CROP PRODUCTION

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Crop Reporting Board
Economics, Statistics, & Cooperatives Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

HIGHLIGHTS

CITRUS production is expected to total 15.8 million tons (14.3 million metric tons), 1 percent above last month and 19 percent above the 1978-79 crop.

ORANGE production is forecast at 262 million boxes (10.3 million metric tons), fractionally above the February 1 forecast and 25 percent above last season. By March 1, harvest of the U.S. crop was 45 percent complete.

GRAPEFRUIT production, forecast at 68.8 million boxes (2.54 million metric tons), is 2 percent above the February 1 forecast and 3 percent above the 1978-79 crop. About 53 percent of the crop had been harvested by March 1.

LEMON prospects at 21.5 million boxes (741 thousand metric tons) are 10 percent above last month's forecast and 11 percent above 1978-79.

WINTER POTATO production is forecast at 2.36 million cwt (107 thousand metric tons), down 1 percent from both the February 1 forecast and the 1979 crop.

SPRING POTATO area for harvest is estimated at a record low 75.6 thousand acres (30.6 thousand hectares), down 10 percent from last season (the previous record low) and 17 percent below the 1978 total.

For Information Call: (202) 447-2127

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

CROP	1978-79	INDICATED 1979-80	
		FEB 1	MAR 1
	1,000 BOXES		
ORANGES	210,500	261,400	262,350
GRAPEFRUIT	67,020	67,600	68,800
LEMONS	19,400	19,600	21,500

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

POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP	AREA PLANTED		AREA HARVESTED	
	1979	INDICATED 1980	1979	INDICATED 1980
	1,000 ACRES			
WINTER	13.0	11.7	11.9	11.5
SPRING	88.9	77.5	83.8	75.6

	YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION		
	1979	INDICATED 1980	1979	INDICATED 1980 FEB 1	INDICATED 1980 MAR 1
	CWT		1,000 CWT		
WINTER	200	205	2,383	2,393	2,363
SPRING	255	APR 10	21,345	APR 10	

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

CROP	1978-79	INDICATED 1979-80	
		FEB 1	MAR 1
	METRIC TONS		
ORANGES	8 306 180	10 272 960	10 304 710
GRAPEFRUIT	2 491 130	2 501 110	2 542 840
LEMONS	668 600	675 850	741 170

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

POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP	AREA PLANTED		AREA HARVESTED	
	1979	INDICATED 1980	1979	INDICATED 1980
	HECTARES			
WINTER	5 260	4 730	4 820	4 650
SPRING	35 980	31 360	33 910	30 590

	YIELD PER HECTARE		PRODUCTION		
	1979	INDICATED 1980	1979	INDICATED 1980 FEB 1	INDICATED 1980 MAR 1
	METRIC TONS				
WINTER	22.43	23.05	108 090	108 540	107 180
SPRING	28.55	APR 10	968 190	APR 10	

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 field offices and Washington headquarters.

APPROVED:

ACTING SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Storms out of the south Pacific Ocean brought torrential rain to southern California and heavy rain to parts of Arizona. Winter temperatures were temporarily displaced by warmer air which enveloped the entire Nation by mid-month. By the end of the month, winter returned to the East with a vengeance when a frigid airmass moved out of Canada. Precipitation for the month was well above normal for most of the area west of the Rockies but fell short of normal in the East.

Winter was in full swing as the month of February began. Very cold air enveloped all of the Nation except the Southwest and the extreme northern Plains. Freezing temperatures reached into Florida--as far south as Tampa and Orlando on the 2d and 4th of February. Warming began in the West and northern Plains during the period of February 4-10 but the central Plains and the Southeast remained much colder than normal.

Seasonally heavy rain--snow at higher elevations--persisted in the Pacific Northwest during the first ten days of February but southern California was drying out from previous deluges. Elsewhere, snow laid down a protective blanket in the central Plains. By February 10th, up to a foot of snow covered Kansas. Rain was heavy from eastern Texas through Georgia and heavy snow fell in parts of the Appalachians and mid-Atlantic States.

Heavy rain returned to southern California during the week of February 11-17. The hills around Los Angeles recorded as much as 20 inches. Rain was heavy throughout the State and into Arizona. Flooding and property loss resulted. Precipitation was comparatively light through the rest of the Nation in this second week of February. Snow dusted Montana and Wyoming and was somewhat heavier from the lower Ohio Valley through New England. Light rain in west Texas increased in intensity eastward through the Gulf Coast States. Warm weather persisted in the Southwest while temperatures in northern States from North Dakota through New England were near normal. Temperatures averaged much colder than normal from central Montana through the central Plains.

The series of storms from the south Pacific Ocean continued to plague southern California, Arizona and the central Plateau during most of the week of February 18-24 but the storms moved further north by the end of the week. Warm weather moved across the entire United States. Snowcover receded to the mountain ridges, the upper Mississippi Valley and New England. Light to moderate rain fell in the area east of the Mississippi River. Average temperatures for the week were as much as 9 degrees above normal in many parts of the Nation.

Warm weather continued to the midpoint of the last five days of the month and then an arctic airmass spilled out of Canada through the Dakotas and spread rapidly southward and eastward. Many previous record low temperatures were surpassed as the frigid air enveloped areas east of the Rockies. Snow fell from Montana through the Great Lakes and in the Midwest. Light amounts fell in parts of the central Plains. Earlier in the week, heavy rain fell along the West Coast. As February ended, cold air clashed with warm moist air from the Gulf of Mexico causing an intense storm to build in southern Louisiana. Heavy rain fell along the Gulf Coast.

WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat rated fair to good with only light snowcover at the beginning of February. Snow depths increased as the month progressed protecting the crop from low temperatures and providing the potential moisture needed for growth when the snow melted. Precipitation in the southern Plains improved winter wheat prospects near mid-month. Above normal temperatures melted snowcover throughout most major production areas and encouraged growth in southern portions late in the month. Farmers began spreading fertilizer where fields were dry enough to support equipment. At the end of February, freezing temperatures plunged deep into the Nation sparing only southern Florida, Louisiana, south Texas, and the Pacific Coastal areas. Zero readings on the Great Plains stretched into Kansas.

Kansas wheat benefited from February snow protection and accumulating moisture. Late month warm weather melted most snowcover and greened some stands in southern areas but most wheat remained dormant. Any damage from end-of-month low temperatures is believed to be minimal. Texas wheat grew moderately during February although grazing was confined to the northern High Plains, the Blacklands, and east Texas. Parts of south Texas have received no precipitation since last summer. Oklahoma winter wheat began breaking dormancy prior to the onslaught of low temperatures. Poor snowcover and soil blowing produced some damage to South Dakota winter wheat. Arizona winter wheat made excellent progress; most stands advanced beyond the jointing stage with some head formation underway. California winter wheat showed good development.

FEBRUARY FIELDWORK

Subnormal temperatures and snow accumulation, although light in many areas, held outside activity to a minimum during early February. Farmers spread fertilizer and manure where field conditions permitted. Soil temperatures were below normal, until just after mid-month when soaring air temperatures were above normal. Subnormal temperatures at the end of the month lowered soil temperatures again but not enough to entirely stall initial cotton, corn, and sorghum planting activity. Corn planting began shortly after mid-February in Florida, Georgia, and Texas; by the end of the month, planting extended into Mississippi and Louisiana. Low temperatures may have damaged some emerged stands. Land preparation for cotton was underway in the Southwest throughout February although rains delayed activities in California and Arizona. Texas cotton planting began in the lower Rio Grande Valley during the second half of February and shortly after in western Arizona. The cold snap at the end of the month slowed Texas cotton planting. Grain sorghum planting began during the last week of the month; cold weather slowed seeding activity but caused insignificant damage because few stands had emerged. Plowing was confined to the South and ranged from 17 percent complete in Louisiana and Mississippi to 35 percent in Alabama by March 1. Tobacco growers prepared and seeded plant beds from Florida to Virginia; subnormal temperatures may have damaged some seedlings. Irish potato planting extended into North Carolina. Deciduous fruit growers sprayed and pruned trees when weather conditions permitted. California rains interrupted almond pollination, and low temperatures damaged some Georgia peach blooms, depending on stage of development. Vegetable planting and harvest activities centered in the Southwest, Texas, and Florida.

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* FLORIDA FREEZE EFFECTS UNKNOWN *
* *
* This report is based on conditions March 1, and does not reflect any shifts in *
* production which may result from freezing temperatures and fruit icing on the morn- *
* ing of March 3. *
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ORANGES: U.S. orange production is expected to be a record high at 262 million boxes (10.3 million metric tons), up fractionally from last month's forecast and 25 percent above the 1978-79 crop. Florida prospects remain unchanged at 200 million boxes, 22 percent above last season. Early and mid-season varieties are expected to total 115 million boxes, 26 percent more than last year's harvest. The Valencia crop is forecast at 85.0 million boxes, 16 percent above the 1978-79 crop. Harvest of early and mid-season oranges is 87 percent complete while harvest of the Valencia crop is just beginning.

Crop prospects in California improved for Navel oranges and growers now expect to harvest 30.0 million boxes, 3 percent above the February 1 forecast and 44 percent more than last season. The Valencia crop is still estimated at 25.0 million boxes, 52 percent greater than last season. The total California crop at 55.0 million boxes is 48 percent above the 1978-79 crop. Harvest of the Navel crop is 48 percent complete. The recent rains have caused some concern about possible damage to the Navel crop but rains have not hurt the Valencia crop.

The Texas orange crop is expected to total 3.90 million boxes, unchanged from last month but 39 percent below last season's production. Harvest of early and mid-season varieties was near completion by the end of February.

Prospects in Arizona at 3.45 million boxes are 1 percent below last month but 19 percent more than was harvested in 1978-79. Navel harvest is virtually complete while Valencia harvest is just beginning.

Changes between the March 1 U.S. orange production forecast and final production have averaged 3.49 million boxes over the past 10 seasons, ranging from 510 thousand boxes in 1974-75 to 11.0 million boxes the 1975-76 season.

FLORIDA FROZEN CONCENTRATED JUICE YIELD: The all orange juice yield for the 1979-80 crop is projected at 1.33 gallons of 45 degree brix concentrate per box. The yield from the 1978-79 crop was 1.34 gallons per box.

GRAPEFRUIT: The 1979-80 U.S. grapefruit crop is expected to total 68.8 million boxes (2.54 million metric tons), 2 percent more than was expected on February 1 and 3 percent more than was harvested last season. Prospects in Florida at 51.0 million boxes are unchanged from last month but 2 percent above last season. The Texas crop forecast is up 14 percent from February 1 to 7.50 million boxes but is 17 percent below the 1978-79 harvest. A few trees are beginning to bloom; however, peak bloom is expected about mid-March. Trees are in good condition and the fruit set should be near normal except for trees that were heavily damaged by the freeze a year ago. California growers now expect to harvest 7.40 million boxes, 4 percent more than was forecast on February 1. The increase is in the Desert area where prospects improved 300 thousand boxes to 3.90 million. The Arizona crop is unchanged from February 1 at 2.90 million boxes but is 29 percent above last season's harvest.

Harvest of the U.S. grapefruit crop was 53 percent complete on March 1 compared with 57 percent on the same date last year.

Changes in the U.S. grapefruit production estimate between the March 1 forecast and final production have averaged 1.99 million boxes, ranging from 280 thousand boxes in both 1975-76 and 1978-79 crop years to 4.70 million boxes in 1976-77.

LEMONS: The California and Arizona lemon crop is expected to total 21.5 million boxes (741 thousand metric tons), 10 percent more than was forecast on February 1 and 11 percent above last season's harvest. California's prospects improved during the month and growers now expect to harvest 18.5 million boxes, one-third more than in the 1978-79 season. The central California district is over half harvested. Quality is very good. Picking is active in the southern California district where about one-fourth of the crop has been picked. Fruit is large due to the recent rains and is generally good quality. Harvest in the Desert area is virtually complete.

The Arizona crop is now estimated at 3.00 million boxes, 3 percent less than expected on February 1 and compares with 5.50 million boxes harvested in 1978-79. The crop is 90 percent harvested. Harvest in the 2 States was 41 percent complete on March 1 compared with 72 percent on March 1 last year.

TANGELOS: Florida's tangelo crop totaled 6.40 million boxes (261 thousand metric tons), 8 percent above the February 1 forecast and 52 percent above 1978-79. Harvest is virtually complete.

TANGERINES: Production is forecast at 6.15 million boxes (244 thousand metric tons), 3 percent less than the February 1 forecast but 14 percent above last season. The Florida crop at 3.90 million boxes is 2 percent below last month's forecast but 11 percent above the 1978-79 harvest. The forecast of the California crop at 1.60 million boxes is down 6 percent from February 1 but is 10 percent above last season's crop. The Arizona crop at 650 thousand boxes is unchanged from last month but is 44 percent greater than the 1978-79 harvest.

TEMPLES: The Florida temple crop is expected to total 5.40 million boxes (220 thousand metric tons), unchanged from last month's forecast but 15 percent above the 1978-79 harvest. Harvest was 72 percent complete on March 1 compared with 69 percent on the same date last year.

PAPAYAS: Beginning this month, monthly forecasts and estimated utilization will be for fresh utilization only. Production of papayas for fresh use during March is forecast at 2.20 million pounds (1000 metric tons). This will be slightly more than the 2.17 million pounds (980 metric tons) produced for fresh use in February. A 32 percent increase in output is expected in April, signaling the end of the current seasonal lull period. Increases are also expected for May and June with forecasts of 3.15 million pounds (1430 metric tons) and 3.30 million pounds (1500 metric tons), respectively.

Area in crop totaled 2750 acres (1110 hectares) in February compared with 2855 acres (1160 hectares) in January and 3170 acres (1280 hectares) last February. While total area declined last month, harvested acreage was up 4 percent to 1860 acres (750 hectares).

POTATOES: Production of winter potatoes this season is forecast at 2.36 million cwt (107 thousand metric tons), off 1 percent from both last month's forecast and last year. The Florida crop, at 1.66 million cwt, is unchanged from the February 1 forecast. Yields and quality are good as harvest continues active in the southwest and upper east coast areas. Digging is slow in Dade County and will begin soon in the Homestead area. Some southeast fields received rain damage, but there was little effect from the recent freeze. In California, prospects declined 4 percent during February. Heavy rains in southern California washed out potatoes in some fields and severely slowed harvest progress in others. Digging is nearly complete in the Kern County area.

In the spring potato producing States, plantings are estimated at a record low 77.5 thousand acres (31.4 thousand hectares), down 13 percent from last season and 17 percent below the 1978 total. Growers expect to harvest a record low 75.6 thousand acres (30.6 thousand hectares), off 10 percent from last year, the previous record low harvested acreage.

California producers planted 20 percent fewer acres than last season. Weather conditions since planting have been ideal and the crop has made good progress. Florida plantings are estimated at 21.0 thousand acres, the same as last year. Planting in the Hastings area is complete and the crop was making good progress until hit by recent freezes. While heavy damage occurred in early planted fields, growers were able to cover young potatoes prior to the freeze and are optimistic that damaged potatoes will recover. North Carolina producers expect to plant 4 percent fewer acres than last season. Seeding is only 4-5 percent complete because of weather delays. Recent snow and cold temperatures had little effect other than to further delay fieldwork.

In Texas, Rio Grande Valley growers completed planting on schedule and the crop made excellent growth during January and February. In the Winter Garden area, planting continued into February. The crop is in good condition despite the temporary setback from a recent freeze. Planting is underway with favorable conditions in the Knox-Haskell area. Alabama planting is barely underway and recent freezing weather had minimal effect as most plantings had not yet emerged.

POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	AREA PLANTED 1978	PLANTED 1979	PLANTED INDICATED 1980	HARVESTED 1978	HARVESTED 1979	HARVESTED INDICATED 1980
	1,000 ACRES					
WINTER						
CALIF	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.0
FLA	10.0	9.7	8.7	9.9	8.6	8.5
TOTAL	13.0	13.0	11.7	12.9	11.9	11.5
SPRING						
ALA	11.0	8.0	6.0	9.5	7.3	6.0
ARIZ	6.0	6.2	4.7	6.0	6.2	4.7
CALIF	29.0	30.0	24.0	29.0	28.0	24.0
FLA - HASTINGS	20.8	20.0	20.0	20.6	18.5	19.0
- OTHER	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.8	.9	.8
LA	2.6	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.1	1.9
MISS 1/	1.3			1.2		
N C	13.1	13.8	13.2	13.0	13.7	13.0
TEX	7.6	7.5	6.5	7.5	7.1	6.2
TOTAL	93.4	88.9	77.5	90.9	83.8	75.6

	YIELD 1978	YIELD 1979	YIELD INDICATED 1980	PRODUCTION 1978	PRODUCTION 1979	PRODUCTION INDICATED 1980
	CWT			1,000 CWT		
WINTER						
CALIF	230	240	235	690	792	705
FLA	195	185	195	1,931	1,591	1,658
TOTAL	203	200	205	2,621	2,383	2,363
SPRING 2/						
ALA	100	140		950	1,022	
ARIZ	265	210		1,590	1,302	
CALIF	285	395		8,265	11,060	
FLA - HASTINGS	170	230		3,502	4,255	
- OTHER	125	180		225	162	
LA	75	70		173	147	
MISS 1/	90			108		
N C	150	165		1,950	2,261	
TEX	160	160		1,200	1,136	
TOTAL	198	255		17,963	21,345	

1/ ESTIMATES DISCONTINUED AFTER 1978 CROP.
2/ YIELD AND PRODUCTION FOR 1980 TO BE RELEASED APR 10, 1980.

PAPAYAS - HAWAII

MONTH	AREA TOTAL IN CROP 1979	AREA TOTAL IN CROP 1980	AREA HARVESTED 1979	AREA HARVESTED 1980	FRESH UTILIZATION 1979	FRESH UTILIZATION 1980	FRESH UTILIZATION FORECAST 1980
	ACRES				1,000 POUNDS		
JAN	3,205	2,855	2,265	1,785	3,491	2,695	
FEB	3,170	2,750	2,335	1,860	2,372	2,170	
MAR	3,255		2,360		2,239		2,200
APR	3,215		2,340		2,415		2,900
MAY	3,245		2,305		2,698		3,150
JUN	3,285		2,370		3,452		3,300
CUMULATIVE FRESH PRODUCTION JAN-FEB					5,863	4,865	

CITRUS FRUIT 1/

CROP AND STATE	PRODUCTION BOXES			PRODUCTION TON EQUIVALENT		
	UTILIZED		INDICATED	UTILIZED		INDICATED
	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
	1,000 UNITS		2/	1,000 UNITS		
ORANGES,EARLY MID & NAVEL 3/						
ARIZ	820	700	850	31	26	32
CALIF	20,000	20,800	30,000	750	780	1,125
FLA	88,300	91,000	115,000	3,974	4,095	5,175
TEX	3,850	4,300	2,300	164	183	98
U S	112,970	116,800	148,150	4,919	5,084	6,430
ORANGES, VALENCIA						
ARIZ	2,800	2,200	2,600	105	83	98
CALIF	22,600	16,400	25,000	848	615	938
FLA	79,500	73,000	85,000	3,578	3,285	3,825
TEX	2,250	2,100	1,600	96	89	68
U S	107,150	93,700	114,200	4,627	4,072	4,929
ALL ORANGES						
ARIZ	3,620	2,900	3,450	136	109	130
CALIF	42,600	37,200	55,000	1,598	1,395	2,063
FLA	167,800	164,000	200,000	7,552	7,380	9,000
TEX	6,100	6,400	3,900	260	272	166
U S	220,120	210,500	262,350	9,546	9,156	11,359
TEMPLES						
FLA	4,900	4,700	5,400	221	212	243
GRAPEFRUIT,WHITE SEEDLESS						
FLA	28,700	29,400	29,000	1,220	1,250	1,233
GRAPEFRUIT, PINK SEEDLESS						
FLA	14,300	13,300	14,000	608	565	595
OTHER GRAPEFRUIT						
FLA	8,400	7,300	8,000	357	310	340
ALL GRAPEFRUIT						
ARIZ	3,000	2,250	2,900	96	72	93
CALIF						
DESERT	4,200	3,270	3,900	134	105	125
OTHER AREAS	4,160	2,500	3,500	139	84	117
TOTAL	8,360	5,770	7,400	273	189	242
FLA	51,400	50,000	51,000	2,185	2,125	2,168
TEX	11,900	9,000	7,500	476	360	300
U S	74,660	67,020	68,800	3,030	2,746	2,803
TANGERINES						
ARIZ	600	450	650	23	17	24
CALIF	1,400	1,450	1,600	53	54	60
FLA	3,200	3,500	3,900	152	166	185
U S	5,200	5,400	6,150	228	237	269
LEMONS						
ARIZ	5,800	5,500	3,000	220	209	114
CALIF	20,300	13,900	18,500	771	528	703
U S	26,100	19,400	21,500	991	737	817
TANGELOS						
FLA	4,900	4,200	6,400	221	189	288

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.