

Crop Production



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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Orange Production Down Slightly

All orange production is forecast at 11.7 million tons, down slightly from last month but 1 percent above last season. This year's crop is the second largest on record. The Florida forecast is 201.2 million boxes (9.05 million tons), down less than 1 percent from March and down 2 percent from last season. Early and mid-season varieties were reduced to 121.2 million boxes (5.45 million tons), still a record high but 1 percent below last month. The Valencia forecast remained 80.0 million boxes (3.60 million tons), down 7 percent from a year ago. California orange production is 68.0 million boxes (2.55 million tons), unchanged from January but 11 percent above last season. Early, mid-season, and Navel varieties are expected to produce 40.0 million boxes (1.50 million tons), unchanged from last quarter but 14 percent more than last season. Valencia production is forecast at 28.0 million boxes (1.05 million tons), also unchanged from January but up 8 percent from 1994-95.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield for the 1995-96 season is forecast at 1.48 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, unchanged from March. Early and mid-season varieties yield was final in March at 1.45 gallons per box, up from last year's 1.44 gallons per box. The Valencia crop is expected to yield 1.55 gallons per box, unchanged from last month but down from 1.58 gallons per box a year ago. The final 1994-95 yield for all fruit used in FCOJ was 1.50 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix. The forecast projects the final yield as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association.

Special Notice


The 3:00 p.m. Cotton/Citrus Production reports scheduled for May 9, June 11, July 11, August 9, September 10, October 10, November 8, and December 11 are discontinued. Cotton and citrus production estimates will be released at 8:30 a.m. in the Crop Production reports on May 10, June 12, July 12, August 12, September 11, October 11, November 12, and December 12. In addition, Cotton Ginnings reports will be released at 8:30 a.m. on May 10, August 12, September 11, September 27, October 11, October 25, November 12, November 26, December 12, and December 23.

Crop Summary: Production, United States,
1995 and Forecasted April 1, 1996

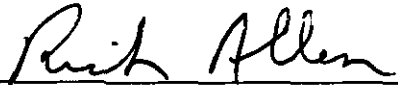
Crop	Utilized Production		
	1995	Mar 1, 1996	Apr 1, 1996
Crop Year	1994-95	1995-96	1995-96
		1,000 Tons	
Citrus Fruits 1/			
Oranges	11,616	11,735	11,704
Grapefruit	2,912	2,643	2,694
Lemons 2/	916	1,026	988
Tangerines	275	327	344
Temples (FL)	114	99	99
Tangelos (FL)	142	110	110
K-Early Citrus (FL)	5	7	7
		Metric Tons	
Oranges	10,537,860	10,645,810	10,617,690
Grapefruit	2,641,720	2,397,690	2,443,960
Lemons 2/	830,980	930,770	896,300
Tangerines	249,480	296,650	312,070
Temples (FL)	103,420	89,810	89,810
Tangelos (FL)	128,820	99,790	99,790
K-Early Citrus (FL)	4,540	6,350	6,350

- 1/ Crop year begins with the bloom of the first year and ends with the completion of harvest the following year.
 2/ March 1 estimate carried forward from the January 1 forecast.

This report was approved on April 11, 1996, by the Secretary of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Statistics Service's Agricultural Statistics Board.



 Secretary of
 Agriculture
 Dan Glickman



 Agricultural Statistics Board
 Chairperson
 Rich Allen

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States,
1995 and Forecasted April 1, 1996
(Domestic Units)

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1995	1996	1995	1996
	1,000 Acres			
Peanuts 1/	1,537.5	1,459.0	1,517.0	
Potatoes				
Winter	13.3	13.6	11.9	13.5
Spring	88.3	90.1	84.3	87.5
Summer 1/	72.4		70.6	
Total 1/	1,397.1		1,371.3	

1/ 1995 revised.

Crop Summary: Yield per Acre and Production, United States,
1995 and Forecasted April 1, 1996
(Domestic Units)

Crop and Unit	Yield per Acre:			Production	
	1995	1996	1995	Mar 1, 1996	Apr 1, 1996
	1,000				
Peanuts 1/	Lb	2,282	3,461,475		
Potatoes					
Winter 2/	Cwt	208	215	2,473	2,829
Spring	"	240	241	20,193	21,085
Summer 1/	"	253		17,855	
Total 1/	"	323		442,400	

1/ 1995 revised.

2/ March 1 estimate carried forward from the January 1 forecast.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States,
1995 and Forecasted April 1, 1996
(Metric Units)

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1995	1996	1995	1996
	Hectares			
Peanuts 1/	622,210	590,440	613,910	
Potatoes				
Winter	5,380	5,500	4,820	5,460
Spring	35,730	36,460	34,120	35,410
Summer 1/	29,300		28,570	
Total 1/	565,390		554,950	

1/ 1995 revised.

Crop Summary: Yield per Hectare and Production, United States,
1995 and Forecasted April 1, 1996
(Metric Units)

Crop	Yield per Hectare:			Production	
	1995	1996	1995	Mar 1, 1996	Apr 1, 1996
	Metric Tons				
Peanuts 1/	2.56		1,570,100		
Potatoes					
Winter 2/	23.27	24.15	112,170	128,320	131,860
Spring	26.84	27.01	915,940		956,400
Summer 1/	28.35		809,890		
Total 1/	36.16		20,066,930		1,088,260

1/ 1995 revised.

2/ March 1 estimate carried forward from the January 1 forecast.

Grapefruit: Acreage, Production, Price, and Value,
California and United States, 1994-95 1/

State, Crop, and Season	Bearing Acreage	Yield per Acre	Utilization of Production			
			Fresh	Processed	Total	
	Acres	Boxes	----- 1,000 Boxes 2/ -----			
CA						
Desert Valley						
1994-95	8,000	413	2,210	1,090	3,300	
Other Areas						
1994-95	10,400	577	3,700	2,300	6,000	
All CA						
1994-95	18,400	505	5,910	3,390	9,300	
US Total						
1994-95	166,260	427	32,680	38,370	71,050	
			Price per Box 3/ 4/		Value of Production	
			Fresh	Processed	All	Fresh : Processed: Total
			----- Dollars -----		----- 1,000 Dollars -----	
CA						
Desert Valley						
1994-95	6.61	-0.17	4.37	14,608	-185	14,423
Other Areas						
1994-95	10.51	-0.21	6.40	38,887	-483	38,404
All CA						
1994-95	9.05	-0.20	5.68	53,495	-668	52,827
US Total						
1994-95	6.85	1.99	4.18	225,917	74,760	300,677

- 1/ California revises previous year production and price by utilization at this time based on available new data. This year, data showed that a revision was not necessary. This table re-issues original data issued September 22, 1995 in the "Citrus Fruits" report.
- 2/ Net lbs per box: 67.
- 3/ Equivalent packinghouse door returns.
- 4/ U.S. marketing year average prices are derived by weighting the state marketing year average prices per box by the respective box weights.

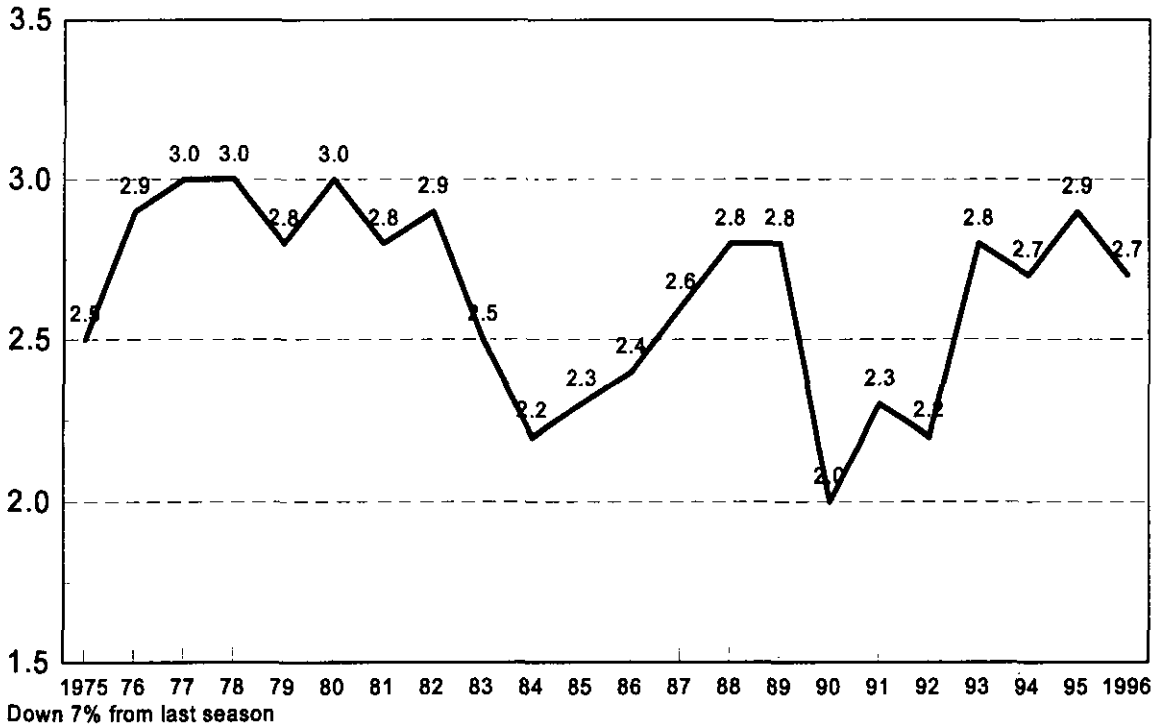
Citrus: Acreage, Production, Use, and Value,
California and United States, 1994-95 1/

State, Crop, and Season	Bearing Acreage	Production	Utilization of Production		Value Of Production
			Fresh	Processed	
	Acres		1,000 Tons		1,000 Dollars
Total Citrus					
CA					
1994-95	263,600	3,462	2,303	1,159	769,526
US					
1994-95	1,052,630	15,990	4,295	11,695	2,255,958

1/ California revises previous year production and price by utilization for grapefruit at this time based on available new data. This year, data showed that a revision was not necessary. This table re-issues original data issued September 22, 1995 in the "Citrus Fruits" report.

U.S. Grapefruit Production 1975-1995 and Forecasted 1996

Million Tons



Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
1994-95 and Forecasted April 1, 1996 1/

Crop and State	Utilized Production Boxes			Utilized Production Ton Equivalent		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
	----- 1,000 Boxes 2/ -----			----- 1,000 Tons -----		
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel 3/						
AZ	700	400	700	26	15	26
CA	36,600	35,000	40,000	1,372	1,313	1,500
FL	107,300	119,700	121,200	4,829	5,387	5,454
TX	480	950	830	21	40	35
US	145,080	156,050	162,730	6,248	6,755	7,015
Valencia						
AZ	1,200	650	900	45	24	34
CA	27,000	26,000	28,000	1,013	976	1,050
FL	67,100	85,700	80,000	3,020	3,857	3,600
TX	70	105	110	3	4	5
US	95,370	112,455	109,010	4,081	4,861	4,689
All						
AZ	1,900	1,050	1,600	71	39	60
CA	63,600	61,000	68,000	2,385	2,289	2,550
FL	174,400	205,400	201,200	7,849	9,244	9,054
TX	550	1,055	940	24	44	40
US	240,450	268,505	271,740	10,329	11,616	11,704
Temples						
FL	2,250	2,550	2,200	101	114	99
Grapefruit						
White Seedless						
FL	24,500	25,700	22,000	1,042	1,092	935
Colored Seedless						
FL	25,500	28,700	28,000	1,084	1,220	1,190
Other						
FL	1,050	1,300	1,000	45	55	43
All						
AZ	1,750	1,400	1,200	59	47	40
CA 4/						
Desert	3,400	3,300		114	111	
Other Areas	5,900	6,000		197	201	
Total	9,300	9,300	9,000	311	312	302
FL	51,050	55,700	51,000	2,171	2,367	2,168
TX	3,000	4,650	4,600	120	186	184
US	65,100	71,050	65,800	2,661	2,912	2,694
Tangerines						
AZ	1,000	650	950	37	25	36
CA	2,300	2,200	2,500	86	82	94
FL	4,100	3,550	4,500	195	168	214
US	7,400	6,400	7,950	318	275	344
Lemons						
AZ	5,200	3,600	5,000	197	137	190
CA	20,700	20,500	21,000	787	779	798
US	25,900	24,100	26,000	984	916	988
Tangelos						
FL	3,350	3,150	2,450	150	142	110
K-Early Citrus						
FL	210	120	160	9	5	7

Citrus Fruit Footnotes

- 1/ The crop year begins with the bloom of the first year shown and ends with the completion of harvest the following year.
- 2/ Net lbs. per box: oranges-AZ & CA-75, FL-90, TX-85; grapefruit-AZ & CA-67, FL-85, TX-80; lemons-76, tangelos, K-Early Citrus & Temples-90; tangerines-AZ & CA-75, FL-95.
- 3/ Navel and miscellaneous varieties in AZ and CA. Early and mid-season varieties in FL and TX, including small quantities of tangerines in TX.
- 4/ California Desert and Other Areas Grapefruit forecasts combined to All Grapefruit beginning in 1995-96.

Potatoes: Area Planted, Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Seasonal Group, State, and United States, 1994-96

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		1995	1996	1994	1995	1996
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	1994	1995	1996
	----- 1,000 Acres -----				--- Cwt ---		----- 1,000 Cwt -----		
Winter									
CA	5.0	5.7	5.0	5.7	260	250	968	1,300	1,425
FL	8.3	7.9	6.9	7.8	170	190	1,404	1,173	1,482
Total	13.3	13.6	11.9	13.5	208	215	2,372	2,473	2,907
Spring									
AL	2.6	2.0	2.5	1.9	160	160	438	400	304
AZ	6.5	9.0	6.5	9.0	270	275	1,670	1,755	2,475
CA	18.0	20.1	17.8	20.1	350	375	7,790	6,230	7,538
FL	38.5	37.5	36.0	35.5	218	195	8,588	7,830	6,940
Hastings	28.5	28.0	27.0	27.5	220	200	6,380	5,940	5,500
Other FL	10.0	9.5	9.0	8.0	210	180	2,208	1,890	1,440
NC	17.5	16.5	16.5	16.2	185	180	3,060	3,053	2,916
TX	5.2	5.0	5.0	4.8	185	190	1,100	925	912
Total	88.3	90.1	84.3	87.5	240	241	22,646	20,193	21,085
Summer 1/ 2/									
AL	6.8		6.7		170		1,190	1,139	
CA	5.5		5.5		320		2,109	1,760	
CO	9.2		9.0		300		3,069	2,700	
DE	6.0		5.9		250		816	1,475	
IL	5.6		5.5		270		1,450	1,485	
IA	1.6		1.6		150		328	240	
MD	1.5		1.5		240		250	360	
MO	7.1		6.9		230		1,734	1,587	
NE	4.5		4.4		285		1,408	1,254	
NJ	2.7		2.6		270		588	702	
NM	4.2		4.2		320		1,088	1,344	
NC	1.4		1.3		95		126	124	
TX	7.3		7.0		235		1,800	1,645	
VA	9.0		8.5		240		1,425	2,040	
Total	72.4		70.6		253		17,381	17,855	

1/ 1995 revised.

2/ Excludes 5.01 million cwt in 1994 from MI and MN formerly listed as summer potatoes.

Papayas: Area and Fresh Production, by Month, Hawaii, 1995-96

Month	Area				Fresh Production	
	Total in Crop		Harvested		1995	1996
	1995	1996	1995	1996		
Acres				-- 1,000 Pounds --		
Feb	3,660	3,740	2,395	2,340	3,815	3,425
Mar	3,715	3,650	2,480	2,280	4,255	2,965

Peanuts: Farm Marketing Percents by Month, State, and United States, 1994 and 1995 Crop Years

State and Crop Year	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Percent							
1994 Crop							
AL	.3	59.1	36.2	4.2	.2		
FL	1.6	63.1	32.0	2.9	.3	.1	
GA	.1	51.8	39.3	8.1	.7		
NC		2.1	71.6	19.0	4.8	2.5	
TX	.7	5.1	33.4	46.1	13.4	1.3	
VA		4.3	51.3	22.8	16.4	5.2	
US	.3	36.2	42.6	15.7	4.3	.9	
1995 Crop							
AL	.3	59.4	35.8	3.8	.7		
FL	1.1	56.8	36.8	4.2	.9	.2	
GA	1.6	59.8	34.2	3.9	.4	.1	
NC		4.4	56.9	27.4	6.8	4.3	.2
TX	1.1	3.8	47.6	40.7	6.6		.2
VA		4.8	55.0	32.7	4.8	2.7	
US	1.0	40.4	40.7	14.6	2.5	.7	.1

Peanuts: Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production
by State and United States, 1994-95 1/

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1994	1995	1994	1995
----- 1,000 Acres -----				
AL	223.0	213.0	222.0	212.0
FL	92.0	89.0	84.0	81.0
GA	652.0	595.0	649.0	592.0
NM	21.0	20.0	21.0	20.0
NC	151.0	144.0	151.0	144.0
OK	102.0	100.0	100.0	98.0
SC	13.0	11.5	12.5	11.0
TX	295.0	275.0	287.0	270.0
VA	92.0	90.0	92.0	89.0
US	1,641.0	1,537.5	1,618.5	1,517.0
	Yield		Production	
	1994	1995	1994	1995
----- Pounds ----- 1,000 Pounds -----				
AL	2,010	2,280	446,220	483,360
FL	2,470	2,390	207,480	193,590
GA	2,870	2,390	1,862,630	1,414,880
NM	2,460	2,150	51,660	43,000
NC	3,215	2,410	485,465	347,040
OK	2,610	2,060	261,000	201,880
SC	2,900	2,800	36,250	30,800
TX	2,110	2,000	605,570	540,000
VA	3,165	2,325	291,180	206,925
US	2,624	2,282	4,247,455	3,461,475

1/ 1995 revised.

Peanuts: Price and Value by State
and United States, 1994-95

State	Price per Pound		Value of Production	
	1994	1995	1994	1995
	---- Dollars ----		1,000 Dollars	
AL	.323	.288	144,129	139,208
FL	.281	.271	58,302	52,463
GA	.286	.295	532,712	417,390
NM	.317	.336	16,376	14,448
NC	.276	.298	133,988	103,418
OK	.310	.298	80,910	60,160
SC	.274	.298	9,933	9,178
TX	.285	.287	172,587	154,980
VA	.275	.300	80,075	62,078
US	.289	.293	1,229,012	1,013,323

March Weather Summary: Across the central and southern Plains, five storms during the last 18 days of March tempered drought conditions and improved prospects for winter wheat that endured almost 6 months of dry, windy weather and oscillating temperatures. The Texas plains, however, remained dry through month's end. Elsewhere across the South, freezes on March 7-10 and 21-23 damaged wheat, as well as ground crops and tree blooms, including vegetables and strawberries in Louisiana, and peaches from Texas to South Carolina. In addition to the cold, early- and late-month deluges hampered spring fieldwork in the Southeast. Cool weather in the Plains and Ohio Valley delayed wheat development, minimizing freeze damage during a cold snap on March 25-27. Enough cold air slipped into the Northwest toward month's end to cause some damage to fruit crops.

Monthly temperatures averaged below normal east of the Rocky Divide, with departures reaching -4 to -8 degrees F in the Ohio Valley and -4 to -10 degrees F in the northern and central Plains. In contrast, readings averaged up to 4 degrees F above normal in the Great Basin. Monthly precipitation was below normal across the West, except in a band from the northern Great Basin to the northern Plains. Elsewhere, surplus precipitation was confined to parts of the East, particularly from the Ohio Valley and Middle Atlantic States southward to Florida. Mid- to late-month rains in Kansas, Oklahoma, and northeastern Texas failed to lift March totals to normal levels. Less than a quarter of the month's normal precipitation fell across an area from southern California eastward to western and southern Texas.

Snowfall on March 2-3, 7-8, 20-21, and 28-29 padded seasonal record totals in the Great Lakes States and from the central Appalachians to southern New England. Monthly totals of 17.5 inches in Windsor Locks, CT and 20.4 inches in Charleston, WV pushed their respective seasonal totals above 100 inches for the first time on record. Lake-enhanced March totals topped 30 inches in Syracuse, NY (32.2 inches) and Erie, PA (31.8 inches). A late-season blizzard struck the North Central States on March 23-25, boosting monthly snowfall to 20.3 inches in Butte, MT and 20.0 inches in Bismarck, ND. Monthly totals of 6.9 inches in Colorado Springs, CO and 17.7 inches in Flint, MI accounted for more than 45 percent (%) of the stations' respective season-to-date snowfall.

More than 2 inches of rain soaked the interior Southeast during the first 7 days of March, including a 6.75-inch total in Birmingham, AL. But the rain yielded to very cold weather, with nearly 250 daily-record lows observed from the Plains to the East Coast on March 7-10. During the outbreak, March records were broken in locations such as Rapid City, SD (-21 degrees F), Calico Rock, AR (6 degrees F), and Monroe, LA (18 degrees F). A much less severe cold spell (about a dozen daily-record lows) arrived on March 21-23, but nevertheless nipped additional sensitive-stage tree blooms across the South. Cold air again overspread much of the Nation toward month's end. In the Northwest, lows on March 25-26 dipped into the mid-10's in eastern Washington and into the mid-20's in Oregon's Willamette Valley. On the Plains, temperatures plunged below zero as far south as Denver, CO (-2 degrees F on March 25) and Hastings, NE (-5 degrees F on March 26). Heavy rain returned to the Southeast after March 24, lifting monthly totals above 10 inches in locations such as Melbourne, FL (11.58 inches, a March record) and Montgomery, AL (10.10 inches). Farther west, however, totals across Texas were as low as 0.12 inches (4% of normal) in Houston, 0.05 inches in Midland (9% of normal), and a trace in Brownsville. Farther north, pockets of much-below-normal precipitation encompassed locations such as Hastings, NE (0.29 inches; 14% of normal), Rockford, IL (0.50 inches; 20% of normal), and Burlington, VT (0.80 inches; 36% of normal).

Outside the lower 48 States, highlights included above-normal temperatures in Alaska--especially in the west and north--and wetness in much of Hawaii. March temperatures were above normal by 9 degrees F in Nome and 13 degrees F in Bethel. In Hawaii, more than half of the month's rain fell by March 5. Renewed rainfall at month's end boosted totals to 16.35 inches (117% of normal) in Hilo and 4.85 inches (178% of normal) in Kahului.

General Crop Comments: The month began with a continuation of drought conditions across most Central States. The Texas High Plains did not receive appreciable moisture during March, and soil moisture was critically short. In the Southeastern States, freezing weather and high winds early in March damaged fruit trees and vegetables. Spring tillage started in the Southeast early in March, but was halted by heavy rains toward the end of the month. Wide temperature swings during March damaged and stressed crops in the Delta and Southern States. Karnal bunt fungus was discovered in wheat fields in parts of the Southwest early in the month, resulting in a few fields being quarantined.

Starting in mid-March, several storm systems brought significant precipitation to parts of the central and southern Plains. By mid-month, wheat was beginning to break dormancy in the Ohio Valley. The condition of the wheat crop in the Ohio Valley declined due to wide temperature fluctuations. Fieldwork was delayed in the Central States and upper middle Mississippi Valley where farmers waited for rain or warmer weather to thaw the soil. Plowing and spring planting began at mid-month in the Ohio Valley, but was slowed by snow and rain at month's end. Winter conditions continued throughout the month in the Northern States and delayed the snow melt and subsequently the start of spring fieldwork.

Widespread storm systems brought relief to parts of the central and southern Plains toward the end of the month. Heavy rains and cool weather at month's end slowed wheat development in the Central States and interrupted spring fieldwork. Producers in Colorado took advantage of the dry weather to get an early start on spring planting. Wet, cool weather in the Southeastern States during the last 2 weeks of March slowed fieldwork. In Kansas, wheat condition declined during the month as a result of the early-March freeze and persistent dry conditions. Wheat began greening in the Tennessee and Ohio Valleys late in March, but growth was limited by the cool weather. The cool, wet weather left Tennessee producers behind schedule for soil preparation. Freezing weather in late March in the Pacific Northwest damaged fruit trees. Above-normal temperatures in California at the end of March allowed small grain development to advance rapidly, and let cotton producers begin planting.

Grapefruit: The April 1 forecast of the 1995-96 U.S. grapefruit crop is 2.69 million tons, up 2 percent from last month but down 7 percent from last season. The Florida forecast remained at 51.0 million boxes, (2.17 million tons), 8 percent below last season. The Florida white seedless grapefruit forecast is 22.0 million boxes (935,000 tons), 14 percent less than 1994-95. The colored seedless forecast is 28.0 million boxes (1.19 million tons), a decrease of 2 percent from a year ago. The seedy grapefruit crop is expected to be 1.00 million boxes (43,000 tons), 23 percent below last year. Movement of Florida seedless grapefruit exceeded 43 million boxes.

California is expected to produce 9.00 million boxes (302,000 tons), 20 percent above the January forecast but 3 percent below last season. Poor January weather in the desert area did not affect production. Fruit, overall, are showing good quality, size, and color.

The Texas grapefruit forecast, at 4.60 million boxes (184,000 tons), is unchanged from last month and down 1 percent from a year ago. Arizona grapefruit remains at 1.20 million boxes (40,000 tons), 14 percent below last season.

Lemons: The 1995-96 U.S. lemon crop is forecast at 988,000 tons, 4 percent less than the level expected on January 1 but 8 percent more than the 1994-95 crop.

The California forecast for the 1995-96 crop decreased 5 percent from January to 21.0 million boxes (798,000 tons), which is 2 percent more than in 1994-95. Central Valley grades looked excellent while quality varied from lot to lot in Southern California. Desert Valley shippers finished packing with high eliminations resulting from ridging, coarse texture, and scarring. The Arizona lemon crop is expected to total 5.00 million boxes (190,000 tons), unchanged from January but 39 percent more than a year ago.

Tangerines: The 1995-96 U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at a record large 344,000 tons, 5 percent larger than last month's forecast and 25 percent above last season's crop. The Florida tangerine forecast is 4.50 million boxes (214,000 tons), 2 percent more than March and 27 percent more than 1994-95. Honey tangerine utilization is just over 1.40 million boxes with very limited supplies remaining. The California forecast is 2.50 million boxes (94,000 tons), 4 percent above the previous forecast and 14 percent above the previous year. Arizona's tangerine production is expected to be 950,000 boxes (36,000 tons), 27 percent more than last quarter and 46 percent more than last year.

Tangelos: The 1995-96 Florida tangelo crop is forecast at 2.45 million boxes (110,000 tons), unchanged from last month but down 22 percent from last year's production. Harvest is over for the year.

Temples: The April 1 forecast for the 1995-96 Florida temple production was unchanged from March at 2.20 million boxes (99,000 tons), down 14 percent from last season. Temple harvest was almost over with almost 2.1 million boxes moved.

Florida Citrus: Citrus trees, groves and the current crop are all in very good to excellent condition. Rainfall during March was above normal in all citrus growing counties. New growth and bloom were abundant during the month. The bloom cycle peaked toward the last two weeks of March which is near normal. Harvesting early and mid-season oranges was completed by mid-month and movement of Valencias increased. Movement of early and mid-season oranges totaled slightly more than 121 million boxes through the end of the month. Valencia harvest just started with about 17.8 million boxes moved to date. Harvest of all seedless grapefruit was very active all during March. Movement through March totaled 43.3 million boxes. Almost 2.1 million boxes of temples were picked with harvest almost over. Honey tangerine utilization was 1.4 million boxes, with very limited supplies remaining. Caretakers were very busy hedging and topping trees.

Texas Citrus: Harvesting grapefruit and Valencia oranges continued without delays during March. A good rain is needed in all groves as trees are blooming and setting next year's crop. Citrus trees and groves were in good condition across the Valley during March.

California Citrus: Grapefruit picking in the desert area was active during March. Fruit have excellent color and quality although there were some defects due to sunburn and sheeplouse. Lemon harvest progressed well in the Central Valley and southern California areas. Fruit quality varied with wind scar, bud mite, and botrytis concerning growers. Navel orange picking was approximately 70 percent completed by April 1. Quality was affected by puff, crease, and soft fruit resulting in heavy gradeout. Valencia orange picking was active in the desert area with excellent quality and color reported. The tangerine harvest neared completion by April 1.

California Fruit and Nut: Warm weather throughout the month advanced crop growth. Almonds, cherries and stonefruit progressed past bloom stage. Fruit or nut set and leaf formation began in some trees by late March. Apples bloomed while kiwifruit and walnut showed bud swell. Orchards activities involved mostly mowing, discing, fertilization, and spraying. Grape growers disced, irrigated, and applied herbicides to vineyards. Most vineyards had leafed out by April 1.

Winter Potatoes: Production of winter potatoes is forecast at 2.91 million cwt in 1996, up 3 percent from the January forecast and 18 percent above last year. Area for harvest, at 13,500 acres, is 13 percent above last year and 10 percent above two years ago. The average yield is forecast at 215 cwt per acre, up 7 cwt from last year. Growers in Southwest Florida had some freeze damage but the Dade County crop turned out better than anticipated. Florida winter production was 6 percent larger than forecast in January and 26 percent above last year's flooded crop. California's winter potatoes came through in good condition.

Spring Potatoes: Production for 1996 is forecast at 21.1 million cwt, up 4 percent from last year but 7 percent below 1994. Area for harvest is estimated at 87,500 acres, up 4 percent from a year ago but 3 percent below two years ago. The average yield is forecast at 241 cwt per acre, a gain of 1 cwt over last year but 10 cwt per acre below 1994.

California acreage gained 13 percent from last year partly as a result of processed potatoes to be sent north for french fries. In Kern County, acreage of long whites and round reds is down but russets are up. Development is ahead of normal with little damage from winter frosts. Arizona's fields are also bulging with potatoes to be sent north for processing french fries. Harvest of earliest fresh market potatoes will start near the end of April. Farmers have had good growing weather. Acreage is down in Texas but yields are up from last year. The Florida and Alabama spring crops were hit by frost in mid-February and early March, resulting in some lost acreage and reduced yields. Harvest will be delayed until May in most areas. Wet fields slowed planting in North Carolina.

Summer Potatoes, 1995 final: The final estimate of 1995 summer potatoes, at 17.9 million cwt, was 3 percent above comparable States the year before. Michigan and Minnesota were left out of both year's totals so the remaining States could be compared more accurately. Harvest covered 70,600 acres, down 2 percent from the previous year while the average yield of 253 cwt per acre was up 11 cwt. The revision made summer potatoes production slightly larger than the preliminary estimate made in January.

Papayas: Fresh papaya production was 2.97 million pounds for March. This output was 13 percent lower than February and 30 percent lower than March 1995.

March weather varied. Gusty winds and heavy rains early in the month were followed by improved weather conditions during mid-month. Showers, heavy at times, returned toward month's end. Papaya ringspot virus continued to lower yields.

Area devoted to papaya production totaled 3,650 acres. The area was 2 percent lower than in February and 2 percent lower than a year ago. Harvested area totaled 2,280 acres, 3 percent lower than last month and 8 percent lower than last March.

Peanuts, 1995 Revised: U.S. peanut production totaled 3.46 billion pounds in 1995, down 19 percent from the 1994 crop. Area planted to peanuts totaled 1.54 million acres, down 6 percent from 1994 and the smallest planted acreage since 1985. Harvested area, at 1.52 million acres, fell 6 percent from a year ago. The U.S. yield per harvested acre averaged 2,282 pounds, down 342 pounds from 1994. Every peanut state, with the exception of Alabama, showed a decrease in yield and production from a year ago.

Production in the Southeastern States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) totaled 2.12 billion pounds, down 17 percent from 1994. The decrease in the 4-State area resulted from a 7 percent decline in harvested acreage combined with crop yields averaging 2,369 pounds, 269 pounds less per harvested acre than last year. Georgia remained the leading peanut producer with 41 percent of the total production.

Virginia and North Carolina growers produced 554 million pounds of peanuts in 1995, 29 percent below last year's banner crop of 777 million pounds. Planted and harvested areas, at 234,000 acres and 233,000 acres, respectively, were both down 4 percent from a year ago. Yield per harvested acre averaged 2,378 pounds, 818 pounds below 1994.

The Southwest crop (New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) totaled 785 million pounds during 1995, 15 percent below the 1994 total. Area harvested, at 388,000 acres, was down 5 percent from a year ago. Average yield in the 3-State area was 2,023 pounds per acre, 228 pounds below the 1994 average but 16 pounds above 1993.

Report Features

The next "Crop Production" report will be released at 8:30 a.m. ET on May 10, 1996.

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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