

Crop Production



National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

Released April 12, 1993, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Forecasts refer to April 1, 1993.

Spring Potato Production Down 8 Percent

Spring potato production is forecast at 19.8 million cwt, down 8 percent from last year and 4 percent below 1991. The blizzard of 1993 heavily damaged fields in Florida and rains delayed early planting in North Carolina.

Citrus production is forecast at 15.4 million tons, a 24 percent increase over last season. A large increase in the Florida orange crop is primarily responsible for the rise in citrus production.

Orange production is forecast at 11.3 million tons, down 1 percent from March 1 but 26 percent more than last season's crop. This month's decrease is mainly due to a decrease in the Florida early and mid-season crop. Harvest is complete for the early and mid-season varieties in Florida.

All grapefruit production, including the initial forecast for California's "Other Areas" crop is 2.70 million tons, up 21 percent from last season and 20 percent more than the 1990-91 season. The California "Other Areas" crop is expected to be 7 percent smaller than last year. The large increase over last season at the U.S. level is primarily due to a much larger grapefruit crop in Florida.

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,
1992 and Forecasted April 1, 1993
(Domestic Units)

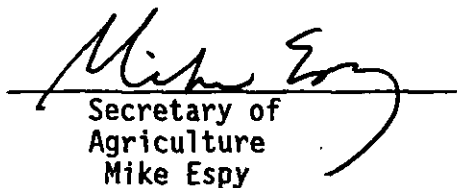
Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1992	1993	1992	1993
	1,000 Acres			
Potatoes Spring	85.3	86.9	83.0	83.8

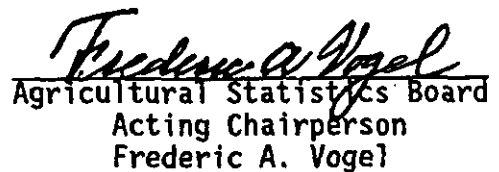
Crop Summary: Yield per Acre and Production, United States,
1992 and Forecasted April 1, 1993
(Domestic Units)

Crop and Unit	Yield per Acre:			Production	
	1992	1993	1992	Mar 1, 1993	Apr 1, 1993
	----- 1,000 -----				
Potatoes Spring Cwt	259	237	21,535		19,824
Citrus Fruits <u>1/</u>			1991-92	1992-93	1992-93
Oranges Ton			8,906	11,337	11,259
Grapefruit <u>2/</u> "			2,224		2,700
Lemons "			768		908

1/ Season begins with the bloom of the first year shown and ends with the completion of harvest the following year. 2/ 1992 revised.

This report was approved on April 12, 1993, by the Secretary of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Statistics Service's Agricultural Statistics Board.


Secretary of
Agriculture
Mike Espy


Agricultural Statistics Board
Acting Chairperson
Frederic A. Vogel

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States,
1992 and Forecasted April 1, 1993
(Metric Units)

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1992	1993	1992	1993
	Hectares			
Potatoes Spring	34,520	35,170	33,590	33,910

Crop Summary: Yield per Hectare and Production, United States,
1992 and Forecasted April 1, 1993
(Metric Units)

Crop	Yield per Hectare:		Production	
	1992	1993	1992	Mar 1, 1993 Apr 1, 1993
	Metric Tons			
Potatoes Spring	29.08	26.52	976,810	899,200
Citrus Fruits <u>1/</u>			1991-92	1992-93 1992-93
Oranges			8,079,390	10,284,750 10,213,990
Grapefruit <u>2/</u>			2,017,580	2,449,400
Lemons			696,720	823,720

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

2/ 1992 revised.

Grapefruit: Revised California "Other Areas" and Total Production,
Price, and Value, California and United States, 1991-92

State, Crop, and Season	Bearing Acreage	Yield per Acre	Utilization of Production					
			Fresh	Processed	Total			
	Acres	Boxes	----- 1,000 Boxes <u>1/</u> -----					
CA								
Desert Valley 1991-92	7,200	486	2,600	900	3,500			
Other Areas 1991-92*	11,200	580	3,800	2,700	6,500			
All CA 1991-92*	18,400	543	6,400	3,600	10,000			
US Total 1991-92*	136,800	404	31,349	23,916	55,265			
			Price per Box <u>2/</u> <u>3/</u>		Value of Production			
			Fresh	Processed	All	Fresh	Processed	Total
			----- Dollars -----		----- 1,000 Dollars -----			
CA								
Desert Valley 1991-92	8.60	0.54	6.53	22,360	486	22,846		
Other Areas 1991-92*	10.00	0.98	6.25	38,000	2,646	40,646		
All CA 1991-92*	9.45	0.87	6.35	60,360	3,132	63,492		
US Total 1991-92*	10.02	5.16	7.89	311,776	119,276	431,052		

1/ Net lbs per box: Desert - 64 and other - 67.

2/ Equivalent packinghouse-door returns.

3/ U.S. marketing year average prices are derived by weighting the state marketing year average prices per box by the respective box weights.

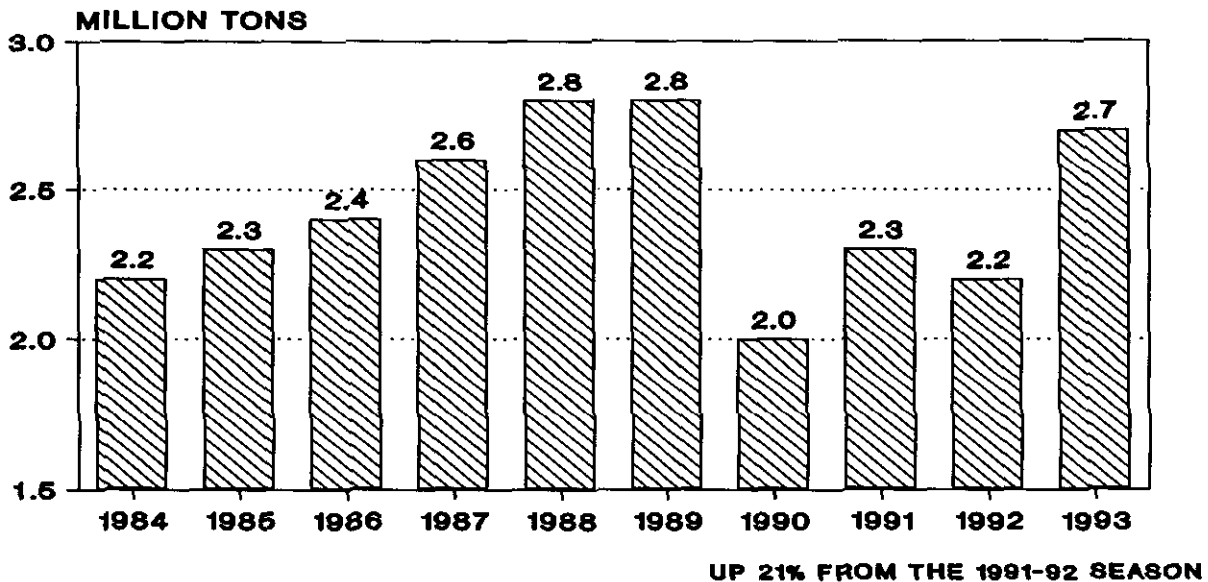
* Revised.

Citrus: Production, Use, and Value,
California and United States, 1991-92

Crop, State, and Season	Bearing Acreage	Production	Utilization of Production:		Value of Production
			Fresh	Processed	
	Acres		1,000 Tons		1,000 Dollars
Total Citrus					
CA 1991-92*	254,100	3,518	2,168	1,350	751,682
US 1991-92*	883,700	12,449	4,178	8,271	2,456,758

* Revised.

US GRAPEFRUIT PRODUCTION 1984-1993



Citrus Fruit: Utilized Production by Crop, State,
and United States, 1991-92 and Forecasted April 1, 1993 1/

Crop and State	Utilized Production Boxes			Utilized Production Ton Equivalent		
	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
	----- 1,000 Boxes <u>2/</u> -----			----- 1,000 Tons -----		
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel <u>3/</u>						
AZ	550	780	750	20	29	28
CA	15,800	35,100	47,000	593	1,317	1,763
FL	87,500	83,400	114,400	3,937	3,753	5,148
TX <u>4/</u>		20	450		1	19
US	103,850	119,300	162,600	4,550	5,100	6,958
Valencia						
AZ	1,200	1,600	1,200	45	60	45
CA	9,800	32,200	27,000	368	1,208	1,013
FL	64,100	56,400	72,000	2,885	2,538	3,240
TX <u>4/ 5/</u>		10	60			3
US	75,100	90,210	100,260	3,298	3,806	4,301
All						
AZ	1,750	2,380	1,950	65	89	73
CA	25,600	67,300	74,000	961	2,525	2,776
FL	151,600	139,800	186,400	6,822	6,291	8,388
TX <u>4/</u>		30	510		1	22
US	178,950	209,510	262,860	7,848	8,906	11,259
Temples						
FL	2,500	2,350	2,600	113	106	117
Grapefruit						
White Seedless						
FL	21,700	19,100	25,000	922	812	1,063
Colored Seedless						
FL	21,800	22,100	26,000	927	940	1,105
Other						
FL	1,600	1,200	1,800	68	51	77
All						
AZ	2,400	2,800	2,200	77	89	70
CA						
Desert	3,500	3,500	3,500	112	112	112
Other Areas <u>6/</u>	4,500	6,500	6,000	150	217	201
Total <u>6/</u>	8,000	10,000	9,500	262	329	313
FL	45,100	42,400	52,800	1,917	1,803	2,245
TX <u>4/</u>		65	1,800		3	72
US	55,500	55,265	66,300	2,256	2,224	2,700
Tangerines						
AZ	600	1,200	850	23	45	32
CA	1,350	2,400	2,500	51	90	94
FL	1,950	2,600	2,800	92	123	133
US	3,900	6,200	6,150	166	258	259
Lemons						
AZ	4,100	5,100	4,900	156	194	186
CA	14,800	15,100	19,000	563	574	722
US	18,900	20,200	23,900	719	768	908
Tangelos						
FL	2,650	2,600	3,050	119	117	137
K-Early Citrus						
FL	160	165	185	7	7	8

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, K-Early Citrus, & 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/ Due to the severe freeze of December 1989, TX had no commercial production for the 1990-91 season.
- 5/ TX estimated at 425 tons for 1991-92.
- 6/ 1991-92 crop revised.

Potatoes: Area Planted, Harvested, Yield, and Production,
by Seasonal Group, State, and United States, 1991-93

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield		Production		
	Planted		Harvested						
	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1991	1992	1993
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt		
Spring									
AL	3.6	2.8	3.5	2.7	155	150	300	543	405
AZ	6.4	5.5	6.1	5.5	295	300	1,770	1,800	1,650
CA	19.3	19.5	19.3	19.5	375	370	8,284	7,238	7,215
FL									
Hastings	26.0	28.0	25.0	26.0	240	195	5,130	6,000	5,070
Other	7.1	8.0	7.0	7.5	250	210	1,470	1,750	1,575
NC	17.6	17.6	17.3	17.3	200	180	2,890	3,460	3,114
TX	5.3	5.5	4.8	5.3	155	150	792	744	795
US	85.3	86.9	83.0	83.8	259	237	20,636	21,535	19,824
Summer <u>1/</u>									
AL	7.2		7.0		170		952	1,190	
CA	4.4		4.3		320		1,560	1,376	
CO	6.7		6.5		300		2,036	1,950	
DE	6.0		6.0		230		1,348	1,380	
IL	4.5		4.4		300		1,008	1,320	
IA	1.6		1.4		200		208	280	
MD	1.6		1.6		200		298	320	
MI	12.5		12.0		260		2,875	3,120	
MN	7.2		7.1		325		2,154	2,308	
MO	7.7		7.2		245		1,323	1,764	
NE	2.1		2.0		300		636	600	
NJ	3.6		3.5		240		760	840	
NM <u>2/</u>	3.4		3.4		280		3,450	952	
NC	1.5		1.4		110		154	154	
TX	7.7		7.0		245		2,400	1,715	
VA	11.0		11.0		180		1,485	1,980	
US	88.7		85.8		248		22,647	21,249	

1/ Revised.

2/ District 1 (NW Counties) for 1992 included in fall potatoes.

Papayas: Area and Fresh Production, by Month, Hawaii,
1992 and Forecasted April 1, 1993

Month	Area				Fresh Production	
	Total in Crop		Harvested		1992	1993
	1992	1993	1992	1993		
Acres				1,000 Pounds		
Feb	3,855	3,675	2,150	2,775	4,785	4,760
Mar	3,945	3,715	2,160	2,765	4,010	5,195
Apr	3,875		2,190		3,960	
May	3,795		2,190		4,445	
Jun	3,770		2,410		4,940	
Jul	3,700		2,465		4,970	
Cumulative Fresh Production Jan-Mar					13,850	15,085

Peanuts for Nuts: Farm Marketing Percents, by Month,
State, and United States, 1991 and 1992 Crop Years

State and Crop Year	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan <u>1</u> /
Percent						
1991 Crop						
AL	2.2	60.0	35.6	2.0	0.2	
FL	3.7	65.1	29.1	2.0	0.1	
GA	3.3	56.6	36.8	3.1	0.2	
NC		10.6	71.5	14.1	1.8	2.0
TX	2.3	4.6	59.9	24.8	7.9	0.5
VA		25.3	59.4	11.7	2.3	1.3
US	2.5	43.1	44.6	7.8	1.6	0.4
1992 Crop						
AL		42.4	53.7	3.5	0.4	
FL		50.8	46.1	2.9	0.2	
GA		30.9	57.1	10.9	1.1	
NC		0.1	72.3	20.3	4.4	2.9
TX	0.5	3.9	59.0	28.6	6.7	1.3
VA			70.5	18.8	6.6	4.1
US	0.1	23.8	58.8	13.9	2.6	0.8

1/ January of the following year.

Peanuts for Nuts: Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production,
by State and United States, 1991-1992

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
	1,000 Acres			
AL	278.0	237.0	277.0	236.0
FL	126.0	88.0	118.0	80.0
GA	900.0	675.0	895.0	673.0
NM	22.7	21.1	22.7	21.1
NC	162.0	153.0	162.0	153.0
OK	110.0	100.0	106.0	98.0
SC	14.5	13.5	14.0	13.0
TX	330.0	308.0	325.0	305.0
VA	96.0	94.0	96.0	93.0
US	2,039.2	1,689.6	2,015.7	1,672.1
	Yield		Production	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
	Pounds		1,000 Pounds	
AL	2,305	2,505	638,485	591,180
FL	2,370	2,530	279,660	202,400
GA	2,490	2,705	2,228,550	1,820,465
NM	2,250	2,760	51,075	58,236
NC	2,850	2,660	461,700	406,980
OK	2,300	2,410	243,800	236,180
SC	2,400	2,500	33,600	32,500
TX	2,100	2,230	682,500	680,150
VA	3,200	2,755	307,200	256,215
US	2,444	2,562	4,926,570	4,284,306

Peanuts for Nuts: Price and Value, by State
and United States, 1991-92

State	Price per Pound		Value of Production	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
	----- Dollars -----		----- 1,000 Dollars -----	
AL	0.294	0.305	187,715	180,310
FL	0.263	0.286	73,551	57,886
GA	0.283	0.303	630,680	551,601
NM	0.315	0.326	16,089	18,985
NC	0.274	0.310	126,506	126,164
OK	0.285	0.324	69,483	76,522
SC	0.297	0.290	9,979	9,425
TX	0.280	0.269	191,100	182,960
VA	0.283	0.318	86,938	81,476
US	0.283	0.300	1,392,041	1,285,329

March Weather Summary: March lived up to its reputation as a transitional month, featuring strong, slow-moving storm systems and wild temperature fluctuations. But in the East, a monstrous storm (March 12-13) and a subsequent arctic outbreak (March 14-15) overshadowed other weather events. The record-setting storm, however, was the last in a month-long series of significant snowstorms in the Northeast, and was followed by several heavy rainfall events, resulting in substantial flooding.

Temperatures averaged as much as 6 degrees F above normal in the Southwest, where stretches of warm, dry weather allowed the region to recover from its wettest winter on record. The Northwest welcomed near-normal temperatures after a harsh winter. East of the Rockies, temperatures ranged from much above normal in the northern High Plains to below normal elsewhere.

The latest Palmer Drought Severity chart shows that more of the Nation is facing wetness-related problems than drought. The areal coverage of severe to extreme drought has fallen to its lowest level since early 1987. However, a stripe of dryness remains from Washington State eastward across the northern Rockies and northern Plains. In the Pacific Northwest, summer water supplies are largely dependent upon reservoirs, which in some areas are quite low due to a seventh consecutive season of sub-normal precipitation. But farther south, California nears the end of its wet season with its best water supply prospects in a decade. Farther east, locations that are battling excessive wetness include the central Plains, the Corn Belt, and the East from New York southward into Georgia. Pockets of wetness also exist along the central Gulf coast.

Early in the month, a powerful storm rode up the east coast, sending Middle Atlantic rivers out of their banks, hurling gale force easterlies, and dumping heavy mountain snows. But less than 10 days later, the early-month system was dwarfed by a storm whose central pressure fell explosively from about 1,000 millibars (29.54 inches of mercury) on the morning of March 12 in the western Gulf of Mexico, to 960 millibars (28.35 inches of mercury) over the Chesapeake Bay during the evening of March 13. The strength, size, and late-season nature of the storm led to the demolition of dozens of all-time barometric, monthly snowfall, and daily minimum temperature records from the Gulf coast to New England.

Warm, dry weather became established over the Southwest early in the month, and moved erratically eastward. By March 7, warmth spread into the Northern Plains, as Billings, MT, attained 65 degrees F. Spring-like conditions were temporarily pushed west of the Rockies by an arctic high pressure system at mid-month. Farther east, temperatures fell to 21 degrees F in Mobile, AL, and 2 degrees F in Birmingham, AL, on March 14. In southern Georgia, peach blooms were subjected to more than 20 hours of sub-freezing temperatures over a 2-night span. Ground crops in the Southeast also sustained damage, especially where strong winds blew off protective coverings.

Although warm weather returned to the northern Plains after mid-month, winter clung stubbornly in the East. On March 19, Burlington, VT, notched its latest -10 degrees F reading on record. Late in the month, a ribbon of record-setting warmth stretched through the High Plains, while storm systems affected the East and the West. Between March 24 and 26, temperatures soared into the low 80's as far north as Montana.

Late-month rainfall in the East not only caused flooding, but broke monthly records as well. Atlantic City, NJ, recorded a monthly total of 8.80 inches, and Dulles Airport, VA, noted 7.65 inches. But on the bright side, the typically gloomy northern Great Lakes region completed another pleasant month. In Sault Sainte Marie, MI, 2-month (February and March), precipitation totaled 0.56 inches and snowfall was 4.7 inches.

Crop Progress: Favorable weather conditions in early March allowed the citrus harvests in California, Florida, Arizona, and Texas to advance. Cold weather and high winds in the middle of the month caused some damage to the Florida orange and grapefruit crops. The end of the period saw favorable harvesting conditions return to California, Arizona, Florida, and Texas. The California navel orange harvest was more than two-thirds completed by the end of month. Warm weather, the early part of March, melted some snow cover on winter wheat in the northern and central Great Plains. Snow in the middle of the month replenished the snow cover. By the end of the month, the snow cover had melted due to higher temperatures. Although the crop could use more sunshine and drier weather, it survived the month in good condition. Cotton planting activities began in southern Texas at the beginning of March. Land preparation and planting spread to Arizona and California as the month continued. Wet and cool weather hampered progress. Corn and sorghum planting also began in southern Texas in early March. Field and planting preparations began in other areas of the South as the month continued. Excessive wet conditions delayed progress. In mid-March, one of the largest winter storms on record brought low temperatures and snow from Alabama to Maine. The storm caused damage to early varieties of peaches in Georgia and South Carolina, as well as damage to the Georgia onion crop. Early-planted vegetables in Georgia and northern Florida also suffered damage.

Oranges: The April 1 forecast of U.S. orange production is 11.3 million tons, down 1 percent from last month but up 26 percent from last season.

The forecast for all Florida oranges is 186 million boxes, down 1 percent from March 1 but up 33 percent from last season. Production of Florida early and mid-season varieties is forecast at 114 million boxes, down 1 percent from last month but up 37 percent from last year. Harvest is complete. Florida's Valencia production is expected to total 72.0 million boxes, unchanged from last month but 28 percent more than last season's crop. More than 82 percent of the late oranges remain to be picked. Damage was minimal from the storms on March 13 and 14.

California's 1992-93 all orange forecast is 74.0 million boxes, unchanged from last month but 10 percent more than last year. The Navel crop in California is expected to total a record high 47.0 million boxes, unchanged from March 1 but 34 percent more than last season. Approximately 75 percent of the crop has been picked to date. Above average rainfall this winter has led to above normal fruit droppage. California's Valencia forecast is 27.0 million boxes, also unchanged from March 1 but down 16 percent from last season's large crop. The crop is maturing well but fruit set is less than a year ago. Harvest, starting slowly this year, is approximately 43 percent complete in the desert and just starting in the Central Valley.

The Arizona all orange crop is expected to total 1.95 million boxes, down 9 percent from the previous forecast and down 18 percent from last season. Navel orange harvest is complete. Valencia orange harvest is approximately 43 percent complete. The 1992-93 Texas all orange forecast is 510,000 boxes, up 11 percent from last month. Harvest of early and mid-season varieties is complete and Valencia picking is almost finished. Last season's production was only 30,000 boxes as trees recovered from the December 1989 freeze.

The April 1 U.S. all orange production forecast has deviated from final production by an average of 176,000 tons over the past 10 seasons, ranging from a low of 0 tons in 1984-85 to a high of 506,000 tons in 1989-90.

Florida Frozen Concentrated Juice Yield: All orange FCOJ projected yield remains unchanged at a record high 1.57 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix concentrate. The final yield for early and mid-season varieties is 1.52 gallons per box. The 1991-92 season final yield for mid-season varieties is 1.47. The Valencia yield of 1.66 gallons per box remains unchanged this month. Last season's final yield for Valencias was a record high 1.70 gallons per box.

Grapefruit: The 1992-93 U.S. grapefruit crop is forecast at 2.70 million tons, up 21 percent from last season and up 20 percent from the 1990-91 season. Florida's forecast is 52.8 million boxes, down 2 percent from March 1 but 25 percent more than last season's crop. Harvest is over 74 percent complete as of April 1. The Florida white seedless grapefruit forecast is 25.0 million boxes, unchanged from March 1 but up 31 percent from last season. The colored seedless forecast is 26.0 million boxes, down 4 percent from the previous forecast but 18 percent more than the 1991-92 crop. The seedy grapefruit crop is expected to reach 1.80 million boxes, a 50 percent increase over last season. Movement of white and colored grapefruit averaged more than 2.50 million boxes per week during March. Harvest of seedless grapefruit is approximately 74 percent complete.

California's "Desert Valley" grapefruit forecast is 3.50 million boxes, unchanged from January 1. This is also the same production level as last season. Fruit quality remains good. The first forecast for California "Other Areas" grapefruit is 6.00 million boxes, down 8 percent from the 1991-92 season. Spring rains have benefitted the trees and aided fruit growth. Fruit quality is good. Arizona's forecast, at 2.20 million boxes, is down 8 percent from January 1 and down 21 percent from last season. Approximately 28 percent of the crop has been harvested. The Texas grapefruit forecast has been increased 13 percent to 1.80 million boxes. The Texas citrus industry continues to recover from devastating freezes during the 1980's. Harvest is nearly complete.

The change in U.S. grapefruit production between the April 1 forecast and the final production averaged 52,000 tons over the past 10 seasons, ranging from 0 tons in 1991-92 to 97,000 tons in 1984-85.

Lemons: The forecast for the U. S. lemon crop is 908,000 tons, up 3 percent from the January 1 forecast and up 18 percent from last season.

California's forecast is 19.0 million boxes, up 6 percent from the January 1 forecast and 26 percent more than the 1991-92 utilized crop. Due to a light set, fruit in the Central Valley had excellent sizes. In contrast, a large set in Southern California and the Coastal region led to heavy picking and tree ripening. As a result, much of this fruit is being used for processing. The forecast for Arizona's crop is 4.90 million boxes, down 6 percent from the January 1 forecast and 4 percent less than last season's utilized production. Harvest is complete.

Tangerines: The 1992-93 U.S. tangerine crop forecast is 259,000 tons, down 2 percent from March 1 but up slightly from last season.

The Florida tangerine forecast is 2.80 million boxes, a 4 percent increase from the previous month and up 8 percent from last season's crop. The early and Dancy tangerine harvest is complete. The Honey tangerine harvest is 94 percent complete, while all tangerine harvest is 97 percent finished. The California crop forecast is 2.50 million boxes, down 7 percent from January 1 but up 4 percent over last season. Fruit quality is good. The Arizona forecast is 850,000 boxes, down 6 percent from January 1 and down 29 percent from last season's large crop. Harvest is 98 percent complete as of April 1.

Tangelos: The April forecast for the 1992-93 Florida tangelo crop is 3.05 million boxes, down 2 percent from March 1 but 17 percent more than last season. Harvest is complete.

Temples: The April 1 forecast for the 1992-93 Florida Temple crop is 2.60 million boxes, down 4 percent from March 1 but 11 percent more than last season. Temple harvest is slowing as supplies are running low. Harvest is approximately 95 percent complete.

Florida Citrus: Most groves and trees are in good to excellent condition. Strong winds on March 13 and 14 resulted in some fruit loss and partially defoliated trees. Temperatures on March 15 were the coldest of the season but generally caused little damage.

In virtually all areas, moisture during March was above average with several counties reporting periods of surplus rain. Wet groves were ditched and deep plowed to help remove the excess water. The mild days and cool nights have prolonged this season's bloom period. Also, this year's bloom has varied more than any in recent years. Many young tree groves had full open bloom in early March, while older early and mid-season orange trees and most tangerines had only swelling buds by the last of the month. The majority of Valencia, tangelo, and Navel trees were near full open bloom by the last week of March. Some leaf and fruit droppage was caused by the strong winds and thunderstorms of March 13 and 14. Most damage occurred on the west side of exposed groves. Grapefruit trees suffered the most damage.

Harvest of early and mid-season oranges was nearly complete for the season by the end of March. Only a few blocks remained to be picked. Harvest of Valencia oranges increased throughout the month. More than 82 percent of the

late oranges remain to be picked. Movement of all seedless grapefruit through March averaged about 2.50 million boxes per week. As of the end of March, about 26 percent of the seedless grapefruit remained for harvest. Tangelo harvest is over for the season. Movement of Honey tangerines and Temples is slowing as supplies are running low. Caretakers have been active cutting cover crops, plowing and ditching to remove excessive water, and hedging and topping harvested groves.

Texas Citrus: Harvest of the 1992-93 grapefruit was beginning to slow down in many groves. Valencia harvest was also nearing completion. Fruit set for the 1993-94 crop looks good. Normal grove care activities occurred during March with few delays from wet conditions. Some strong winds blew across the Valley in March, however, only minor bloom loss occurred.

California Fruits and Nuts: Growers were busy during April with cultural practices as orchard floors were drying out. Grape growers were active pruning and tying their vines. Treatments for cutworms, mealybugs, and mildew were applied. Vines also began to leaf out and some budswell began. Kiwifruit were also leafing out. Many stonefruit orchards bloomed during March along with apples and pears. Some prune trees

appear to have brown rot. Almonds leafed out and fungicide sprays were applied to control shot hole fungus. By the end of the month, almonds were dropping their jackets. Walnut trees were leafing out and producing catkins. Blight prevention measures were also active. Citrus harvest was active during March with approximately 75 percent of the Navel orange crop picked by the first of April. Puff and other rind defects were a concern to growers. By late March, the Valencia orange harvest was active in all areas of the State. Lemon picking was active in the South Coast area but had ended in the Central Valley and Desert Areas.

Spring potatoes: Production of spring potatoes is forecast at 19.8 million cwt, down 8 percent from last year and 4 percent below the 1991 crop. This is the smallest spring potato crop since 1987. Harvest is expected from 83,800 acres, 1 percent above a year ago but 4 percent below two years ago. The average yield is forecast at 237 cwt per acre, down 22 cwt from last year but 1 cwt above 1991.

The blizzard of 1993 swept across the Southeast, freezing tender growth and knocking over potato vines with high winds. The Hastings, Florida, area was particularly hard hit as many fields were approaching maturity. Most fields will suffer yield loss and many will not be harvested at all. Harvest across the area will also be delayed. North Carolina had little vine damage, but wet fields held planting to a 60 percent completion rate as of April 1 - normal is about 80 percent planted. Wet conditions in California slowed planting but overall conditions are normal or better. Arizona growers expect an 8 percent smaller crop than last year. In Texas, the crop is expected to be larger than last year, but late blight is showing up in a few fields.

Summer Potatoes, 1992 Revised: Final estimates of summer potatoes places the 1992 crop at 21.2 million cwt, down 6 percent from 1991 and 8 percent below 1990. Harvested area, totaling 85,800 acres, was down 12 percent from the previous year, while the average yield of 248 cwt per acre, was up 15 cwt.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya production is estimated at 5.20 million pounds for March, 9 percent more than February and 30 percent more than March 1992. Year-to-date fresh sales were 9 percent higher than the first quarter of 1992. Warming temperatures and light intermittent rainfall made March weather conditions mostly favorable toward papaya production.

Crop area, totaling 3,715 acres, increased 1 percent over last month but declined 6 percent compared to a year ago. Harvested area totaled 2,765 acres, down slightly from February but 28 percent higher than last March.

Peanuts, 1992 Revised: Peanut production in crop year 1992 totaled 4.28 billion pounds, 13 percent below the record high 1991 crop but 19 percent above the drought stricken 1990 crop. Planted area at 1.69 million acres and harvested area at 1.67 million acres were both 17 percent below the 1991 levels. The yield averaged 2,562 pounds per acre, 118 pounds higher than in 1991 and 571 pounds above the 1990 yield.

Production in the Southeastern States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) totaled 2.65 billion pounds in 1992, down 17 percent from 1991. Planted area at 1.01 million acres and harvested area at 1.00 million acres were both down 23 percent from 1991. Yields averaged 2,641 pounds per acre, up 202 pounds from a year earlier. Moisture levels during much of the season were near optimum, contributing to high yields and partially offsetting late planting.

Virginia and North Carolina production totaled 663 million pounds, a 14 percent decline from the 1991 level. The planted area at 247,000 acres was down 4 percent, while harvested acreage at 246,000 was down 5 percent from the 1991 acreage. Yields averaged 2,696 pounds per acre, down 284 pounds from 1991 due to disease problems brought about by cool, wet conditions throughout much of the growing season.

Peanut production in the Southwest (New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) was down slightly from the 1991 level at 975 million pounds. Acreages planted and harvested were both down 7 percent from the 1991 level. Yields averaged 2,298 pounds per acre, 144 pounds above the 1991 crop with all three States posting record high yields. Favorable temperatures and moisture through most of the season contributed to the record yields.

Report Features

The next "Crop Production" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on May 11, 1993.

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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Ginger Root Revision

The 1992 ginger root estimate has been revised up to 11.6 million pounds. Revisions normally would be published in August but data became available that permitted the change to be made at this time.

Ginger Root: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production,
Hawaii, 1990-92 ^{1/}

State:	Area Harvested			Yield			Production		
:	1990	1991	1992	1990	1991	1992	1990	1991	1992
:	----- Acres -----			----- Pounds -----			--- 1,000 Pounds ---		
HI	190	250	290	50,000	48,000	40,000	9,500	12,000	11,600

^{1/} 1992 revised.

