
Crop Production



United States
Department of
Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

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HIGHLIGHTS

CITRUS production is forecast at 11.9 million tons (10.8 million metric tons), 10 percent higher than last season.

ORANGE production is forecast at 191 million boxes (7.34 million metric tons), 3 percent less than February 1 but 8 percent above the 1985-86 season.

GRAPEFRUIT production, excluding the California "Other Areas" crop, is forecast at 56.9 million boxes (2.14 million metric tons), down 1 percent from February 1 but 7 percent higher than last season.

LEMON production, at 24.7 million boxes (852 thousand metric tons), is up 3 percent from February 1 and 35 percent higher than last season's utilized production.

WINTER POTATO production is forecast at 2.79 million cwt (126 thousand metric tons), down 7 percent from last year but 4 percent above 1985.

SPRING POTATO plantings are expected to total 79.3 thousand acres (32.1 thousand hectares), up 2 percent from last year but 14 percent below two years ago.

* NOTICE *
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* The next issue of this report will be published April 9, 1987 *
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UNITED STATES CROP SUMMARY
(DOMESTIC UNITS)
CITRUS FRUITS, PRODUCTION 1/

CROP	1985-86	INDICATED 1986-87	
		FEB 1	MAR 1
		1,000 BOXES	
ORANGES	176,410	196,700	190,850
LEMONS	18,350	24,000	24,700

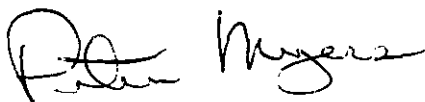
1/ SEASON BEGINS WITH BLOOM OF THE FIRST YEAR SHOWN AND ENDS WITH THE COMPLETION OF HARVEST THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP	AREA PLANTED		AREA HARVESTED	
	1986	INDICATED 1987	1986	INDICATED 1987
	1,000 ACRES			
WINTER	12.5	12.1	12.3	11.9
SPRING	77.4	79.3	75.9	76.7
	YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION	
	1986	INDICATED 1987	1986	INDICATED 1987
			FEB 1	MAR 1
	CWT		1,000 CWT	
WINTER	243	234	2,991	2,764
SPRING	261	APR 9	19,822	2,788 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 Agricultural Statistics Board which consists of commodity statisticians from the field offices and Washington headquarters.

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

CROP	1985-86	INDICATED 1986-87	
		FEB 1	MAR 1
METRIC TONS			
ORANGES	6,814,770	7,573,180	7,340,940
LEMONS	632,310	827,350	851,850

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	
	1986	INDICATED 1987	1986	INDICATED 1987
HECTARES				
WINTER	5,060	4,900	4,980	4,820
SPRING	31,320	32,090	30,720	31,040
	YIELD PER HECTARE		PRODUCTION	
	1986	INDICATED 1987	1986	INDICATED 1987
METRIC TONS				
WINTER	27.24	26.24	135,670	125,370
SPRING	29.27	APR 9	899,110	126,460
APR 9				

POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	AREA				YIELD		PRODUCTION		
	PLANTED		HARVESTED						
	1986	IND 1987	1986	IND 1987	1986	IND 1987	1985	1986	IND 1987
	1,000 ACRES				CWT		1,000 CWT		
WINTER									
CALIF	5.1	4.8	5.1	4.8	290	285	1,404	1,479	1,368
FLA	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.1	210	200	1,287	1,512	1,420
TOTAL	12.5	12.1	12.3	11.9	243	234	2,691	2,991	2,788
SPRING 1/									
ALA	4.9	5.0	4.7	4.9	145		848	682	
ARIZ	6.1	4.9	5.9	4.9	220		1,450	1,298	
CALIF	19.5	19.0	19.5	19.0	390		10,588	7,605	
FLA									
HASTINGS	25.0	27.0	24.5	25.0	280		6,370	6,860	
OTHER	1.0	2.0	.9	1.9	190		273	171	
LA	.6	.5	.5	.5	70		42	35	
N C	13.9	13.9	13.7	13.7	150		2,310	2,055	
TEX	6.4	7.0	6.2	6.8	180		1,105	1,116	
TOTAL	77.4	79.3	75.9	76.7	261		22,986	19,822	

1/ YIELD AND PRODUCTION FOR 1987 TO BE RELEASED APRIL 9, 1987.

PAPAYAS - HAWAII

MONTH	AREA				FRESH PRODUCTION		
	TOTAL IN CROP		HARVESTED				
	1986	1987	1986	1987	1986	1987	FORECAST 1987
	ACRES				1,000 POUNDS		
JAN	3,810	3,905	2,430	2,420	3,925	4,400	
FEB	3,890	3,860	2,485	2,465	3,970	3,600	
MAR	3,985		2,405		4,285		3,700
APR	3,910		2,390		4,350		4,700
MAY	3,890		2,380		4,945		4,800
JUN	4,000		2,365		3,685		4,600
CUMULATIVE FRESH PRODUCTION JAN-FEB					7,895	8,000	

CITRUS FRUIT 1/

CROP AND STATE	PRODUCTION BOXES			PRODUCTION TON EQUIVALENT		
	UTILIZED	INDICATED:		UTILIZED	INDICATED	
	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
	1,000 UNITS 2/			1,000 UNITS		
ORANGES, EARLY MID & NAVEL 3/:						
ARIZ	650	600	950	25	23	36
CALIF	26,200	33,300	36,500	982	1,249	1,369
FLA	55,000	64,200	67,000	2,475	2,889	3,015
TEX 4/:	0	200	500	0	9	21
U S	81,850	98,300	104,950	3,482	4,170	4,441
ORANGES, VALENCIA						
ARIZ	1,800	1,700	1,500	68	64	56
CALIF	26,200	21,500	27,000	983	807	1,013
FLA	48,900	54,800	57,000	2,201	2,466	2,565
TEX 4/:	0	110	400	0	5	17
U S	76,900	78,110	85,900	3,252	3,342	3,651
ALL ORANGES						
ARIZ	2,450	2,300	2,450	93	87	92
CALIF	52,400	54,800	63,500	1,965	2,056	2,382
FLA	103,900	119,000	124,000	4,676	5,355	5,580
TEX 4/:	0	310	900	0	14	38
U S	158,750	176,410	190,850	6,734	7,512	8,092
TEMPLES						
FLA	3,250	2,950	3,400	146	133	153
GRAPEFRUIT, WHITE SEEDLESS						
FLA	24,800	25,600	27,000	1,054	1,088	1,148
GRAPEFRUIT, COLORED SEEDLESS						
FLA	16,300	18,000	19,500	693	765	829
OTHER GRAPEFRUIT						
FLA	2,900	3,150	3,000	123	134	128
ALL GRAPEFRUIT						
ARIZ	3,000	2,400	1,800	96	77	58
CALIF 5/:						
DESERT	3,800	3,600	3,600	121	115	115
OTHER AREAS	5,000	4,800		168	161	
TOTAL	8,800	8,400		289	276	
FLA	44,000	46,750	49,500	1,870	1,987	2,105
TEX 4/:	0	220	2,000	0	9	80
U S	55,800	57,770		2,255	2,349	
TANGERINES						
ARIZ	700	700	700	26	26	26
CALIF	1,680	1,800	1,900	63	68	71
FLA	1,050	1,150	1,300	50	55	62
U S	3,430	3,650	3,900	139	149	159
LEMONS						
ARIZ	6,000	3,250	6,200	228	123	236
CALIF	19,800	15,100	18,500	752	574	703
U S	25,800	18,350	24,700	980	697	939
TANGELOS						
FLA	3,600	2,950	4,000	162	133	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/ NAVAL AND MISCELLANEOUS VARIETIES IN CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA. EARLY AND MID-SEASON VARIETIES IN FLORIDA AND TEXAS, INCLUDING SMALL QUANTITIES OF TANGERINES IN TEXAS. 4/ DUE TO THE SEVERE FREEZE OF DECEMBER 1983, NO COMMERCIAL SUPPLIES WERE HARVESTED FOR 1984-85 TEXAS CITRUS CROPS. 5/ THE FIRST FORECAST FOR CALIF GRAPEFRUIT "OTHER AREAS" WILL BE AS OF APR 1.

FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Average temperatures continued to be well above-normal in the central and northern Great Plains and the warmer-than-normal area expanded to include the area from the Rocky Mountains to the Appalachians, except for the Northeast. Temperatures were near or slightly cooler than normal along the east coast and over the western Plateau region. Some cold outbreak did occur in the northern Plains and Great Lakes region but they were of short duration. Precipitation was generally favorable for most of the Nation. Notable dry areas were from the middle and upper Mississippi Valley to the Mid-Atlantic States and the Northeast, the northern High Plains and the Northwest, and parts of the Southwest and central Intermountain region of the West. Unusually cold air flowed into the Southwest during the latter part of the month and brought freezing temperatures to some of the southern valleys of California and Arizona. (Prepared by NOAA/USDA Joint Agricultural Weather Facility.)

WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat was mostly good to fair during February. Snow cover was mostly nonexistent in the northern Rockies, central and northern Great Plains and the southern Corn Belt. However, there was adequate snow protection at critical times when temperatures dipped below freezing. Above-normal temperatures were instrumental in keeping winter damage at a minimum, especially in the central and northern Plains, the southern Corn Belt, and the Rocky Mountain States. The warm temperatures encouraged growth but low soil moisture limited growth in the central and northern Great Plains. Early in the month, wheat showed signs of greening in Kansas and jointing in Texas. By midmonth, wheat was greening as far north as Montana. Oklahoma's wheat reached the jointing stage near the end of February. In the Southwest, inadequate moisture slowed wheat growth during the first half of the month.

FEBRUARY FIELDWORK

Harvest of the 1986 cotton crop dragged into February. Wetness impeded harvest during most of the month in Oklahoma and Texas. Harvest neared completion in both States as the month drew to a close. Land preparation for spring planting progressed rapidly in the Southwest during the first half of February. In Arizona, cotton planting was underway the third week of February. Wetness hampered field activity in the Southeast during most of the month. The last week of February, land preparation moved into the central Plains and as far north as Iowa. Plowing was underway in southern Utah. By the end of the month, corn planting was underway in Arizona, Alabama, and Texas. Sorghum planting reached 2 percent completion in Texas. Fruit tree pruning was active throughout the Nation during February. In California and Texas, peach trees bloomed around midmonth. Texas peach trees reached the bloom stage about two weeks earlier than normal.

ORANGES: The U.S. all orange crop is forecast at 191 million boxes (7.34 million metric tons) for the 1986-87 season, down 3 percent from the February 1 forecast but 8 percent above the 1985-86 season. Florida's all orange crop is estimated at 124 million boxes, down 4 percent from the February 1 estimate but 4 percent higher than last season's crop. Production prospects for early and mid-season oranges in Florida are 67.0 million boxes, down 7 percent from February 1 but 4 percent above 1985-86. Harvest of Florida's early and mid-season oranges is 96 percent complete. The Valencia crop in Florida is forecast at 57.0 million boxes, unchanged from the February 1 forecast but 4 percent higher than the 1985-86 season. Only about 1 percent of Florida Valencias had been picked as of March 1.

Harvest of all U.S. oranges as of March 1 was about 45 percent complete compared with 47 percent a year earlier.

California all orange production, at 63.5 million boxes, is down 2 percent from February 1 but is 16 percent higher than last season. The Navel orange output is forecast at 36.5 million boxes, unchanged from February 1 and 10 percent higher than the 1985-86 harvest. As of March 1, 51 percent of California's Navel crop had been harvested. California's Valencia orange crop is forecast at 27.0 million boxes, down 4 percent from February 1 but up 26 percent from last season's crop. Picking of California Valencias has begun in the Coachella Valley. The all orange forecast for Arizona is expected to total 2.45 million boxes, up 4 percent from February 1 and 7 percent above last season's production. The Arizona harvest is 40 percent complete. The forecast in Texas is 900 thousand boxes of all oranges. Harvest in Texas is about 76 percent complete.

Changes in U.S. orange production between the March 1 forecast and final production averaged 4.70 million boxes over the past ten seasons, ranging from a low of 170 thousand boxes in 1980-81 to a high of 12.2 million boxes in 1981-82.

FLORIDA FROZEN CONCENTRATED JUICE YIELD: The 1986-87 yield projection of Frozen Concentrated Orange Juice is 1.47 gallons per box at 42.0 degree Brix, compared with the February 1 projection of 1.46 gallons per box. This all orange yield computation is projected to the final amount reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association at the end of the harvest season. The 1985-86 final season average yield was 1.37834 gallons per box. In 1984-85, the FCOJ final yield was 1.37582 gallons per box which was affected by freezing weather.

GRAPEFRUIT: The 1986-87 grapefruit crop, excluding California "Other Areas" grapefruit, is forecast at 56.9 million boxes (2.14 million metric tons), down 1 percent from February 1 but 7 percent higher than last season. Florida's forecast is 49.5 million boxes, down 1 percent from the February 1 forecast but 6 percent above last season. California's "Desert Valley" grapefruit production forecast remains at 3.60 million boxes, the same as last season. The forecast for Arizona's crop, at 1.80 million boxes, is 25 percent below last season. The forecast in Texas is 2.00 million boxes, down 5 percent from February 1 and compares with 220 thousand boxes harvested last season.

The grapefruit harvest was 63 percent complete on March 1, compared with 60 percent on the same date a year ago. Picking in Florida is 64 percent complete, compared with 63 percent on March 1 last year. Harvest in Arizona is 50 percent complete; California, 44 percent for the Desert Valley crop; and Texas harvest is 82 percent complete.

LEMONS: The production forecast in Arizona and California is expected to total 24.7 million boxes (852 thousand metric tons), up 3 percent from the February 1 forecast and 35 percent higher than last season's utilized production. The California crop forecast remains at 18.5 million boxes, 23 percent higher than the utilized crop of the 1985-86 season. In Arizona, the forecast is 6.20 million boxes, nearly twice the quantity of last season's small utilized crop. Harvest is about 96 percent complete in Arizona and 53 percent complete in California.

TEMPLES: The Florida temple forecast, at 3.40 million boxes (139 thousand metric tons), is down 6 percent from February 1 but is 15 percent above last season. Harvest was 61 percent complete as of March 1.

TANGERINES: The U.S. forecast, at 3.90 million boxes (144 thousand metric tons), is down 2 percent from February 1 but is 7 percent higher than the 1985-86 crop. The Florida forecast is 1.30 million boxes, 13 percent above last season. The California forecast, at 1.90 million boxes, is up 6 percent from last season. The Arizona forecast remains at 700 thousand boxes, the same as 1985-86.

TANGELOS: The Florida crop, excluding K-early citrus fruit, continues at 4.00 million boxes (163 thousand metric tons), unchanged from the February 1 forecast but 36 percent above last season. Harvest as of March 1 was 98 percent complete.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Most of Florida's citrus groves had mild temperatures during the month. There was adequate rainfall in February, which precluded the need for irrigation. There was considerable bloom bud development and new growth forming this month. Fruit drop was not excessive in any area of the citrus belt. Harvest of early and mid-season oranges slowed from more than six million boxes the first week of February to just two million boxes the last week of the month as supplies were running low. Harvest of all grapefruit increased throughout February due to available labor and favorable maturity levels for processing. Movement of Dancy tangerines virtually ended by midmonth as supplies were almost depleted. Tangelos were still moving at reduced levels at month's end. Picking of Temples increased to nearly 500 thousand boxes for the week ending March 1. Caretakers are starting spring fertilizations and general cultivation practices. Hedging and topping have been reported in harvested groves so that the bearing surface will be reduced prior to the bloom period.

PAPAYAS: Hawaii fresh papaya production is forecast at 3.70 million pounds (1680 metric tons) in March. Increases to 4.70 and 4.80 million pounds (2130 and 2180 metric tons) are anticipated in April and May, respectively, followed by a decline in June to 4.60 million pounds (2090 metric tons).

Fresh utilization in February is estimated at 3.60 million pounds (1630 metric tons), down 18 percent from the previous month and 9 percent below last February. Production was lower than earlier expected due to cool, wet weather which slowed fruit development and caused some disease problems. Area devoted to papaya production totaled 3860 acres (1560 hectares) in February, down 1 percent from both January 1987 and February 1986. Area harvested in February totaled 2465 acres (1000 hectares), an increase of 2 percent from January but 1 percent lower than February last year.

POTATOES: Winter potato production is forecast at 2.79 million cwt (126 thousand metric tons), down 7 percent from last year but 4 percent above 1985. Harvest area is set at 11.9 thousand acres (4820 hectares), down 3 percent from last year. Average yield is forecast at 234 cwt per acre, down 9 cwt from 1986.

California harvest is well ahead of normal. Both market price and quality of the crop are up from last year. Harvest in Florida is in full swing and should peak in mid-March. Sizes and yields are good in the Southwest and Dade County; poorer in the Southeast.

SPRING POTATOES: Planted area is set at 79.3 thousand acres (32.1 thousand hectares), a gain of 2 percent from last year but 14 percent below 1985. Harvest area is forecast at 76.7 thousand acres (31.0 thousand hectares), up 1 percent from last year but 12 percent below 1985.

Wet fields in the Hastings area of Florida caused extensive seed rot and poor stands. Around 2 thousand acres planted to potatoes were abandoned. Some replanting was done where seed was available. Cold, wet weather also delayed potato planting in other southeastern States. As of March 1, less than half of Alabama's potatoes were planted, slightly below normal progress. North Carolina growers are just getting started in their water-soaked fields.

Planting was completed on schedule in Texas' Rio Grande Valley. Progress is normal and harvest should be on time. Other Texas areas were slowed by rain. California spring potatoes are in good shape, although some early fields were frosted. Crop progress is up to 10 days ahead of normal in some areas.