S	242,950	219,620	205,100	10,546	9,527	8,942
TEMPLES						
FLA	3,800	4,900	4,800	171	221	216
GRAPEFRUIT, WHITE SEEDLESS						
FLA	29,900	28,700	28,000	1,271	1,220	1,190
GRAPEFRUIT, PINK SEEDLESS						
FLA	12,500	14,300	13,000	531	608	553
GRAPEFRUIT, OTHER						
FLA	9,100	8,400	9,000	387	357	383
ALL GRAPEFRUIT						
ARIZ	3,000	2,900	2,400	96	93	77
CALIF						
DESERT	4,500	4,300	3,500	144	138	112
OTHER AREAS	3,200	3,200	2,500	107	107	84
TOTAL	7,700	7,500	6,000	251	245	196
FLA	51,500	51,400	50,000	2,189	2,185	2,126
TEX	12,400	11,900	9,000	496	476	360
U S	74,600	73,700	67,400	3,032	2,999	2,759
TANGERINES						
ARIZ	650	700	550	24	26	21
CALIF	1,820	1,500	1,250	68	56	47
FLA	3,300	3,200	3,600	157	152	171
U S	5,770	5,400	5,400	249	234	239
LEMONS						
ARIZ	5,000	5,700	6,300	190	217	239
CALIF	21,000	20,400	15,000	798	775	570
U S	26,000	26,100	21,300	988	992	809
TANGELOS						
FLA	4,800	4,900	4,000	216	221	180

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.