
Crop Production



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Service

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Agricultural
Statistics
Board

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HIGHLIGHTS

CITRUS production as of February 1, is forecast at 11.5 million tons, down slightly from last month but 9 percent above the 1989-90 season.

ORANGE production is forecast at 188 million boxes, unchanged from January 1 but 2 percent above last season. Salvage operations for California's freeze damaged Navel crop have progressed rapidly and the amount salvaged for juice continues to exceed earlier expectations, especially in the Central Valley. Higher than expected fruit drop caused the Florida crop forecast to be lowered slightly.

GRAPEFRUIT production, including California's "Desert" grapefruit but excluding California's "Other Areas" crop, is 52.8 million boxes, unchanged from the January 1 forecast but 21 percent greater than last season. This large increase is the result of last season's devastating freeze in the Florida citrus belt causing significant fruit loss last year.

WINTER POTATO production is forecast at 2.43 million cwt, up 3 percent from a year ago but 12 percent below 1989. Florida growers started digging potatoes in late January. Mid-month rains have cut yields but no acreage was lost. In California, producers are busy sorting out potatoes damaged by the Christmas freeze.

**UNITED STATES CROP SUMMARY
(METRIC UNITS)**

CROP	AREA PLANTED		AREA HARVESTED	
	1990	INDICATED 1991	1990	INDICATED 1991
	HECTARES			
POTATOES WINTER	5,460	5,340	5,340	4,730

**UNITED STATES CROP SUMMARY - YIELD PER HECTARE AND PRODUCTION
(METRIC UNITS)**

CROP	YIELD PER HECTARE		PRODUCTION		
	1990	INDICATED 1991	1990	INDICATED 1991	
				JAN 1	FEB 1
	METRIC TONS				
POTATOES WINTER	19.90	23.26	106,280	111,720	110,000
			1989-90	1990-91	1990-91
ORANGES 1/			7,009,820	7,483,370	7,469,760

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

CITRUS FRUIT 1/

CROP AND STATE	PRODUCTION BOXES			PRODUCTION TON EQUIVALENT			
	UTILIZED			UTILIZED			
	IND			IND			
	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	
	1,000 BOXES 2/			1,000 TONS			
ORANGES, EARLY MID & NAVEL							
AZ	3/:	550	380	550	21	14	21
CA	4/:	34,000	44,100	16,000	1,275	1,654	600
FL	:	85,300	68,100	89,000	3,839	3,064	4,005
TX	5/:	1,200	1,050		51	44	
US	:	121,050	113,630	105,550	5,186	4,776	4,626
ORANGES, VALENCIA							
AZ	4/:	1,150	1,190	1,200	43	44	45
CA	:	24,900	26,800	11,000	934	1,005	413
FL	:	61,300	42,100	70,000	2,758	1,895	3,150
TX	5/:	650	155		28	7	
US	:	88,000	70,245	82,200	3,763	2,951	3,608
ALL ORANGES							
AZ	4/:	1,700	1,570	1,750	64	58	66
CA	:	58,900	70,900	27,000	2,209	2,659	1,013
FL	:	146,600	110,200	159,000	6,597	4,959	7,155
TX	5/:	1,850	1,205		79	51	
US	:	209,050	183,875	187,750	8,949	7,727	8,234
TEMPLES							
FL	:	3,750	1,400	3,100	169	63	140
GRAPEFRUIT, WHITE SEEDLESS							
FL	:	27,700	18,000	23,000	1,177	765	978
GRAPEFRUIT, COLORED SEEDLESS							
FL	:	23,700	16,300	22,500	1,007	693	956
OTHER GRAPEFRUIT							
FL	:	3,350	1,400	1,500	142	60	64
ALL GRAPEFRUIT							
AZ	4/:	1,950	2,200	2,300	63	70	74
CA	4/ 6/:						
DESERT	:	3,500	3,700	3,500	112	118	112
OTHER AREAS	:	4,500	5,000		151	167	
TOTAL	:	8,000	8,700		263	285	
FL	:	54,750	35,700	47,000	2,326	1,518	1,998
TX	5/:	4,800	2,000		192	80	
US	:	69,500	48,600		2,844	1,953	
TANGERINES							
AZ	7/:	650	600	650	25	22	24
CA	4/:	2,040	1,600	1,300	76	61	49
FL	:	2,900	1,700	1,900	138	81	90
US	:	5,590	3,900	3,850	239	164	163
LEMONS							
AZ	4/:	3,800	2,900	3,700	144	110	141
CA	:	16,200	15,700	14,000	615	596	532
US	:	20,000	18,600	17,700	759	706	673
TANGELOS							
FL	:	3,800	2,950	2,900	171	132	131

SEE FOOTNOTES ON NEXT PAGE.

JANUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

The Southeast endured eight drenching rains, the West had an abnormally dry spell, and the Nation as a whole was spared extended cold snaps during this midwinter month. Elsewhere, only a handful of storms hit the normally rainy Pacific Northwest, drought worsened in the northern Plains and California, and persistent high pressure over the central Rockies resulted in below-normal temperatures from the Great Basin to the southern Plains. A series of weak storms dropped frequent light snows from the Midwest to the Northeast. Snow squalls often raged in the Great Lakes States during the last 10 days of the month.

The year 1991 began with many Ohio Valley rivers out of their banks. Precipitation continued at a moderate clip until mid-January in the Ohio Valley, prolonging flood conditions, especially in Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky. As the month progressed, the prime focus for heavy rain shifted southward toward the Gulf coast. With never more than five days between soaking rains, areas from eastern Texas to Georgia saw last year's dryness vanish. In the Southeast, only portions of peninsular Florida remain in need of rain. Many locations along the Gulf and south Atlantic coasts shattered January rainfall records, including Port Arthur, TX (14.87 inches), Slidell, LA (21.84 inches), Mobile, AL (16.07 inches), Tallahassee, FL (18.96 inches), and Wilmington, NC (10.22 inches). Monthly rainfall in the Florida Panhandle was 400 to 600 percent of normal.

Two disturbances crossed southern California by the 10th, but insignificant precipitation fell thereafter. The Pacific Northwest had the bulk of its rain and snow during the second week of the month. Central California received less than 10 percent of its normal precipitation. January's storms also largely bypassed the northern and central Plains.

The East's coldest air of the winter settled in by the 22nd. Most of the arctic wrath was directed at the Northeast, although night-time temperatures briefly dipped below freezing as far south as northern Florida. Snow squall-prone areas near the Great Lakes were frequently blasted by snow and wind for the rest of the month.

January ended on a transitory note, with arctic air rapidly receding into Canada, and subtropical warmth and moisture overspreading the Pacific Northwest. Record warmth appeared in Florida and along the Pacific coast, poised to spread northward and eastward across the Nation.

WINTER WHEAT

Early in January, snow cover from Montana through the northern Plains provided protection from low temperatures for winter wheat. Cold weather in Kansas reduced greenbug and armyworm populations in south-central winter wheat fields. The Wyoming winter wheat crop was fair to good, with some freeze and wind damage. Topdressing was underway in most areas. By mid-January, the Illinois and Indiana winter wheat crops were in mostly good condition, with moisture supplies adequate to surplus. Wheat seeding continued in California, while rain early in the month aided emerged fields. Newly emerged wheat in California showed some freeze damage, and replanting may be necessary. Warm weather in Kansas and North Dakota melted some snow cover on the wheat crop, but the crop remained in good condition. Texas small grains were showing some recovery from the recent freezing temperatures. The condition of the wheat crop in Washington was mostly poor to fair. Montana's wheat crop was fair to good, with spotty snow cover due to

strong winds. Some Arkansas wheat was waterlogged due to wet conditions and poor drainage. By the end of the month, above-normal temperatures warmed the Texas High Plains and Montana, melting the protective snow cover on the wheat crops. Wheat in the Delta suffered damage due to flooding and excessive soil moisture. Irrigated wheat fields in the Texas High Plains were in good condition, while the dryland fields suffered. Washington winter wheat was in mostly poor condition. California wheat emergence and growth were slowed due to a low level of soil moisture.

ORANGES: The U.S. all orange crop is forecast at 188 million boxes for the 1990-91 season, unchanged from the January 1 forecast but 2 percent greater than 1989-90. Florida's all orange crop is estimated at 159 million boxes as of February 1, 1 percent below last month's forecast but 44 percent above last season. Production prospects for early and mid-season oranges in Florida are 89.0 million boxes, 2 percent below last month but 31 percent greater than 1989-90. The Valencia crop in Florida is forecast at 70.0 million boxes, unchanged from a month ago but 66 percent above the freeze damaged 1989-90 season. Harvest of Florida early and mid-season varieties is 90 percent complete, while the Valencia crop harvest is just beginning.

The California all orange forecast, at 27.0 million boxes, is 8 percent greater than last month but 62 percent less than last season's production. The Navel orange forecast is 16.0 million boxes, 14 percent above last month but 64 percent less than the 1989-90 record high harvest. As of February 1, 78 percent of California's freeze damaged Navel crop had been harvested. The California Valencia orange crop forecast, at 11.0 million boxes, is unchanged from a month ago but 59 percent below last season's crop. Harvest has not begun. The all orange forecast for Arizona, which was carried forward from last month, is expected to total 1.75 million boxes, up 11 percent from last season's production. Due to the severe freeze of December 1989, the 1990-91 Texas orange crop is virtually eliminated and forecasts will not be issued this season unless sufficient commercial supplies become available.

Changes in U.S. production between the February 1 forecast and final production averaged 7.94 million boxes over the past ten seasons, ranging from a low of 270 thousand boxes in 1980-81 to a high of 17.1 million boxes in 1981-82.

FLORIDA FROZEN CONCENTRATED JUICE YIELD: The 1990-91 forecast of all Frozen Concentrated Orange Juice Yield (FCOJ) for Florida remains at 1.48 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix. The forecast projects the final yield as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association. The freeze damaged 1989-90 yield for all fruit used in FCOJ was 1.23 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix.

TEMPLES: The Florida forecast, at 3.10 million boxes, is unchanged from January 1 but more than double last season's freeze damaged crop. Harvest as of February 1 was about 19 percent complete.

GRAPEFRUIT: Prospects as of February 1 for the 1990-91 season indicate a crop of 52.8 million boxes, unchanged from the January 1 forecast, but 21 percent above last season's production. This forecast includes California's "Desert" grapefruit but excludes California's "Other Areas" grapefruit. The grapefruit crop from California's "Other Areas" accounted for 5.00 million boxes harvested last season and 4.50 million boxes in 1988-89. The first forecast for that area will be as of April 1, 1991. Due to the severe freeze of December 1989, the 1990-91 Texas grapefruit crop was virtually eliminated. Forecasts will not be issued this season unless sufficient commercial supplies become available.

Florida's grapefruit forecast is 47.0 million boxes, unchanged from January 1 but 32 percent more than the freeze damaged 1989-90 crop. The Florida white seedless grapefruit forecast is 23.0 million boxes, unchanged from the January 1 forecast but 28 percent above the previous season; colored seedless is forecast at 22.5 million boxes, unchanged from last month's forecast but 38 percent greater than the 1989-90 crop. Seeded grapefruit is forecast at 1.50 million boxes, unchanged from January 1 but 7 percent above last season.

California's "Desert" grapefruit forecast, which was carried forward from January 1, is 3.50 million boxes, 5 percent below the 1989-90 crop. Also carried forward was Arizona's grapefruit crop forecast of 2.30 million boxes, a 5 percent increase from last season.

TANGERINES: The U.S. all tangerine forecast is 3.85 million boxes, down 3 percent from the previous forecast and 1 percent below last season's utilized production. This forecast includes the Dancy, Robinson, Honey, and Sunburst varieties of tangerines in Florida, as well as production of California and Arizona tangerines. Florida Sunburst tangerines are included in the State and U.S. totals beginning with the 1989-90 season. Production estimates shown for seasons prior to 1989-90 do not include this new varietal tangerine.

The Florida forecast is 1.90 million boxes, down 5 percent from January 1, but 12 percent above the 1989-90 season. Florida harvest as of February 1 was about 53 percent complete. The California crop forecast of 1.30 million boxes, which is carried forward from last month, is 19 percent below last season. The Arizona forecast is 650 thousand boxes, carried forward from last month, but 8 percent above the 1989-90 utilized production.

TANGELOS: The Florida crop, excluding K-early citrus fruits, at 2.90 million boxes, is down 6 percent from January 1 and 2 percent below the 1989-90 crop. Harvest was active during January and was 79 percent complete by the end of the month.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Trees, groves, and fruit were generally in good condition through most of January. Warmer than normal temperatures accelerated evaporation and increased the need for irrigation in many counties. By month's end, new growth and bloom buds of various sizes were showing in the southern part of the citrus belt. Harvest of early and mid oranges was active in January. Picking of white and colored grapefruit increased during January, particularly on the lower East Coast. Harvest of Valencia oranges was underway before the first of January and had progressed to near the quarter of a million box per week rate by the end of the month. Tangelo and Honey tangerine movement was active most of the month. Temple harvest increased during January as most groves were ready to pick.

TEXAS CITRUS: Groves across the Rio Grande Valley were in good condition. Late January rainfall helped leach soil of salt buildup from irrigation and was beneficial to recovering trees. The absence of severe cold this winter should allow some blooming to occur in the spring. The lack of fruit has slowed some spraying programs. Insect and disease problems are minor at this time.

PAPAYAS: Hawaii fresh papaya production is estimated at 4.72 million pounds for January. This is 3 percent higher than December but 6 percent below January 1990.

Some areas experienced heavy showers and strong winds the last weekend of the month, but overall weather conditions were mostly fair over major papaya producing areas during January. Disease incidence was reported to be lower due to the drier conditions. Seasonally cool temperatures have slowed fruit development.

Area devoted to papaya production totaled 3,315 acres in January, 1 percent greater than December but 21 percent below last January. Harvested area, totaling 2,225 acres was 3 percent above December but 17 percent less than a year ago.

WINTER POTATOES: Production of winter potatoes is forecast at 2.43 million cwt, a gain of 3 percent from last year but 12 percent below two years ago. Area for harvest, estimated at 11.7 thousand acres, is down 11 percent from last year. The average yield is forecast at 207 cwt per acre, an increase of 17 percent over last year.

California growers are struggling with freeze damaged potatoes from the late December cold snap. Pick out is heavy to ensure quality marketings. Harvest in Florida started in late January with nearly ideal conditions. Rain had earlier slowed growth of potatoes in some areas but the State yield is much better than last year's freeze damaged crop.

CALIFORNIA FRUITS & NUTS: Winter cultural practices continued throughout the State. Pruning, weed control, dormant spraying, and irrigation were common in orchards. Some almond orchards in Northern California were being irrigated. Central Valley Navel orange growers were picking a few isolated groves. Most fruit was sent for processing because of freeze damage. Lemons were also harvested at a low rate with fruit sent to processing. Damage to citrus trees was most extensive in young groves. An increasing amount of freeze damaged fruit was dropping off the trees. Navels, dates, mandarins, minneolas, and "Desert" grapefruit were harvested in Southern California. Some avocados suffered, but damage depended on location. Kiwifruit was moved to local markets and Fuji apples were packed at the beginning of the month.

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