CROP PRODUCTION

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

HIGHLIGHTS

CITRUS production is forecast at 15.0 million tons (13.6 million metric tons), 9 percent less than last season.

ORANGE production is forecast at 245 million boxes (9.52 million metric tons), virtually unchanged from last month but down 11 percent from the 1979-80 season.

GRAPEFRUIT production is forecast at 66.2 million boxes (2.44 million metric tons), 1 percent less than expected on February 1 and 10 percent less than harvested last season.

LEMON production for California and Arizona is expected to be a record high 30.4 million boxes (1.05 million metric tons), up 4 percent from last month's forecast and 47 percent more than last season.

WINTER POTATO production is forecast at 2.53 million cwt (115 thousand metric tons), up 6 percent from the February 1 forecast and 7 percent greater than the 1980 crop.

SPRING POTATO area for harvest is expected to total 78.4 thousand acres (31.7 thousand hectares), up 8 percent from last year's record low, but the second smallest acreage of record.

Crop Disposition and Value Revisions: Estimates of farm use, sales and value of field crops for 1974-78 have been reviewed and will be published about mid-March in FIELD CROPS, Production, Disposition and Value, by States (Statistical Bulletin No. 659). These estimates are comparable with revised crop production for the period as published December 1980 in Statistical Bulletin No. 646. These bulletins are available from Crop Reporting Board Publications, ESS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rm. 0005, South Bldg., 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D. C. 20250.

For Information Call: (202) 447-2127

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

CROP	1979-80	INDICATED 1980-81	
		FEB 1	MAR 1
	1,000 BOXES		
ORANGES	273,830	244,850	244,750
GRAPEFRUIT	73,200	66,700	66,200
LEMONS	20,750	29,300	30,400

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	
	1980	INDICATED 1981	1980	INDICATED 1981
	1,000 ACRES			
WINTER	11.6	11.8	11.5	11.8
SPRING	75.7	79.9	72.6	78.4

	YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION		
				INDICATED 1981	
	1980	INDICATED 1981	1980	FEB 1	MAR 1
	CWT		1,000 CWT		
WINTER	205	214	2,363	2,380	2,530
SPRING	235	APR 9	17,072	APR 9	

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

CROP	1979-80	INDICATED 1980-81	
		FEB 1	MAR 1
	METRIC TONS		
ORANGES	10 740 160	9 528 160	9 524 530
GRAPEFRUIT	2 708 850	2 459 380	2 442 140
LEMONS	715 770	1 009 700	1 047 800

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	
	1980	INDICATED 1981	1980	INDICATED 1981
	HECTARES			
WINTER	4 690	4 780	4 650	4 780
SPRING	30 640	32 330	29 380	31 730

	YIELD PER HECTARE		PRODUCTION		
				INDICATED 1981	
	1980	INDICATED 1981	1980	FEB 1	MAR 1
	METRIC TONS				
WINTER	23.05	24.01	107 180	107 950	114 760
SPRING	26.36	APR 9	774 370	APR 9	

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.

A P P R O V E D:

Richard E. Lyng

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FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Heavy and regular rainfall ended the drought that had plagued parts of the South and Northeast since fall. Rains partially relieved drought in other parts of the East. The first half of the month was typical winter weather. Frequent outbreaks of arctic air from central Canada spread throughout the Rockies and the East. Near-blizzard conditions blew soil and snow in the central Plains. Temperatures turned unseasonably mild the latter half of the month, setting many record highs. Grasses greened in the South and wheat started to green as far north as Kansas.

FIRST WEEK...Unseasonably warm air was pushed eastward as frigid arctic air poured into the Nation early in the week. Ahead of the cold front, moderate rain fell along the gulf coast and in New England. Lighter rain changed to freezing rain in the Ohio Valley as the colder air moved in. After moderate to heavy rain caused some flooding in New England, snow began to cover the mountains. A storm system developed at midweek in the northern Mississippi Valley and spread snow across the northern Plains and Great Lakes. Another storm, in the Gulf of Mexico, spread rain from Texas to Florida and then northeastward along the east coast.

SECOND WEEK...A complex storm system moved out of the central Rockies into Texas and then northeastward through the Great Lakes. Strong, gusty winds in the central Plains kicked up a combination of dust and snow. The storm brought precipitation to all of the area from the Rockies eastward. Rain fell in the south--some very heavy amounts in the Southeast--and along much of the east coast while snow covered the area from the central Plains northward and through the Great Lakes. Another blast of arctic air moved in behind the storm and brought some of the coldest air of the winter into the Plains. Subzero temperatures reached into the Texas Panhandle.

THIRD WEEK...The weather warmed rapidly after the severe arctic outbreak. Average temperatures were well above normal for the week--as much as 27° above normal in the northern Plains and 30° above in northern New England. Temperatures rose to 70° as far north as Montana before another cool surge began at the end of the week. Moisture, borne northward on warm southerly winds, resulted in widespread rain east of the Mississippi River. Heavier rain caused flooding in the Northeast and Northwest.

FOURTH WEEK...Most of the Nation received some rainfall during the week, although parts of the central and northern Plains remained dry. Storms moving into the Pacific Northwest early in the week and later into central California spread rain throughout the West. Snow fell at higher elevations. Almost daily rains in New England caused flooding in many areas. Showers and thunderstorms caused heavy rains from central Texas through Arkansas. Unusually warm weather prevailed in central and northeastern United States but temperatures were near normal along the west coast and in the Southeast. (Prepared by NOAA/USDA Joint Agricultural Weather Facility).

WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat rated good to excellent in the Pacific Northwest and good in the Corn Belt and the Southwest at the beginning of March. In the Great Plains, winter wheat was in fair to good condition, except in Texas where the crop rated poor to good. Nearly all areas needed precipitation. Above normal temperatures in major production areas during the second half of February encouraged winter wheat to break dormancy, especially in southern areas. Farmers began fertilizing these fields.

Kansas winter wheat condition averaged fair on March 1, but was extremely variable throughout the State. There was scattered light wind damage in the southern third of the State. Short soil moisture supplies continued to pose a very serious problem as wheat began its spring growth. Winter wheat in Texas was in poor to good condition. Mild temperatures during the latter part of February encouraged winter wheat to emerge from dormancy; with limited moisture supplies, growth was slow. Nebraska wheat was in fair condition with variable amounts of wind damage evident in most areas. Oklahoma fields needed additional moisture for good growth. Arizona winter wheat made excellent progress with heads forming in some fields by March 1. California winter wheat received moisture during February and showed good development.

FEBRUARY FIELDWORK

Subnormal temperatures and widespread precipitation held outside activities to a minimum during the first half of February. Farmers spread fertilizer and manure where field conditions permitted. Above-normal temperatures during the latter part of the month melted most of the remaining snowcover in northern areas and encouraged growth of crops and pastures and promoted early planting in southern areas. Corn planting began shortly after mid-February in Texas and by the end of the month extended into Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Grain sorghum planting began about mid-month in southern Texas and got underway in Arizona during the last week of the month. Tobacco growers prepared and seeded plantbeds; plants were in fair to good condition on March 1. Cotton growers prepared land for planting; some pre-irrigating was done in California. Deciduous fruit growers sprayed and pruned mature trees and set out new trees. Vegetable planting and harvest activities centered in the Southwest, Texas, and Florida. Maple sirup producers tapped trees and prepared equipment for the upcoming processing. Mild temperatures encouraged an early flow of sap.

ORANGES: The U.S. all orange crop is forecast at 245 million boxes (9.52 million metric tons) for the 1980-81 season, virtually unchanged from the February 1 forecast but 11 percent less than the 1979-80 season. Harvest of all U.S. oranges as of March 1 was 50 percent complete compared with 45 percent on the same date a year earlier.

Florida all orange prospects are unchanged at 173 million boxes, 16 percent less than last season's total. Production for the early and mid-season varieties in Florida is expected to total 107 million boxes, unchanged from last month but 9 percent below last season. The Valencia crop in Florida is forecast at 66.0 million boxes, the same as a month ago and 26 percent less than the 1979-80 season. Harvest of Florida's early and mid-season oranges is nearing completion while picking of Valencias is just beginning.

The California all orange production forecast is also unchanged at 64.0 million boxes, 7 percent greater than last season's utilized production. Navel orange output is expected to reach a new record level of 37.0 million boxes, unchanged from last month but 13 percent above the previous record crop of 32.6 million boxes harvested in 1979-80. As of March 1, 39 percent of California's navel crop expected to be utilized had been harvested. California's Valencia orange crop forecast, at 27.0 million boxes, is unchanged from a month ago and the same as last season.

Texas orange production is now forecast at 4.70 million boxes, 2 percent less than last month but 17 percent above the 1979-80 harvest. Picking in Texas is 66 percent complete. The Arizona all orange crop forecast is unchanged at 3.05 million boxes, 13 percent below last season's production. Arizona's harvest is 30 percent complete.

Changes in U.S. orange production between the March 1 forecast and final production have averaged 4.57 million boxes over the past ten seasons, ranging from 510 thousand boxes in 1974-75 to 11.5 million boxes in 1979-80.

FLORIDA FROZEN CONCENTRATED JUICE YIELD: The 1980-81 crop projection for the Florida FCOJ yield continues at 1.19 gallons per box at 43.4 degree brix equivalent.

GRAPEFRUIT: The 1980-81 U.S. grapefruit crop is expected to total 66.2 million boxes (2.44 million metric tons), 1 percent less than was expected on February 1 and 10 percent less than was harvested last season. Prospects in Florida at 48.5 million boxes are unchanged from last month but 11 percent below last season. Movement to processing was very active during February. The Texas crop at 7.40 million boxes is down 5 percent from last month and 6 percent less than last season's production. California growers expect to harvest 7.30 million boxes, the same as last month's estimate but 3 percent below last season's harvest. Arizona's crop is now forecast at 3.00 million boxes, down 3 percent from last month but at the same production level as last season.

Harvest of the U.S. grapefruit crop was 59 percent complete on March 1 compared with 53 percent on the same date last year.

Changes in the U.S. grapefruit production estimate between March 1 forecast and final production have averaged 2.20 million boxes, ranging from 80 thousand boxes in 1978-79 to 4.70 million boxes in 1976-77.

LEMONS: The California and Arizona lemon crop is expected to reach a new record of 30.4 million boxes (1.05 million metric tons), up 4 percent from last month's forecast and 47 percent more than last season. The California crop is now forecast at 23.5 million boxes, 2 percent greater than last month and 33 percent above the previous season. Picking is active in all areas except the desert where harvest is nearing completion. The forecast for Arizona is now 6.90 million boxes, 10 percent higher than February 1 and 126 percent greater than the small crop harvested in 1979-80. However, the Arizona crop is 86 percent complete. Harvest in the 2 States was 52 percent complete on March 1 compared with 41 percent on March 1 last year.

TANGELOS: Florida's tangelo crop totaled 5.00 million boxes (204 thousand metric tons), 22 percent below the 1979-80 season. Harvest is virtually complete.

TANGERINES: The U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at 5.45 million boxes (213 thousand metric tons), 1 percent below last month and 13 percent less than last season. With harvest complete in Florida, the State's crop estimate is now 3.00 million boxes, 3 percent below last month and 23 percent less than last season. The California crop forecast continues at 1.70 million boxes, 3 percent above the previous season. Packout is complete in Arizona and the crop estimate is now 750 thousand boxes, up 7 percent from February 1 and the same level as last season.

TEMPLES: The Florida temple crop is expected to total 3.50 million boxes (143 thousand metric tons), unchanged from the February 1 forecast and 42 percent less than produced in 1979-80. Harvest is about three-fourths complete.

PAPAYAS: Fresh papaya production is forecast at 4.10 million pounds (1860 metric tons) for March, down slightly from February. Production in April is expected to increase to 4.35 million pounds (1970 metric tons) followed by production of 4.30 million pounds (1950 metric tons) in May. A seasonal increase in production is expected in June with 4.90 million pounds (2220 metric tons) forecast.

Fresh production in February was down 6 percent from a month earlier and area harvested, at 1950 acres (790 hectares), was down 8 percent. Total fresh production for the first two months of 1981 was up 73 percent from the same period last year.

POTATOES: Winter potato production in the U.S. is forecast at 2.53 million cwt (115 thousand metric tons), up 6 percent from last month's forecast. This production is 7 percent more than in 1980 but still the fourth smallest crop of record. Estimated production in Florida is 1 percent below last year but California's production is up 27 percent. Harvest is complete in the Stuart area of Florida and is active in southwestern areas with good quality reported. Crop maturity is later than normal in Dade County and harvest is progressing slowly. Digging is not expected to increase significantly until late March or early April. In California harvest has progressed well under favorable weather conditions. Harvest is nearly complete in Riverside County while some acreage remains to be dug in the Kern District. Quality is reported as excellent and cullage is lighter than normal.

Area planted to spring potatoes in the U.S. is expected to total 79.9 thousand acres (32.3 thousand hectares), up 6 percent from 1980 but 10 percent less than 1979. If realized, this acreage will be the second smallest planted acreage of record. Acreage intended for harvest is forecast at 78.4 thousand acres (31.7 thousand hectares), 8 percent more than last year's record low, but down 6 percent from 1979.

Plantings in California are forecast at 27.5 thousand acres, 22 percent above 1980 but 8 percent below 1979. Weather during planting has been ideal and this year's crop is in excellent condition. Harvest in the Kern District is expected to begin about April 1, two weeks ahead of normal.

Planted acreage in Florida is estimated at 23.0 thousand acres, 10 percent above 1980. In the Hastings area, planting continued into early March and early plantings are up to good stands. Heavy rains in upper St. Johns County caused some flooding in low areas and a small acreage had to be replanted.

In North Carolina planted acreage is expected to be 2 percent greater than last year. Planting became active the last week of February. Estimated acreage planted in Texas is down 5 percent from 1980. In the Rio Grande Valley planting began on schedule and progressed well. Harvest is expected to begin in late April. In the Winter Garden area planting was on schedule and the crop made good growth during February. In the Knox-Haskell area planting is active but soil moisture is very short.

POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	AREA PLANTED 1979	AREA PLANTED 1980	AREA PLANTED INDICATED 1981	AREA HARVESTED 1979	AREA HARVESTED 1980	AREA HARVESTED INDICATED 1981
	1,000 ACRES					
WINTER						
CALIF	3.3	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.0	3.2
FLA	9.7	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.6
TOTAL	13.0	11.6	11.8	11.9	11.5	11.8
SPRING						
ALA	8.0	6.0	4.0	7.3	6.0	4.0
ARIZ	6.2	4.4	4.0	6.2	4.4	4.0
CALIF	30.0	22.5	27.5	28.0	22.5	27.5
FLA - HASTINGS	20.0	20.0	22.0	18.5	18.0	21.1
- OTHER	1.0	1.0	1.0	.9	.8	1.0
LA	2.3	2.1	1.7	2.0	1.7	1.5
N C	13.8	13.2	13.5	13.7	13.0	13.3
TEX	7.5	6.5	6.2	7.1	6.2	6.0
TOTAL	88.8	75.7	79.9	83.7	72.6	78.4

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	YIELD 1979	YIELD 1980	YIELD INDICATED 1981	PRODUCTION 1979	PRODUCTION 1980	PRODUCTION INDICATED 1981
	CWT			1,000 CWT		
WINTER						
CALIF	240	235	280	792	705	896
FLA	185	195	190	1,591	1,658	1,634
TOTAL	200	205	214	2,383	2,363	2,530
SPRING 1/						
ALA	140	105		1,022	630	
ARIZ	210	290		1,302	1,276	
CALIF	395	390		11,060	8,775	
FLA - HASTINGS	230	195		4,255	3,510	
- OTHER	180	170		162	136	
LA	75	70		150	119	
N C	165	140		2,261	1,820	
TEX	160	130		1,136	806	
TOTAL	255	235		21,348	17,072	

1/ YIELD AND PRODUCTION FOR 1981 TO BE RELEASED APRIL 9, 1981.

PAPAYAS - HAWAII

MONTH	AREA TOTAL IN CROP 1980	AREA TOTAL IN CROP 1981	AREA HARVESTED 1980	AREA HARVESTED 1981	FRESH PRODUCTION 1980	FRESH PRODUCTION 1981	FRESH PRODUCTION FORECAST 1981
	ACRES				1,000 POUNDS		
JAN	2,855	3,060	1,785	2,120	2,777	4,370	
FEB	2,840	2,970	1,925	1,950	2,123	4,110	
MAR	2,915		1,930		1,906		4,100
APR	2,950		2,005		2,769		4,350
MAY	2,975		2,040		4,071		4,300
JUN	3,085		2,050		4,033		4,900
CUMULATIVE FRESH PRODUCTION JAN-FEB					4,900	8,480	

CITRUS FRUIT 1/

CROP AND STATE	PRODUCTION BOXES UTILIZED 1978-79	PRODUCTION BOXES UTILIZED 1979-80	PRODUCTION BOXES INDICATED 1980-81	PRODUCTION TON EQUIVALENT UTILIZED 1978-79	PRODUCTION TON EQUIVALENT UTILIZED 1979-80	PRODUCTION TON EQUIVALENT INDICATED 1980-81
	1,000 UNITS 2/			1,000 UNITS		
ORANGES,EARLY MID & NAVEL 3/						
ARIZ	700	850	900	26	32	33
CALIF	20,800	32,600	37,000	780	1,223	1,388
FLA	91,000	117,900	107,000	4,095	5,306	4,815
TEX	4,300	2,300	2,700	183	98	115
U S	116,800	153,650	147,600	5,084	6,659	6,351
ORANGES, VALENCIA						
ARIZ	2,200	2,650	2,150	83	99	81
CALIF	16,500	27,000	27,000	619	1,012	1,012
FLA	73,000	88,800	66,000	3,265	3,996	2,970
TEX	2,100	1,730	2,000	89	73	85
U S	93,800	120,180	97,150	4,076	5,180	4,148
ALL ORANGES						
ARIZ	2,900	3,500	3,050	109	131	114
CALIF	37,300	59,600	64,000	1,399	2,235	2,400
FLA	164,000	206,700	173,000	7,380	9,302	7,785
TEX	6,400	4,030	4,700	272	171	200
U S	210,600	273,830	244,750	9,160	11,839	10,499
TEMPLES						
FLA	4,700	6,000	3,500	212	270	158
GRAPEFRUIT,WHITE SEEDLESS						
FLA	29,400	31,100	27,000	1,250	1,322	1,147
GRAPEFRUIT, PINK SEEDLESS						
FLA	13,300	15,800	13,500	565	671	574
OTHER GRAPEFRUIT						
FLA	7,300	7,900	8,000	310	336	340
ALL GRAPEFRUIT						
ARIZ	2,250	3,000	3,000	72	96	96
CALIF						
DESERT	3,260	4,200	3,800	104	134	122
OTHER AREAS	2,870	3,300	3,500	96	111	117
TOTAL	6,130	7,500	7,300	200	245	239
FLA	50,000	54,800	48,500	2,125	2,329	2,061
TEX	9,000	7,900	7,400	360	316	296
U S	67,380	73,200	66,200	2,757	2,986	2,692
TANGERINES						
ARIZ	450	750	750	17	28	28
CALIF	1,450	1,650	1,700	54	62	64
FLA	3,500	3,900	3,000	166	185	143
U S	5,400	6,300	5,450	237	275	235
LEMONS						
ARIZ	5,500	3,050	6,900	209	116	262
CALIF	14,100	17,700	23,500	536	673	893
U S	19,600	20,750	30,400	745	789	1,155
TANGELOS						
FLA	4,200	6,400	5,000	189	288	225

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.