
Crop Production



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RELEASED: March 9, 1984
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HIGHLIGHTS

CITRUS production forecast at 10.9 million tons (9.89 million metric tons), 19 percent below last season.

ORANGE production forecast at 178 million boxes (6.86 million metric tons), fractionally higher than last month, 21 percent less than 1982-83.

GRAPEFRUIT production, excluding California "Other Areas" crop, forecast at 47.8 million boxes (1.77 million metric tons), 4 percent less than last month, 17 percent below last season.

LEMON production, at 23.5 million boxes (810 thousand metric tons), down 4 percent from last month, 6 percent less than 1982-83 season.

WINTER POTATO production forecast at 2.86 million cwt (130 thousand metric tons), up 31 percent from last year, 26 percent above 1982.

SPRING POTATO planted area estimated at 82.7 thousand acres (33.5 thousand hectares), up 4 percent from last year, 5 percent above 1982.

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

CROP	INDICATED 1983-84		
	1982-83	FEB 1	MAR 1
	1,000 BOXES		
ORANGES	225,080	177,130	177,580
LEMONS	24,950	24,500	23,500

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	
	1983	INDICATED 1984	1983	INDICATED 1984
	1,000 ACRES			
WINTER	11.5	13.2	11.3	13.0
SPRING	79.9	82.7	77.4	81.0
	YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION	
	1983	INDICATED 1984	1983	INDICATED 1984
			FEB 1	MAR 1
	CWT		1,000 CWT	
WINTER	194	220	2,193	2,676
SPRING	237	APR 9	18,314	APR 9 2,862

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

CROP	1982-83	INDICATED 1983-84	
		FEB 1	MAR 1
METRIC TONS			
ORANGES	8 630 960	6 840 170	6 859 220
LEMONS	859 100	844 590	810 120

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	
	1983	INDICATED 1984	1983	INDICATED 1984
HECTARES				
WINTER	4 650	5 340	4 570	5 260
SPRING	32 330	33 470	31 320	32 780
YIELD PER HECTARE : PRODUCTION				
	1983	INDICATED 1984	1983	INDICATED 1984
			FEB 1	MAR 1
METRIC TONS				
WINTER	21.77	24.68	99 470	121 380
SPRING	26.52	APR 9	830 700	129 820
				APR 9

FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Unseasonably mild weather generally continued over the northern Plains and spread southward into the central Plains and eastward to the Atlantic seaboard. However, two major cold outbreaks covered the eastern half of the Nation for several days during the first and fourth weeks of the month. Abnormal wetness stretched from the mid-Appalachians into New England, and over the western Great Lakes Region, south-central Florida, northeast Texas, and from Missouri to Oregon. The major winter storm at the end of the month dumped considerable snow from the central Plains to the Appalachians, and northward to the Great Lakes and New England. Drier than usual weather continued over the Southwest and extended into the central High Plains of West Texas, southwestern Nebraska, and the northwestern Great Plains. (Prepared by NOAA/USDA Joint Agricultural Weather Facility.)

WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat was in mostly fair condition in Texas, fair to good in rest of Nation at beginning of March. Unseasonably mild temperatures left wheat fields across Great Plains with limited or no protective snow cover for much of February. Several snow storms halted topdressing of stands during month but provided beneficial moisture from central Plains through Corn Belt. Dry conditions persisted on Texas Plains and in West Texas, limiting early spring growth. By end of February, wheatlands were greening as far north as Kansas and southern Indiana. Topdressing was limited by wet conditions throughout month in Southeast.

Kansas wheat fields were left unprotected from weather changes as snow cover was mostly melted early in month. Producers actively applied fertilizer as field conditions permitted. Stands were rated fair to mostly good as mild temperatures caused crop to break dormancy as month ended. Topsoil moisture was adequate. Wheat in Oklahoma came out of dormancy early in month. Warm weather and generally adequate moisture promoted good growth. Stands were in mostly good condition but some fields plagued by weeds. Cattle producers began moving herds onto wheat pastures late in month. Texas wheat was rated mostly fair. Irrigated stands were in good condition on Texas Plains, and dryland fields were beginning to green up as month ended. Additional moisture was needed on Texas Plains and in Central and South Texas. Drying winds further depleted soil moisture late in February. Northern Plains wheatlands were in good condition despite poor snow cover for much of month. Wind damage was light.

FEBRUARY FIELDWORK

Heavy snow at midmonth and again at month's end halted fertilizing of small grains and land preparation across much of Corn Belt. Above normal temperatures during February melted snow cover across North, stimulated early spring growth of crops and pastures in South. Widespread precipitation continually delayed early planting in Southeast. However, corn planting was underway across extreme South from Texas to Florida by end of month. Progress ranged from just starting in Georgia to 2% complete in Texas. Southern Texas sorghum growers had planted 2% of crop by last week in February. Land preparation and preplant irrigation of cotton fields progressed rapidly in California and Southwest.

Tobacco growers prepared and seeded plantbeds across South. However, wet conditions delayed transplanting in Florida. Plantbeds were in fair to mostly good condition in Southeast. Northern producers pruned, applied dormant sprays to deciduous fruit orchards when conditions permitted. Warm weather pushed peach development as much as 1 month ahead of schedule in Southeast. Producers were concerned about possible damage if colder weather returned to region. Vegetable harvesting, spring planting was active in Florida, Texas, Arizona, California.

ORANGES: The U.S. all orange crop is forecast at 178 million boxes (6.86 million metric tons) for 1983-84 season, fractionally higher than February 1 forecast, 21 percent less than 1982-83 season. Florida's all orange crop estimated at nearly 119 million boxes, up fractionally from February 1 estimate, 15 percent less than last season's crop. Production prospects for early and mid-season oranges in Florida 69.5 million boxes, 1 percent more than last month, 1 percent below 1982-83. The Valencia crop in Florida forecast at 49.0 million boxes, unchanged from a month ago, 29 percent less than 1982-83 season.

Harvest of all U.S. oranges as of March 1 about 56 percent complete, compared with 42 percent a year earlier. Harvest of Florida early and mid-season varieties 98 percent complete, Valencias 21 percent complete.

California production, at 54.0 million boxes, unchanged from last month, 29 percent less than season's record high production. Navel orange output forecast at 33.0 million boxes, 18 percent less than 1982-83 harvest. As of March 1, 58 percent of California's navel crop harvested. California's Valencia orange crop forecast continues at 21.0 million boxes, 42 percent below last season. Texas orange production 2.23 million boxes, 61 percent below 1982-83. Arizona crop expected to total 2.85 million boxes, down 2 percent from last month's estimate, 25 percent below last season's production. Texas harvest complete. Arizona harvest 14 percent complete.

Changes in U.S. orange production between March 1 forecast and final production averaged 5.13 million boxes over past ten seasons, ranging from low of 170 thousand boxes in 1980-81 to high of 12.2 million boxes in 1981-82 season.

FLORIDA FROZEN CONCENTRATED JUICE YIELD: Forecast 1983-84 Florida FCOJ yield is now 1.25 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix equivalent. The yield forecast is an estimate of the season average which will be reported at end of the season by the Florida Citrus Processor's Association. The FCOJ yield projection last month was 1.21 gallons per box. Final season average was 1.48305 gallons per box for 1982-83 and 1.27730 gallons per box for 1981-82 at 42.0 degrees Brix equivalent.

GRAPEFRUIT: The 1983-84 grapefruit crop (excluding California "Other Areas") forecast at 47.8 million boxes (1.77 million metric tons), down 4 percent from last month and 17 percent less than last season. Florida's forecast at 38.0 million boxes, off 5 percent from last month and 4 percent below last season. Texas crop harvest complete at 3.20 million boxes, 71 percent below last season's crop. California "Desert Valley" production forecast continues at 4.20 million boxes, 2 percent above 1982-83. Arizona's crop forecast at 2.40 million boxes, down 4 percent from last month, and 11 percent below last season.

Grapefruit harvest was 60 percent complete March 1, the same percentage as a year ago. Picking in Florida 64 percent complete compared with 67 percent on March 1 last year. Harvest in Arizona 20 percent complete and in California 15 percent. Due to the December freeze, harvest in Texas is complete.

LEMONS: Production forecast in Arizona and California 23.5 million boxes (810 thousand metric tons), down 4 percent from last month, 6 percent less than last season. California's crop forecast continues at 19.0 million boxes, 5 percent less than 1982-83 season. In Arizona, forecast for crop to be utilized 4.50 million boxes, 11 percent below last season. Harvest about 80 percent complete in Arizona and 44 percent in California.

TEMPLES: Florida temples forecast 2.70 million boxes (111 thousand metric tons), up 8 percent from February 1, 43 percent below last season. Picking advanced rapidly during February and by month's end harvest was 82 percent complete.

TANGERINES: U.S. crop forecast, at 4.85 million boxes (183 thousand metric tons), unchanged from last month, 8 percent less than 1982-83. Florida crop harvest complete at 2.00 million boxes.

TANGELOS: Florida crop forecast 3.70 million boxes (152 thousand metric tons), unchanged from last month, 3 percent below 1982-83 season. Harvest as of March 1 was 98 percent complete.

FLORIDA GENERAL CITRUS: Citrus groves in Florida enjoyed spring-like weather through most of February. Warm days and mild nights produced an abundance of new growth on non-freeze damaged trees of all ages. By the end of this past month, many of those trees severely damaged by the late December freeze had shown very little, if any, new growth. Where the freeze damage extends into the main trunk and older hard wood, there is generally no new growth. Bloom buds and some open bloom were reported on the undamaged trees located on lower east coast and lower interior of citrus belt. Soil moisture has been very good during February. Harvest of early and mid-season oranges was very active during first half of February, then slowed toward end of month. Most of freeze-damaged Valencia oranges from upper interior and west coast have been moved to processing plants. Picking of grapefruit increased with available labor as orange harvest decreased.

PAPAYAS: Hawaii fresh papaya production in March forecast at 3.90 million pounds (1770 metric tons), a 17 percent drop from February, but 77 percent above drought-depressed level of a year ago. Production expected to rise sharply in April to 5.15 million pounds (2340 metric tons) before declining in May and June to 4.75 and 4.40 million pounds (2150 and 2000 metric tons), respectively. These forecasts have been revised upward from earlier projections to account for orchards on island of Kauai which are reaching harvest within eight months of planting compared with the industry average of one year.

February production is estimated at 4.70 million pounds (2130 metric tons), an increase of 1 percent from previous month and 67 percent greater than previous year. In February, area in crop decreased fractionally from previous month to 3660 acres (1480 hectares), ending six consecutive months of record high acreage. Area harvested totaled 2405 acres (970 hectares), a 3 percent increase from January and 18 percent above last year.

POTATOES: Winter production forecast at 2.86 million cwt (130 thousand metric tons), up 31 percent from last year and 26 percent above 1982. March 1 forecast reflects better yields than earlier anticipated in both Florida and California.

Florida harvest full swing, should peak mid-March. Yields improved, prospects good for later diggings. Harvest in California completed most areas.

Spring potato plantings estimated at 82.7 thousand acres (33.5 thousand hectares), up 4 percent from last year, 5 percent above 1982. Area expected for harvest 81.0 thousand acres (32.8 thousand hectares), up 5 percent from last year, 4 percent above 1982. Planting and growing conditions are better than last year.

California planting virtually complete in Kern District under excellent planting and growing weather. Arizona acreage down slightly from last year. Planting nearly finished.

Florida planted acreage up 11 percent from last year. Early planting fair to good, some wind damage Hastings area. Some planting yet to be done in western Panhandle. Harvest to start in early fields during late March and early April and will gain momentum during late April. Alabama planting about half completed, with increased acreage expected in Baldwin County area.

In Louisiana and North Carolina, excessive moisture delaying planting. Most planting completed in Rio Grande Valley of Texas and the San Antonio-Winter Garden area. Potato fields look good, growing normally. Harvest expected to start on normal schedule. Planting in full swing Knox-Haskell area under good conditions.

POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	AREA				YIELD		PRODUCTION		
	PLANTED		HARVESTED						
	1983	IND 1984	1983	IND 1984	1983	IND 1984	1982	1983	IND 1984
	1,000 ACRES				CWT		1,000 CWT		
WINTER									
CALIF	4.7	5.6	4.7	5.6	270	260	931	1,269	1,456
FLA	6.8	7.6	6.6	7.4	140	190	1,332	924	1,406
TOTAL	11.5	13.2	11.3	13.0	194	220	2,263	2,193	2,862
SPRING 1/									
ALA	4.5	4.7	4.1	4.6	125		714	513	
ARIZ	4.9	4.7	4.9	4.7	260		1,434	1,274	
CALIF	25.5	25.5	24.5	25.5	340		9,563	8,330	
FLA									
HASTINGS	22.5	25.0	22.0	24.0	215		5,160	4,730	
OTHER	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	155		252	186	
LA	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	50		88	50	
N C	14.0	14.0	13.8	13.8	155		2,208	2,139	
TEX	6.1	6.4	5.9	6.2	185		1,140	1,092	
TOTAL	79.9	82.7	77.4	81.0	237		20,559	18,314	

1/ YIELD AND PRODUCTION FOR 1984 TO BE RELEASED APRIL 9, 1984.

PAPAYAS - HAWAII

MONTH	AREA				FRESH PRODUCTION		
	TOTAL IN CROP		HARVESTED				
	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	FORECAST 1984
	ACRES				1,000 POUNDS		
JAN	3,010	3,675	2,030	2,330	3,563	4,660	
FEB	3,060	3,660	2,045	2,405	2,821	4,700	
MAR	3,110		2,030		2,200		3,900
APR	3,065		2,095		2,516		5,150
MAY	3,150		2,087		4,784		4,750
JUN	3,180		2,070		4,690		4,400
CUMULATIVE FRESH PRODUCTION JAN-FEB					6,384	9,360	

CITRUS FRUIT

1/

CROP	PRODUCTION BOXES			PRODUCTION TON EQUIVALENT		
	UTILIZED	INDICATED	UTILIZED	INDICATED	UTILIZED	INDICATED
AND STATE	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
	1,000 UNITS 2/			1,000 UNITS		
ORANGES, EARLY MID & NAVEL 3/:						
ARIZ	900	1,050	700	34	39	26
CALIF	26,500	40,200	33,000	994	1,508	1,238
FLA	74,000	70,200	69,500	3,330	3,159	3,128
TEX 4/:	3,610	3,590	2,200	153	152	94
U S	105,010	115,040	105,400	4,511	4,858	4,486
ORANGES, VALENCIA						
ARIZ	2,150	2,750	2,150	81	103	81
CALIF	15,400	35,900	21,000	578	1,346	788
FLA	51,800	69,300	49,000	2,331	3,118	2,205
TEX 4/:	2,330	2,090	30	99	89	1
U S	71,680	110,040	72,180	3,089	4,656	3,075
ALL ORANGES						
ARIZ	3,050	3,800	2,850	115	142	107
CALIF	41,900	76,100	54,000	1,572	2,854	2,026
FLA	125,800	139,500	118,500	5,661	6,277	5,333
TEX 4/:	5,940	5,680	2,230	252	241	95
U S	176,690	225,080	177,580	7,600	9,514	7,561
TEMPLES						
FLA	3,200	4,700	2,700	144	211	122
GRAPEFRUIT, WHITE SEEDLESS						
FLA	27,300	21,800	21,000	1,160	926	893
GRAPEFRUIT, PINK SEEDLESS						
FLA	14,800	12,800	13,000	629	544	553
OTHER GRAPEFRUIT						
FLA	6,000	4,800	4,000	255	204	170
ALL GRAPEFRUIT						
ARIZ	2,400	2,700	2,400	77	87	77
CALIF 5/:						
DESERT	3,400	4,100	4,200	109	131	134
TOTAL	6,000	7,300		196	238	
FLA	48,100	39,400	38,000	2,044	1,674	1,616
TEX 4/:	13,900	11,200	3,200	556	448	128
U S	70,400	60,600		2,873	2,447	
TANGERINES						
ARIZ	750	880	950	28	33	36
CALIF	1,730	2,120	1,900	65	80	71
FLA 4/:	2,500	2,250	2,000	119	107	95
U S	4,980	5,250	4,850	212	220	202
LEMONS						
ARIZ	6,300	5,050	4,500	239	191	171
CALIF	18,500	19,900	19,000	703	756	722
U S	24,800	24,950	23,500	942	947	893
TANGELOS						
FLA	5,100	3,800	3,700	229	171	167

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/ ESTIMATES FOR CURRENT YEAR CARRIED FORWARD FROM EARLIER FORECAST.

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



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