

# Crop Production



National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

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Released March 11, 1992, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Forecasts refer to March 1, 1992.

## Citrus Up 7 Percent

Citrus production is forecast at 11.8 million tons, 1 percent more than last month and 7 percent more than last season. The increase over the previous month is due to larger California Navel and Valencia orange forecasts.

Orange production is forecast at 8.72 million tons, up 2 percent from February 1 and 11 percent above last season. The increase from last month is due to higher California Navel and Valencia forecasts.

Grapefruit production, including California's "Desert" grapefruit but excluding California's "Other Areas" crop, is 1.97 million tons, virtually unchanged from the February 1 forecast but 6 percent less than last season. The decrease from last year is mainly due to reduced production in Florida.

Winter potato production is forecast at 2.72 million cwt, the same as last month but up 4 percent from a year ago and 16 percent above 1990. Florida harvest was active through February and will continue into April. Quality and size are good.

Spring potato plantings are estimated at 87,700 acres this year, down 3 percent from a year ago and 9 percent below 1990. Planting of spring potatoes is mostly completed across the South from Texas to Florida. Harvest should begin in Florida fields in late March.

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Index and report features are located at the end of this report. For information call (202) 720-2127. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States,  
1991 and Forecasted March 1, 1992  
(Domestic Units)

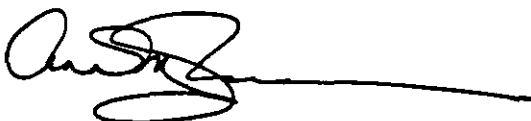
Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
	1,000 Acres			
Potatoes				
Winter	13.2	13.2	12.2	13.1
Spring	90.2	87.7	87.5	86.2

Crop Summary: Yield per Acre and Production, United States,  
1991 and Forecasted March 1, 1992  
(Domestic Units)

Crop and Unit	Yield per Acre		Production		
	1991	1992	1991	Feb 1, 1992	Mar 1, 1992
	----- 1,000 -----				
Potatoes					
Winter Cwt	214	208	2,609	2,722	2,722
Spring Cwt	236		20,636		
			1990-91	1991-92	1991-92
Oranges 1/ Ton			7,843	8,586	8,717

1/ Season begins with the bloom of the first year shown and ends with the completion of harvest the following year.

This report was approved on March 11, 1992, by the Acting Secretary of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Statistics Service's Agricultural Statistics Board.



Acting Secretary of  
Agriculture  
Ann Veneman



Agricultural Statistics Board  
Chairperson  
Rich Allen

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States,  
1991 and Forecasted March 1, 1992  
(Metric Units)

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
	Hectares			
Potatoes				
Winter	5,340	5,340	4,940	5,300
Spring	36,500	35,490	35,410	34,880

Crop Summary: Yield per Hectare and Production, United States,  
1991 and Forecasted March 1, 1992  
(Metric Units)

Crop	Yield per Hectare:		Production		
	1991	1992	1991	Feb 1, 1992	Mar 1, 1992
	Metric Tons				
Potatoes					
Winter	23.96	23.30	118,340	123,470	123,470
Spring	26.43		936,030		
			1990-91	1991-92	1991-92
Oranges 1/			7,115,050	7,789,090	7,907,930

1/ Season begins with the bloom of the first year shown and ends with the completion of harvest the following year.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 1990-91  
(Domestic Units)

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1990	1991	1990	1991
	1,000 Acres			
Sugarcane for Sugar and Seed			794.2	898.6

Crop Summary: Yield per Acre and Production, United States, 1989-91  
(Domestic Units)

Crop	Yield per Acre		Production		
	1990	1991	1989	1990	1991
	Tons		1,000 Tons		
Sugarcane for Sugar and Seed	35.4	34.8	29,426	28,136	31,231

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 1990-91  
(Metric Units)

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1990	1991	1990	1991
	Hectares			
Sugarcane for Sugar and Seed			321,400	363,650

Crop Summary: Yield per Hectare and Production, United States, 1989-91  
(Metric Units)

Crop	Yield per Hectare:		Production		
	1990	1991	1989	1990	1991
	Metric Tons				
Sugarcane for Sugar and Seed	79.42	77.91	26,694,820	25,524,550	28,332,290

Potatoes: Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production,  
by Seasonal Group, State, and Total, 1990-92

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		1991	1992	1990	1991	1992
	1991	1992	1991	1992					
	----- 1,000 Acres -----				-- Cwt --		----- 1,000 Cwt -----		
Winter									
CA	5.6	5.1	4.6	5.1	245	220	1,265	1,127	1,122
FL	7.6	8.1	7.6	8.0	195	200	1,078	1,482	1,600
Total	13.2	13.2	12.2	13.1	214	208	2,343	2,609	2,722
Spring <u>1/</u>									
AL	4.0	3.6	2.5	3.5	120		855	300	
AZ	6.0	6.3	6.0	6.3	295		1,794	1,770	
CA	21.8	20.3	21.8	20.3	380		8,438	8,284	
FL									
Hastings	27.5	27.5	27.0	27.0	190		6,888	5,130	
Other	8.6	7.1	8.4	7.0	175		1,826	1,470	
NC	17.3	17.6	17.0	17.3	170		3,240	2,890	
TX	5.0	5.3	4.8	4.8	165		1,122	792	
Total	90.2	87.7	87.5	86.2	236		24,163	20,636	

1/ Yield and production for 1992 to be released April 10, 1992.

Papayas: Area and Fresh Production, Hawaii, by Month, 1991-92

Month	Area				Fresh Production	
	Total in Crop		Harvested		1991	1992
	1991	1992	1991	1992		
	----- Acres -----				-- 1,000 Pounds --	
Jan	3,315	3,955	2,165	2,120	4,665	5,135
Feb	3,195	3,855	2,035	2,070	3,365	4,910
Mar	3,330		2,020		3,155	
Apr	3,435		1,905		3,890	
May	3,310		1,925		3,350	
Jun	3,415		1,880		2,895	
Cumulative Fresh Production: Jan-Feb					8,030	10,045

Citrus Fruit: Production, by Crop, State, and United States,  
1990-91 and Forecasted March 1, 1992 1/

Crop and State	Production Boxes			Production Ton Equivalent		
	Utilized			Utilized		
	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
	----- 1,000 Boxes <u>2/</u> -----			----- 1,000 Tons -----		
Oranges, Early Mid & Navel <u>3/</u>						
AZ <u>4/</u>	390	550	720	14	20	27
CA	44,300	15,800	34,000	1,661	593	1,275
FL	68,100	87,500	83,400	3,064	3,937	3,753
TX <u>5/</u>	1,050		20	44		1
US	113,840	103,850	118,140	4,783	4,550	5,056
Oranges, Valencia						
AZ <u>4/</u>	1,220	1,200	1,400	45	45	53
CA	27,100	9,800	29,000	1,016	368	1,088
FL	42,100	64,000	56,000	1,894	2,880	2,520
TX <u>5/ 7/</u>	155		10	7		
US	70,575	75,000	86,410	2,962	3,293	3,661
All Oranges						
AZ <u>4/</u>	1,610	1,750	2,120	59	65	80
CA	71,400	25,600	63,000	2,677	961	2,363
FL	110,200	151,500	139,400	4,958	6,817	6,273
TX <u>5/</u>	1,205		30	51		1
US	184,415	178,850	204,550	7,745	7,843	8,717
Temples						
FL	1,400	2,500	2,600	63	113	117
Grapefruit, White Seedless						
FL	18,000	21,700	20,000	765	922	850
Grapefruit, Colored Seedless						
FL	16,300	21,800	20,500	693	926	871
Other Grapefruit						
FL	1,400	1,600	1,400	60	68	60
All Grapefruit						
AZ <u>4/</u>	2,200	2,400	2,300	70	77	74
CA <u>4/ 6/</u>						
Desert	3,500	3,500	3,500	112	112	112
Other Areas	5,900	4,500		198	150	
Total	9,400	8,000		310	262	
FL	35,700	45,100	41,900	1,518	1,916	1,781
TX <u>5/</u>	2,000		65	80		3
US	49,300	55,500		1,978	2,255	
Tangerines						
AZ <u>4/</u>	600	600	850	22	23	32
CA <u>4/</u>	1,650	1,300	1,500	62	49	56
FL	1,700	1,950	2,430	80	92	115
US	3,950	3,850	4,780	164	164	203
Lemons <u>4/</u>						
AZ	2,800	4,100	4,600	106	156	175
CA	15,800	14,900	13,500	600	566	513
US	18,600	19,000	18,100	706	722	688
Tangelos						
FL	2,950	2,650	2,650	132	119	119

### Citrus Fruit Footnotes

- 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-CA & AZ-75, FL-90, TX-85; grapefruit-CA Desert & AZ-64, CA Other-67, FL-85, TX-80; lemons-76; tangelos and Temples-90; tangerines-CA and AZ-75, FL-95.
- 3/ Navel and miscellaneous varieties in CA and AZ. Early and mid-season varieties in FL and TX, including small quantities of tangerines in TX.
- 4/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.
- 5/ Due to the severe freeze of December 1989, TX had no commercial production for the 1990-91 season.
- 6/ The first forecast for CA grapefruit "Other Areas" will be as of April 1.
- 7/ TX forecast at 425 tons for 1991-92.

Sugarcane: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production,  
by Use, State, and United States, 1989-91

Use and State	Area Harvested		Yield <u>1/</u>		Production <u>1/</u>		
	1990	1991	1990	1991	1989	1990	1991
	- 1,000 Acres -		--- Tons ---		----- 1,000 Tons -----		
For Sugar							
FL	419.0	429.0	35.5	36.5	12,717	14,874	15,658
HI <u>2/</u>	72.0	66.5	90.8	87.3	7,082	6,538	5,805
LA <u>2/</u>	201.0	321.0	20.6	23.0	7,440	4,150	7,383
TX <u>2/</u>	34.4	34.9	26.5	31.5	830	913	1,099
US	726.4	851.4	36.4	35.2	28,069	26,475	29,945
For Seed							
FL	15.0	14.0	35.5	36.5	471	533	511
HI <u>2/</u>	7.0	7.5	26.4	25.2	195	185	189
LA <u>2/</u>	44.0	24.0	20.6	23.0	643	906	552
TX <u>2/</u>	1.8	1.7	20.6	20.0	48	37	34
US	67.8	47.2	24.5	27.2	1,357	1,661	1,286
For Sugar and Seed							
FL	434.0	443.0	35.5	36.5	13,188	15,407	16,169
HI <u>2/</u>	79.0	74.0	85.1	81.0	7,277	6,723	5,994
LA <u>2/</u>	245.0	345.0	20.6	23.0	8,083	5,056	7,935
TX <u>2/</u>	36.2	36.6	26.2	31.0	878	950	1,133
US	794.2	898.6	35.4	34.8	29,426	28,136	31,231

1/ Net tons.

2/ Current estimates carried forward from earlier forecast.



**February Weather Summary:** As February began, California was in the midst of a sixth consecutive water year (October 1 - September 30) of drought. Sierra Nevada snowpack, which is the primary source of the State's reservoir water, stood at 45 percent of normal. But between the 5th and the 21st, moisture repeatedly washed across the State, at first causing major flooding northwest of Los Angeles but eventually supplying precious snowfall to the Sierra Nevada. When the storminess subsided, the snowpack attained a moisture level of more than 70 percent of normal. Exceptionally warm weather during the final week of February started spring snowmelt early, reducing the snowpack to 64 percent of normal by March 2, according to the California Drought Information Center. In the northern third of the Sierra Nevada, which had less snowmelt, the early March snowpack is 76 percent of normal.

Elsewhere, heavy rain plagued Texas for the third month in a row, keeping river and flash flooding an active threat in the eastern part of the State. February rainfall records fell in Austin, TX (6.56 inches), and Galveston, TX (8.34 inches). Rainfall was above normal for a second consecutive month along the central Gulf coast. Since January 1, 1992, twice the normal amount of rain has fallen across the southern tiers of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and extreme western Florida. Farther north, the storms that lashed California also deposited unseasonably heavy precipitation from northern Kansas to the western Corn Belt. But two areas that head into the spring months with long-term and topsoil moisture deficits are the northern High Plains and the eastern Corn Belt. In eastern Montana, both February and winter precipitation were less than 25 percent of normal.

Exceptionally mild weather blanketed the northern and central Plains during February, continuing a trend that began in early December. In fact, only northern Maine and the San Luis Valley of Colorado reported cooler-than-normal weather. Notable warm spells opened and closed the month. More than 40 daily record highs were established during the first 4 days of the month, and more than 100 records fell during the month's final 10 days. On the 1st, Dickinson, ND, established a February high temperature record (68 degrees F), while on the 29th, Bismarck, ND (69 degrees F), and Pocatello, ID (65 degrees F), set monthly record highs. The lowest temperature reported at Havre, MT, during the month was 3 degrees F, which is barely below the normal monthly average temperature of 11 degrees F. Only the Northeast had occasional intrusions of arctic air.

**Fieldwork:** Preparations for spring planting were underway across the southern latitudes early in the month, and intensified across the Nation in response to the unseasonably warm weather. Cotton planting was underway in southwestern Arizona, southern Texas, and the Rio Grande Valley, while harvest was winding down in Oklahoma. Some corn and sorghum fields were planted in the Texas Blacklands and Rio Grande Valley as fields dried sufficiently for entry and corn planting continued in southern Georgia. Oats were being sown in southeastern Nebraska.

**Winter Wheat:** One effect of the above-normal temperatures during the latter half of winter was unusually early greening of fall-seeded grains. Winter wheat from the Rocky Mountains through the Ohio Valley was

leaving dormancy and beginning to green by late February, increasing the vulnerability of the crop to freeze. Snow cover was lacking in most wheat producing regions throughout the winter, and remained so entering Spring. Surplus moisture caused some yellowing of winter wheat in eastern Texas and the Delta, and some Arkansas producers were resorting to aerial application of fertilizers due to wet field conditions. Topdressing fertilizers were also being applied to fields in the Southwest and Southeast. Most regions reported wheat condition as fair to good entering spring.

**Winter Potatoes:** Production of winter potatoes is forecast at 2.72 million cwt, the same as last month and a gain of 4 percent from last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 13,100 acres, 7 percent above last year. The average yield, forecast at 208 cwt per acre, is down 6 cwt from a year ago.

Harvest of Florida winter potatoes was active during February and is expected to continue through March and April. Quality and size are good with no major weather problems to impact the crop. In California, light sets on early fields have improved to normal during February.

**Spring Potatoes:** Growers have planted an estimated 87,700 acres of spring potatoes this year in the six major States. This acreage is down 3 percent from last year and 9 percent below 1990. Harvest is expected from 86,200 acres, down 1 percent from a year ago and 9 percent below two years ago.

Florida harvest will start about the first of April in the Hastings area. Harvest in other Florida spring areas should be underway by mid-March. Crop growth is good with favorable weather so far. Heavy rains in February slowed the completion of planting in Alabama and flooded some fields in South Texas. The North Carolina potato crop was about 17 percent planted by early March. California's acreage is down 7 percent from last year, partly in response to low russet prices and questionable irrigation water availability.

**Papayas:** Hawaii fresh papaya production is estimated at 4.91 million pounds for February, 4 percent lower than January but 46 percent higher than February 1991. Year-to-date sales were 25 percent more than the same two-month period a year ago.

Weather conditions were characterized as variable during February. Cool temperatures and scattered showers occurred during the beginning of the month followed by heavier rains and strong winds in the second week. Warmer, drier conditions returned in the last half of the month.

Area devoted to papaya production totaled 3,855 acres during February, 3 percent lower than January but 21 percent higher than a year earlier. Harvested area totaled 2,070 acres, which was 2 percent lower than last month but 2 percent higher than last February.

**Oranges:** The U.S. all orange crop is forecast at 8.72 million tons for the 1991-92 season. This is 2 percent more than the February 1 forecast and 11 percent higher than the 1990-91 season. Florida's all orange crop is estimated at 139 million boxes, up slightly from the February 1 forecast but 8 percent less than last season. Production prospects for early and mid-season oranges in Florida are forecast at 83.4 million boxes, up slightly from a month ago but 5 percent below the 1990-91 crop. The Valencia crop in Florida is forecast at 56.0 million boxes, unchanged from a month ago but 12 percent less than the 1990-91 season. Harvest of Florida early and mid-season varieties is virtually complete, while the Valencia crop is about 5 percent harvested.

The California all orange forecast, at 63.0 million boxes, is up 5 percent from last month's forecast and 146 percent higher than last year's freeze damaged crop. The Navel orange forecast, at 34.0 million boxes, is up 6 percent from last month's forecast and 115 percent higher than last season. As of March 1, California's Navel crop was 44 percent harvested. The California Valencia orange crop forecast is up 4 percent from a month ago at 29.0 million boxes. This estimate is nearly triple last year's freeze damaged crop. It appears fruit size will be larger than previously expected. Harvest is just beginning in the desert. The all orange forecast for Arizona, carried forward from January 1, is expected to total 2.12 million boxes, 21 percent above last season's production. The Texas orange crop is expected to total 30,000 boxes. Texas had no commercial production last season due to the December 1989 freeze.

Changes in U.S. production between the March 1 forecast and final production averaged 5.79 million boxes over the past ten seasons, ranging from a low of 650,000 boxes in 1987-88 to a high of 12.5 million boxes in 1989-90.

**Florida Frozen Concentrated Juice Yield:** The 1991-92 forecast of all Frozen Concentrated Orange Juice Yield (FCOJ) for Florida has increased to 1.52 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix. The forecast projects the final yield as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association. The final 1990-91 yield for all fruit used in FCOJ was 1.45 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix.

**Grapefruit:** Prospects as of March 1 for the 1991-92 season indicate a crop of 1.97 million tons, down slightly from the February 1 forecast and 6 percent below last season's utilized 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 150,000 tons (4.50 million boxes) last season. The first forecast for that area will be as of April 1, 1992.

Florida's grapefruit forecast is 41.9 million boxes, down slightly from February 1 and 7 percent less than the 1990-91 crop. The Florida white seedless grapefruit forecast is 20.0 million boxes, unchanged from the February 1 forecast but 8 percent less than the previous season. Colored seedless is forecast at 20.5 million boxes, unchanged from last month's forecast but 6 percent less than the 1990-91 crop. Seedy grapefruit is forecast at 1.40 million boxes, 7 percent less than February 1 and 12 percent less than last season. Fruit sizes have been good and harvest is 77 percent complete.

The California "Desert" and Arizona forecasts of 3.50 million boxes and 2.30 million boxes, respectively, are carried forward from January 1.

The Texas crop is forecast at 65,000 boxes, unchanged from last month. Texas had no commercial production last season due to the severe December 1989 freeze. Harvest is virtually complete.

**Tangelos:** The Florida crop, excluding K-early citrus fruit, is forecast at 2.65 million boxes, 2 percent below last month and the same production as last season. Tangelo harvest is virtually complete for the season and fruit size has been good.

**Tangerines:** The U.S. all tangerine forecast is 203,000 tons, unchanged from last month but 24 percent above 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.

The Florida forecast is 2.43 million boxes, unchanged from February 1 but 25 percent above the 1990-91 production. Florida harvest as of March 1 was about 94 percent complete. Fresh demand remains good. The California crop forecast, which was carried forward from the January 1 forecast, is 1.50 million boxes, 15 percent above last season. The Arizona crop forecast, which was also carried forward from the January 1 forecast, is 850,000 boxes, 42 percent above the 1990-91 utilized production.

**Temples:** The Florida temple forecast, at 2.60 million boxes, is unchanged from the February 1 forecast but up 4 percent from last season. Harvest was about 81 percent complete as of March 1 with good fruit sizes reported.

**Florida Citrus:** Groves and trees in all areas of the citrus belt were in excellent condition at the end of February. Hard rains the last week of the month provided adequate soil moisture for good growth. Trees of all ages have new foliage and bloom buds forming. Most young tree groves in the central and southern areas have considerable open bloom. Conditions are ideal for this year's bloom period. Early and midseason orange harvest was completed by the end of February. Harvest of all seedless grapefruit is now 77 percent complete. Tangelo harvest is virtually complete for this season. Movement of temples has been active this year with about 19 percent remaining. Honey tangerine harvest is about 87 percent complete.

**Texas Citrus:** Citrus trees in the Valley are nearing full bloom for the 1992-93 crop. Rainfall across the Valley has decreased irrigation needs; however wet grounds have limited grove care activity. The 1991-92 crop harvest is virtually complete.

**California Fruits and Nuts:** The month of February brought a significant amount of rainfall to the State. While the month began

with only light rains, a series of storms during the second and third weeks, caused flooding in some areas. Sacramento had a record sixteen consecutive days of rainfall. The resulting wet conditions drastically slowed or halted cultural practices and orchard activities. Harvest of avocados, lemons, desert

grapefruit, and tangerines progressed despite the wet conditions. Rains severely slowed navel orange harvest. Date harvest was completed. Bud swell and bloom occurred in almonds and early variety apricots, peaches, plums, and nectarines. An early bloom was delayed due to cool, wet weather. As blooms appeared, beekeepers moved into the orchards for the pollination season. By February's end, pollination was active.

**Sugarcane:** The 1991 production of sugarcane for sugar and seed is forecast at 31.2 million tons. This is up 3 percent from February 1 and up 11 percent from 1990. The Florida forecast was raised based on more recent industry data. All Florida mills are expected to be closed by late March. The forecasts for Hawaii, Louisiana, and Texas were carried forward from earlier forecasts.

## Special Features

The next "Crop Production" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on April 10, 1992.

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information.

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