

CROP PRODUCTION

Released: March 10, 1982
3:00 P.M. ET



Crop
Reporting
Board

Statistical Reporting
Service

U.S. Department
of Agriculture

Washington, D.C.
20250

HIGHLIGHTS

ORANGE production is estimated at 189 million boxes (7.34 million metric tons), down 3 percent from the February 1 forecast and 23 percent below last season.

CITRUS production is forecast at 12.4 million tons (11.3 million metric tons), 18 percent below the 1980-81 season.

GRAPEFRUIT production (excluding California's "Other Areas") is expected to total 66.8 million boxes (2.48 million metric tons), 1 percent above the February 1 forecast and 4 percent more than 1980-81.

LEMON production to be utilized is estimated at 26.8 million boxes (924 thousand metric tons), down 3 percent from last month's forecast and 16 percent less than last season's record high crop.

WINTER POTATO production is forecast at 2.32 million cwt (105 thousand metric tons), up 2 percent from last month and 6 percent greater than last year's record low crop.

SPRING POTATO area for harvest is expected to total 77.8 thousand acres (31.5 thousand hectares), down fractionally from last year and the second smallest acreage of record.

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

CROP	1980-81	INDICATED 1981-82	
		FEB 1	MAR 1
1,000 BOXES			
ORANGES	245,580	193,800	188,850
LEMONS	31,800	27,600	26,800

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		
	1981	INDICATED 1982	1981	INDICATED 1982	
1,000 ACRES					
WINTER	11.6	11.3	11.6	11.3	
SPRING	79.1	78.9	78.0	77.8	
		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION	
		1981	INDICATED 1982	1981	INDICATED 1982
				FEB 1	MAR 1
		CWT		1,000 CWT	
WINTER	189	205	2,198	2,281	2,319
SPRING	266	APR 12	20,765	APR 12	

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

CROP	1980-81	INDICATED 1981-82	
		FEB 1	MAR 1
METRIC TONS			
ORANGES	9 547 210	7 545 960	7 343 660
LEMONS	1 095 880	950 730	923 510

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		
	1981	INDICATED 1982	1981	INDICATED 1982	
HECTARES					
WINTER	4 690	4 570	4 690	4 570	
SPRING	32 010	31 930	31 570	31 480	
		YIELD PER HECTARE		PRODUCTION	
		1981	INDICATED 1982	1981	INDICATED 1982
				FEB 1	MAR 1
		METRIC TONS		100 METRIC TONS	
WINTER	21.26	23.02	99 700	103 460	105 190
SPRING	29.83	APR 12	941 880	APR 12	

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:

John R. Block

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Very cold weather during the first half of the month broke cold temperature records in the central Plains and in parts of the Midwest. Both Wichita, Kansas and Indianapolis, Indiana had record cold temperatures of -21° . Snow cover extended southward into northern Texas during this period and helped protect winter grain from the frigid weather. Precipitation was heavy in the Northwest and the Southeast and was above normal throughout much of the Southwest. A warming trend began during midmonth, and melting snow, combined with local rain, resulted in stream flooding in many areas. Precipitation throughout much of the Plains, the central Plateau and Rockies, and the Midwest fell well below normal for the month.

FIRST WEEK...Successive outbreaks of very cold air moved into the northern Plains and spread over most of the Nation, while storm systems moved from the southern Rockies eastward and then northeastward, spreading warmer moist air. Early in the week, the snowline pushed southward throughout the central Plains and protected most of the winter grain with snow cover. Record cold temperatures were measured throughout the Plains and Rockies while mild weather covered the east coast. Freezing weather pushed across the mountains into the Central Valley of California and southward into the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas and the Mississippi Delta. Precipitation was moderate to heavy from the Southeastern States to New England. The heaviest rain fell from southern Alabama to northern Georgia.

SECOND WEEK...The cold weather persisted and spread over nearly all of the United States. The only areas that were warmer than normal were Florida and the extreme Southwest. Parts of the central Plains and Midwest averaged 18 to 21° colder than normal. Ample snow cover over most winter grains protected fields from the severe cold. Precipitation spread over the West, and moderate rain or snow fell in southern California and Arizona. Freezing rain or sleet covered the area from Arkansas to the upper Ohio Valley, and heavy rainshowers and a few thunderstorms kept much of the Southeast wet. At the end of the week, a warming trend began in the Southwest and was pushing northward and eastward.

THIRD WEEK...Temperatures warmed dramatically over the entire Nation. Billings, Mont., reached a high of 62° at midweek, and the average temperature for the week was 22° warmer than normal. Melting snow in many areas combined with rain to cause flooding. Moderate rain with the snowmelt in Idaho and Nevada caused some serious flooding. Heavy downpours with thunderstorms flooded some areas from southeastern Texas to the lower Mississippi Delta region. Moderate rains extended through the Southeast and to the mid-Atlantic States. A mixture of freezing rain, sleet, and snow plagued the area from the upper Ohio Valley and the mid-Atlantic States into central New York.

FOURTH WEEK...Rain and melting snow in the Pacific Northwest continued the flooding in that area, but cooler weather and only light rain after midweek slowed the runoff and caused stream levels to fall. Precipitation fell throughout much of Texas and southern Oklahoma where fields had become too dry for the growing winter wheat. Some deluges of rain fell again along the southeastern coast of Texas, and moderate rain extended to the mid-Atlantic States. Drying in southern Georgia and northern Florida early in the week allowed some fieldwork to begin after being long delayed because of wet weather. (Prepared by NOAA/USDA Joint Agricultural Weather Facility).

WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat was in fair to good condition in all regions of the Nation at the beginning of March. Frigid temperatures dominated the weather during the first half of February in winter grain areas. Snowcover extended southward into Texas during this cold period and helped protect crops from the extremely cold weather. Above-normal temperatures in late February melted much of the remaining snowcover in northern areas and promoted early spring growth in southern areas. The crop was greening as far north as Nebraska and southern areas of the Corn Belt. Across the South, farmers began fertilizing winter wheat fields.

Kansas winter wheat was in good condition on March 1. Moderate temperatures encouraged the crop to break dormancy in many areas of the State. Cattle were being moved back onto wheat pastures as field conditions permitted. Topsoil moisture supplies were mostly adequate. Winter wheat in Texas was in fair to good condition. At the end of February, scattered showers from the Low Plains through the Blacklands to the Coast provided much needed moisture for the crop. However, short moisture supplies persisted on the northern High Plains and Edwards Plateau. Spraying for greenbugs was active in the Low Plains and Cross-Timbers areas. In Arizona, wheat responded to rainfall and warmer weather. Earliest plantings were rapidly developing heads. Montana winter wheat was in fair to good condition. Wind damage was reported light.

FEBRUARY FIELDWORK

Frigid temperatures and widespread precipitation held outdoor activities to a minimum during most of February. Livestock producers were forced to feed large amounts of hay, forage, and feed grains and continually break ice on water supplies. However, mild temperatures at the end of the month melted much of the remaining snowcover in northern areas and encouraged growth of crops and pastures. Early planting got underway in southern areas. Wet fields persisted in the Southeast and delayed spring fieldwork. However, by the end of the month, corn planting was underway in the extreme South from Texas to Georgia. Grain sorghum planting started in southern Texas during the last week of February. Tobacco growers prepared plantbeds and seeded the crop in many areas. Transplanting was underway in Florida on a limited basis. Cotton growers prepared land for planting. Deciduous fruit growers pruned and sprayed mature trees and set out new trees. Vegetable planting and harvesting activities centered in California, the Southwest, Texas, and Florida.

ORANGES: The U.S. all orange crop is forecast at 189 million boxes (7.34 million metric tons) for the 1981-82 season, down 3 percent from the February 1 forecast and 23 percent less than the 1980-81 season. Harvest of all U.S. oranges as of March 1 was 52 percent complete compared with 50 percent on the same date a year earlier.

Florida all orange prospects are now estimated at 131 million boxes, 4 percent less than last month's estimate and 24 percent below last season. Production for the early and mid-season varieties in Florida is expected to total 75.0 million boxes, 9 percent below last month and 29 percent below last season. The Valencia crop in Florida is forecast at 56.0 million boxes, up 4 percent from a month ago but 16 percent less than the 1980-81 season. Harvest of Florida's early and mid-season oranges is nearly complete while picking of Valencias is just underway.

The California all orange production forecast is unchanged from last month's estimate at 49.0 million boxes, 26 percent below last season's utilized production. Navel orange output is expected to be 27.0 million boxes, unchanged from last month but 30 percent below the 1980-81 record high crop. As of March 1, 60 percent of California's navel crop expected to be utilized had been harvested. California's Valencia orange crop forecast, at 22.0 million boxes, is unchanged from a month ago and 20 percent below last season's record high harvest. Harvest will get underway this month.

Texas orange production is forecast at 6.00 million boxes, unchanged from last month but 39 percent above the 1980-81 harvest. Picking in Texas is 69 percent complete. The Arizona all orange crop forecast at 2.85 million boxes, is up 2 percent from last month and 10 percent above last season's production. Arizona's harvest is 44 percent complete.

Changes in U.S. orange production between the March 1 forecast and final production have averaged 3.87 million boxes over the past ten seasons, ranging from 510 thousand boxes in 1974-75 to 11.3 million boxes in 1979-80.

FLORIDA FROZEN CONCENTRATED JUICE YIELD: The Florida FCOJ yield projection for the 1981-82 crop is now 1.29 gallons per box at 42.0 degree brix equivalent. This is up slightly from last month's forecast of 1.28 gallons per box.

GRAPEFRUIT: The 1981-82 grapefruit crop (excluding the California "Other Areas" crop) is expected to total 66.8 million boxes (2.48 million metric tons), 1 percent above the forecast on February 1 and 4 percent more than was harvested last season. Prospects in Florida at 48.0 million boxes are unchanged from last month but 5 percent below last season. Movement to processing was very active during February. The Texas crop at 12.0 million boxes is up 4 percent from last month and 79 percent greater than last season's production. California "Desert Valley" grapefruit growers expect to harvest 4.00 million boxes, the same as last month's estimate but 6 percent below last season's harvest. Arizona's crop is forecast at 2.80 million boxes, unchanged from last month and last season.

Harvest of the U.S. grapefruit crop was 58 percent complete on March 1 compared with 56 percent on the same date last year.

LEMONS: The estimate of the lemon crop to be utilized in California and Arizona is 26.8 million boxes (924 thousand metric tons), down 3 percent from last month's forecast and 16 percent less than last season's record high crop. The California crop is forecast at 19.8 million boxes, unchanged from last month and 20 percent below the 1980-81 record high production. Picking is active in all areas except the desert where harvest is nearing completion. The forecast for the utilized crop in Arizona is 7.00 million boxes, 10 percent less than February 1 and the same as harvested in 1980-81. Harvest of the Arizona crop is 87 percent complete. Harvest in the 2-State area was 56 percent complete on March 1 compared with 47 percent on March 1 last year.

TANGELOS: Florida's tangelo crop totaled 5.10 million boxes (209 thousand metric tons), 4 percent above the 1980-81 season. Harvest is virtually complete.

TANGERINES: The U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at 5.05 million boxes (195 thousand metric tons), unchanged from last month and 9 percent less than last season. With harvest virtually complete in Florida, the State's crop estimate is 2.50 million boxes, unchanged from last month and 17 percent less than last season. The California crop forecast continues at 1.70 million boxes, 9 percent below the previous season. The Arizona crop estimate remains at 850 thousand boxes, 21 percent above last season.

TEMPLES: The Florida temple crop is expected to total 3.10 million boxes (127 thousand metric tons), up 3 percent from the February 1 forecast but 14 percent less than produced in 1980-81. Harvest is about 84 percent complete.

PAPAYAS: Hawaii fresh papaya production in March is forecast at 4.70 million pounds (2130 metric tons), up 32 percent from February but two percent below March a year ago. Fresh papaya production is expected to drop two percent in April before increasing seasonally in May and June to 5.50 million pounds (2490 metric tons) and 5.75 million pounds (2610 metric tons), respectively.

February fresh production is estimated at 3.55 million pounds (1610 metric tons), up 6 percent from January but 13 percent below a year ago. Area harvested in February increased one percent from the previous month to 2290 acres (930 hectares) as harvest acreage lost to disease was more than off-set by younger fields reaching bearing age.

Heavy rains in February prevented Phytophthora-plagued fields from improving. Consequently, an estimated 20 percent of the acreage available for harvest on Kauai has been removed. Losses may reach at least 30 percent of total acreage for harvest on that Island by the end of March, if grower intentions to abandon badly infected fields are realized. Mature tree losses in other areas were above normal but will not severely affect production. Kauai Island accounted for 12 percent of 1981's total fresh production and 11 percent of the total area harvested last year. Forecasts of production have been revised downward to account for the effects of the recent wet weather. Cool temperatures in the major producing area of Puna on the Island of Hawaii are also believed to have delayed the maturity of fruits.

POTATOES: Winter potato production in the U.S. is forecast at 2.32 million cwt (105 thousand metric tons), 2 percent above last month's forecast. This is 6 percent above last year's record low output, but 2 percent below 1980. Production in Florida is estimated at 1.39 million cwt, 7 percent more than last year. Harvest is increasing in southwest Florida and Dade County and is complete in the Stuart area. Yields have improved as the harvest season progresses. Quality and size are good. Harvest should be in full swing by mid-March and continue into April. California's production is forecast at 931 thousand cwt, 4 percent above 1981. Harvest is in the final stages in many areas. Yields and quality are reported as mostly good to very good. The ratio of number 1's appears to be running slightly ahead of last year.

Area planted to spring potatoes in the U.S. is expected to total 78.9 thousand acres (31.9 thousand hectares), down fractionally from last year, but 5 percent above the 1980 record low acreage. Harvested acreage is expected to total 77.8 thousand acres (31.5 thousand hectares), fractionally below a year ago, but 9 percent above 1980. If realized, this would be the second smallest harvested acreage of record.

California's planted acreage is estimated at 26.0 thousand acres, down 2 percent from 1981. Table varieties account for 80 to 85 percent of the planted acreage. Favorable weather aided growers in their planting efforts. Presently the crop is in very good condition with crop progress about normal to date.

Planted acreage in Florida is expected to total 23.3 thousand acres, 5 percent above last year. Planting of the spring crop was practically complete by March 5. The early planted acreage is blooming and fields that were planted later are generally up to excellent stands. Plant growth has been good to date. Harvest is expected to begin in April and continue into June.

In North Carolina, planted acreage is estimated at 14.0 thousand acres, 4 percent greater than in 1981. Planting progress has been slow because of wet weather but is expected to gain momentum over the next couple of weeks. Estimated acreage planted in Texas at 6.2 thousand acres, is unchanged from last year. In the Rio Grande Valley, planting began early and progressed well. Late February rains were beneficial to crop development and initial harvest is expected to begin about mid-April. In the Winter Garden area, planting was active during late February. Irrigation has been earlier than normal due to dry conditions. In the Knox-Haskell area land preparation is active but moisture will be needed to help establish stands.

POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	AREA					
	PLANTED			HARVESTED		
	1980	1981	INDICATED 1982	1980	1981	INDICATED 1982
	1,000 ACRES					
<u>WINTER</u>						
CALIF	3.0	3.2	3.8	3.0	3.2	3.8
FLA	8.6	8.4	7.5	8.5	8.4	7.5
TOTAL	11.6	11.6	11.3	11.5	11.6	11.3
<u>SPRING</u>						
ALA	5.5	4.0	3.4	5.0	4.0	3.4
ARIZ	4.4	5.2	4.8	4.4	5.2	4.8
CALIF	22.5	26.4	26.0	22.5	26.4	26.0
FLA - HASTINGS	20.0	21.0	22.0	18.0	20.5	21.5
- OTHER	1.0	1.1	1.3	.8	1.0	1.2
LA	2.1	1.7	1.2	1.7	1.6	1.1
N C	13.2	13.5	14.0	13.0	13.3	13.8
TEX	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.0	6.0
TOTAL	75.2	79.1	78.9	71.6	78.0	77.8
	YIELD			PRODUCTION		
	1980	1981	INDICATED 1982	1980	1981	INDICATED 1982
	CWT			1,000 CWT		
<u>WINTER</u>						
CALIF	235	280	245	705	896	931
FLA	195	155	185	1,658	1,302	1,388
TOTAL	205	189	205	2,363	2,198	2,319
<u>SPRING 1/</u>						
ALA	125	180		625	720	
ARIZ	290	280		1,276	1,456	
CALIF	390	390		8,775	10,296	
FLA - HASTINGS	195	245		3,510	5,023	
- OTHER	170	240		136	240	
LA	70	80		119	128	
N C	140	155		1,820	2,062	
TEX	130	140		806	840	
TOTAL	238	266		17,067	20,765	

1/ YIELD AND PRODUCTION FOR 1982 TO BE RELEASED APRIL 12, 1982.

PAPAYAS - HAWAII

MONTH	AREA				FRESH PRODUCTION		
	TOTAL IN CROP		HARVESTED		1981	1982	FORECAST 1982
	1981	1982	1981	1982			
	ACRES				1,000 POUNDS		
JAN	3,065	3,180	2,105	2,265	4,381	3,360	
FEB	2,970	3,110	1,975	2,290	4,070	3,550	
MAR	3,015		1,960		4,801		4,700
APR	3,090		2,040		5,429		4,600
MAY	3,160		2,045		4,970		5,500
JUN	3,145		2,060		5,955		5,750
CUMULATIVE FRESH PRODUCTION JAN-FEB					8,451	6,910	

CITRUS FRUIT

1/

CROP	PRODUCTION			PRODUCTION		
	BOXES			TON EQUIVALENT		
AND	UTILIZED	INDICATED		UTILIZED	INDICATED	
STATE	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82
	1,000 UNITS 2/			1,000 UNITS		
ORANGES, EARLY MID & NAVEL 3/						
ARIZ	850	900	950	32	34	36
CALIF	32,600	38,750	27,000	1,223	1,453	1,013
FLA	117,900	105,600	75,000	5,306	4,752	3,375
TEX	2,300	2,600	3,600	97	110	153
U S	153,650	147,850	106,550	6,658	6,349	4,577
ORANGES, VALENCIA						
ARIZ	2,650	1,700	1,900	99	64	71
CALIF	26,800	27,500	22,000	1,005	1,031	825
FLA	88,800	66,800	56,000	3,996	3,006	2,520
TEX	1,730	1,730	2,400	74	74	102
U S	119,980	97,730	82,300	5,174	4,175	3,518
ALL ORANGES						
ARIZ	3,500	2,600	2,850	131	98	107
CALIF	59,400	66,250	49,000	2,228	2,484	1,838
FLA	206,700	172,400	131,000	9,302	7,758	5,895
TEX	4,030	4,330	6,000	171	184	255
U S	273,630	245,580	188,850	11,832	10,524	8,095
TEMPLES						
FLA	6,000	3,600	3,100	270	162	140
GRAPEFRUIT, WHITE SEEDLESS						
FLA	31,100	28,400	28,000	1,322	1,207	1,190
GRAPEFRUIT, PINK SEEDLESS						
FLA	15,800	14,600	14,000	671	621	595
OTHER GRAPEFRUIT						
FLA	7,900	7,300	6,000	336	310	255
ALL GRAPEFRUIT						
ARIZ	3,000	2,800	2,800	96	90	90
CALIF 4/						
DESERT	4,200	4,260	4,000	134	136	128
OTHER AREAS	3,300	3,800		111	127	
TOTAL	7,500	8,060		245	263	
FLA	54,800	50,300	48,000	2,329	2,138	2,040
TEX	7,900	6,700	12,000	316	268	480
U S	73,200	67,860		2,986	2,759	
TANGERINES						
ARIZ	750	700	850	28	26	32
CALIF	1,650	1,860	1,700	62	70	64
FLA	3,900	3,000	2,500	185	143	119
U S	6,300	5,560	5,050	275	239	215
LEMONS						
ARIZ	3,050	7,000	7,000	116	266	266
CALIF	17,700	24,800	19,800	673	942	752
U S	20,750	31,800	26,800	789	1,208	1,018
TANGELOS						
FLA	6,400	4,900	5,100	288	221	230

- 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.
- 4/ THE FIRST FORECAST FOR CALIF GRAPEFRUIT "OTHER AREAS" WILL BE AS OF APR 1.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250**

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