

Crop Production



USDA
Washington, D.C.

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Winter Wheat Production up 3 Percent

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.60 billion bushels, up 3 percent from last month and 8 percent higher than 1996. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 39.3 bushels per acre. This is up 1.1 bushels from May 1 and 2.1 bushels per acre better than last year. Grain area totals 40.8 million acres, unchanged from last month.

Hard Red Winter wheat production is up 3 percent from last month's forecast at 921 million bushels. Improved Kansas and Oklahoma yields more than offset HRW declines elsewhere. Soft Red Winter, at 422 million, is also up 3 percent and now about equal to last year's total. White Winter production is up from last month due to improved Washington yield expectations.

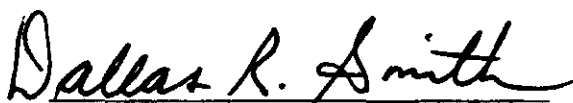
All oranges production for the 1996-97 season is forecast at a record large 12.9 million tons, unchanged from the previous forecast in May. The U.S. forecast is up 10 percent from a year ago. This year's crop is 9 percent larger than the previous record of 11.8 million tons set in the 1979-80 season. Florida's record large production amounts to 224 million boxes (10.1 million tons), unchanged from May's forecast but 10 percent above last season. Early and midseason varieties remained at a record large 134 million boxes (6.04 million tons), 11 percent above last year. Florida's record large Valencia crop, 90.0 million boxes (4.05 million tons), is unchanged from May's forecast but 10 percent above last season's crop.

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The release date for the "Cherry Production" report has been finalized for July 1, 1997 at 3:00 p.m. ET. This report had tentatively been scheduled for release on June 26, 1997.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield for the 1996-97 season is forecast at 1.58 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, unchanged from May. The forecast projects the final yield as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association. The final 1995-96 yield for all fruit used in FCOJ was 1.52 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix. The average yield for 1996-97 early and midseason varieties was final in April at 1.52 gallons per box, up from last season's 1.45. Valencia yield is projected at 1.68 gallons per box, unchanged from last month, but up from 1.67 last season.

This report was approved on June 12, 1997, by the Acting Secretary of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Statistics Service's Agricultural Statistics Board.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Dallas R. Smith



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Rich Allen

Crop Summary: Production, United States,
1995-96 and Forecasted 1996-97

Crop	Utilized Production		
		May 1, 1997	Jun 1, 1997
Crop Year 1/	1995-96	1996-97	1996-97
		1,000 Tons	
Citrus Fruits			
Oranges	11,723	12,861	12,861
Grapefruit	2,718	3,062	3,062
Lemons 2/	992	950	950
Tangerines	348	437	437
Temples (FL)	97	108	108
Tangelos (FL)	110	178	178
K-Early Citrus (FL)	7	7	7
		Metric Tons	
Oranges	10,634,930	11,667,300	11,667,300
Grapefruit	2,465,730	2,777,800	2,777,800
Lemons 2/	899,930	861,830	861,830
Tangerines	315,700	396,440	396,440
Temples (FL)	88,000	97,980	97,980
Tangelos (FL)	99,790	161,480	161,480
K-Early Citrus (FL)	6,350	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/ Estimates for current month carried forward from earlier forecast.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States,
1996 and Forecasted June 1, 1997
(Domestic Units)

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1996	1997	1996	1997
	1,000 Acres			
Winter Wheat	51,983	48,227	39,709	40,847
Sweet Potatoes 1/	89.1	87.6	84.8	
Sugarbeets 1/	1,368.4	1,454.9	1,323.3	
Sugarcane for Sugar and Seed 1/			888.9	
Hops			44.2	44.5

1/ 1996 revised.

Crop Summary: Yield per Acre and Production, United States,
1996 and Forecasted June 1, 1997
(Domestic Units)

Crop and Unit	Yield per Acre:			Production	
	1996	1997	1996	May 1, 1997	Jun 1, 1997
	----- 1,000 -----				
Winter Wheat Bu	37.2	39.3	1,478,048	1,561,470	1,603,580
Sweet Potatoes 1/ Cwt	159		13,456		
Sugarbeets 1/ Ton	20.2		26,680		
Sugarcane for Sugar and Seed 1/ "	33.1		29,462		
Hops Lb	1,698		74,970.5		
Maple Syrup Gal			1,567		1,293
Dried Prunes Ton			220.0		215.0

1/ 1996 Revised.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States,
1996 and Forecasted June 1, 1997
(Metric Units)

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1996	1997	1996	1997
	Hectares			
Winter Wheat	21,037,000	19,516,980	16,069,840	16,530,370
Sweet Potatoes 1/	36,060	35,450	34,320	
Sugarbeets 1/	553,780	588,780	535,530	
Sugarcane for Sugar and Seed 1/			359,730	
Hops			17,870	17,990

1/ 1996 revised.

Crop Summary: Yield per Hectare and Production, United States,
1996 and Forecasted June 1, 1997
(Metric Units)

Crop	Yield per Hectare:			Production	
	1996	1997	1996	May 1, 1997	Jun 1, 1997
	Metric Tons				
Winter Wheat	2.50	2.64	40,225,870	42,496,250	43,642,300
Sweet Potatoes 1/	17.78		610,350		
Sugarbeets 1/	45.20		24,203,690		
Sugarcane for Sugar and Seed 1/	74.30		26,727,480		
Hops	1.90		34,010		
Maple Syrup			7,830		6,460
Dried Prunes			199,580		195,040

1/ 1996 Revised.

Winter Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by State
and United States, 1996 and Forecasted June 1, 1997

State	Area Harvested		Yield			Production	
	1996	1997	1996	1997		1996	1997
				May 1	Jun 1		
	1,000 Acres		Bushels			1,000 Bushels	
AL	80	110	44.0	35.0	35.0	3,520	3,850
AZ 1/	14	10	95.0	85.0	85.0	1,330	850
AR	1,240	790	54.0	42.0	44.0	66,960	34,760
CA	550	380	69.0	65.0	65.0	37,950	24,700
CO	2,200	2,750	32.0	33.0	33.0	70,400	90,750
DE 1/	78	77	53.0	62.0	62.0	4,134	4,774
FL 1/	10	15	38.0	39.0	39.0	380	585
GA	350	350	48.0	40.0	42.0	16,800	14,700
ID	860	870	80.0	76.0	76.0	68,800	66,120
IL	1,100	1,080	38.0	50.0	55.0	41,800	59,400
IN	720	640	38.0	55.0	53.0	27,360	33,920
IA 1/	45	25	35.0	36.0	36.0	1,575	900
KS	8,800	10,700	29.0	32.0	34.0	255,200	363,800
KY	530	500	53.0	46.0	52.0	28,090	26,000
LA 1/	130	120	43.0	40.0	40.0	5,590	4,800
MD 1/	227	207	52.0	55.0	55.0	11,804	11,385
MI	630	550	38.0	52.0	52.0	23,940	28,600
MN 1/	32	51	36.0	36.0	36.0	1,152	1,836
MS	230	200	49.0	39.0	39.0	11,270	7,800
MO	1,250	1,000	39.0	44.0	45.0	48,750	45,000
MT	1,980	1,650	32.0	35.0	35.0	63,360	57,750
NE	2,100	1,900	35.0	36.0	35.0	73,500	66,500
NV 1/	9	12	100.0	100.0	100.0	900	1,200
NJ 1/	38	32	46.0	46.0	46.0	1,748	1,472
NM 1/	110	250	37.0	31.0	31.0	4,070	7,750
NY 1/	150	135	43.0	52.0	52.0	6,450	7,020
NC	590	700	44.0	46.0	45.0	25,960	31,500
ND 1/	75	38	30.0	31.0	31.0	2,250	1,178
OH	1,330	1,140	39.0	51.0	54.0	51,870	61,560
OK	4,900	5,000	19.0	25.0	27.0	93,100	135,000
OR	850	840	72.0	68.0	65.0	61,200	54,600
PA 1/	190	175	48.0	52.0	52.0	9,120	9,100
SC	270	290	45.0	45.0	47.0	12,150	13,630
SD	1,580	1,250	35.0	35.0	33.0	55,300	41,250
TN	400	370	44.0	43.0	42.0	17,600	15,540
TX	2,900	3,700	26.0	28.0	28.0	75,400	103,600
UT 1/	160	160	38.0	45.0	45.0	6,080	7,200
VA 1/	275	250	53.0	54.0	54.0	14,575	13,500
WA	2,350	2,150	70.0	61.0	63.0	164,500	135,450
WV 1/	11	10	45.0	45.0	45.0	495	450
WI 1/	125	135	43.0	50.0	50.0	5,375	6,750
WY 1/	240	235	26.0	30.0	30.0	6,240	7,050
US	39,709	40,847	37.2	38.2	39.3	1,478,048	1,603,580

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

Durum Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by State
and United States, 1996 and Forecasted June 1, 1997 1/

State	Area Harvested		Yield			Production	
	1996	1997	1996	1997		1996	1997
				May 1	Jun 1		
	1,000 Acres		----- Bushels -----			1,000 Bushels	
AZ	164	99	90.0	93.0	95.0	14,760	9,405
CA	138	130	100.0	95.0	95.0	13,800	12,350
MN	10		43.0			430	
MT	270		25.0			6,750	
ND	2,940		27.0			79,380	
SD	24		30.0			720	
US	3,546		32.7			115,840	

1/ Harvested area for U.S. and northern States will be available in "Acreage" released June 30, 1997. Yield and production for U.S. and northern States to be published in "Crop Production" released July 11, 1997.

Wheat: Production by Class, United States, 1995-1996
and Forecasted June 1, 1997 1/

Year	Winter			Spring			Total
	Hard Red	Soft Red	White	Hard Red	Durum	White	
	1,000 Bushels						
1995	825,042	455,568	264,043	475,046	102,280	60,612	2,182,591
1996	762,402	422,019	293,627	626,753	115,840	61,122	2,281,763
1997	921,276	422,244	260,060				

1/ Wheat class estimates are based on varietal acreage survey data available for all wheat producing States. Unless unusual situations dictate, the previous end-of-season class percentages are used throughout the forecast season.

Sweet Cherries: Total Production by State and Total,
1995-96 and Forecasted June 1, 1997

State	Total Production		
	1995	1996	1997 1/
	Tons		
CA	19,800	24,600	35,000
OR	38,000	32,000	43,000
WA	75,000	69,000	85,000
Total	132,800	125,600	163,000

1/ The first production forecast for sweet cherries in ID, MI, MT, NY, PA, and UT and tart cherries in CO, MI, NY, OR, PA, UT, WA, and WI will be published on July 1, 1997 in "Cherry Production".

Peaches: Total Production by Crop, State, and United States,
1995-96 and Forecasted June 1, 1997

State	Total Production		
	1995	1996	1997
	Million Pounds		
CA - Freestone	502	633	730
GA	160	10	160
SC	215	3	150
Total Above	877	646	1,040
CA - Clingstone 1/	865	1,093	1,100
Total	1,742	1,739	2,140

1/ CA Clingstone is over-the-scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.

Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
1995-96 and Forecasted June 1, 1997 1/

Crop and State	Utilized Production Boxes			Utilized Production Ton Equivalent		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
	----- 1,000 Boxes 2/ -----			----- 1,000 Tons -----		
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel 3/						
AZ 4/	400	700	500	15	27	19
CA 4/	35,000	38,000	43,000	1,313	1,426	1,613
FL	119,700	121,200	134,200	5,387	5,454	6,039
TX	950	830	1,300	40	35	55
US	156,050	160,730	179,000	6,755	6,942	7,726
Valencia						
AZ 4/	650	950	800	24	36	30
CA 4/	21,000	28,000	28,000	788	1,051	1,050
FL	85,800	82,000	90,000	3,861	3,690	4,050
TX	105	110	120	4	4	5
US	107,555	111,060	118,920	4,677	4,781	5,135
All						
AZ 4/	1,050	1,650	1,300	39	63	49
CA 4/	56,000	66,000	71,000	2,101	2,477	2,663
FL	205,500	203,200	224,200	9,248	9,144	10,089
TX	1,055	940	1,420	44	39	60
US	263,605	271,790	297,920	11,432	11,723	12,861
Temples						
FL	2,550	2,150	2,400	114	97	108
Grapefruit						
White Seedless						
FL	25,700	23,200	26,500	1,092	986	1,126
Colored Seedless						
FL	28,700	28,100	31,500	1,220	1,194	1,339
Other						
FL	1,300	1,050	1,000	55	45	43
All						
AZ 4/	1,400	1,200	1,000	47	40	34
CA 4/ 5/						
Desert	3,300			111		
Other Areas	6,000			201		
Total	9,300	8,100	9,200	312	271	308
FL	55,700	52,350	59,000	2,367	2,225	2,508
TX	4,650	4,550	5,300	186	182	212
US	71,050	66,200	74,500	2,912	2,718	3,062
Tangerines						
AZ 4/	650	1,000	650	25	38	24
CA 4/	2,500	2,600	2,900	94	97	109
FL	3,550	4,500	6,400	168	213	304
US	6,700	8,100	9,950	287	348	437
Lemons 4/						
AZ	3,600	5,100	3,000	137	194	114
CA	20,000	21,000	22,000	760	798	836
US	23,600	26,100	25,000	897	992	950
Tangelos						
FL	3,150	2,450	3,950	142	110	178
K-Early Citrus						
FL	120	160	150	5	7	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 (including Navel) and midseason varieties in FL and TX. Small quantities of tangerines in TX.
- 4/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.
- 5/ California Desert and Other Areas Grapefruit forecasts combined with All Grapefruit beginning in 1995-96.

Bartlett Pears: Total Production by State and Total,
1995-96 and Forecasted June 1, 1997

State	Total Production		
	1995	1996 1/	1997
Tons			
CA	247,000	287,000	300,000
OR	70,000	45,000	75,000
WA	180,000	105,000	190,000
Total	497,000	437,000	565,000

1/ Revised.

Miscellaneous Fruits: Total Production by Crop and State,
1995-96 and Forecasted June 1, 1997

Crop and State	Total Production		
	1995	1996	1997
	Tons		
Prunes (Dried Basis) 1/ CA	181,000	220,000	215,000
Apricots CA	54,000	76,000	125,000

1/ 1996 revised.

Papayas: Area and Fresh Production by Month, Hawaii, 1996-97

Month	Area				Fresh Production	
	Total in Crop		Harvested		1996	1997
	1996	1997	1996	1997		
	Acres				1,000 Pounds	
Apr	3,585	4,310	2,030	2,115	2,815	2,835
May	3,705	4,335	1,940	2,125	3,385	2,860

Hops: Area Harvested by Variety, State, and United States,
1995-96 and Forecasted June 1, 1997

State and Variety	Area Harvested		:Strung for Harvest
	1995	1996	1997
	Acres		
ID			
Banner	103	77	68
Chelan	*	*	4
Chinook	341	343	331
Cluster	826	815	805
Galena	608	649	661
Mt. Hood	20	20	10
Nugget	12	37	70
Willamette	68	190	224
Other Varieties	1,949	1,866	1,716
Total	3,927	3,997	3,889
OR			
Brewer's Gold	*	*	*
Cascade	*	*	*
Chinook	60	*	*
Fuggle	547	481	423
Galena	*	*	*
Golding	*	*	245
Liberty	*	*	*
Mt. Hood	287	238	238
Nugget	3,025	3,101	3,062
Perle	154	181	329
Tettnanger	976	796	649
Willamette	3,260	3,259	3,070
Other Varieties	332	430	335
Total	8,641	8,486	8,351
WA			
Cascade	1,128	1,045	1,037
Chinook	2,277	2,234	1,686
Cluster	5,143	4,853	3,630
Eroica	443	183	*
Fuggle	*	*	*
Galena	8,358	7,984	6,993
Golding	*	87	131
Liberty	138	94	*
Mt. Hood	1,115	955	540
Northern Brewer	58	*	*
Nugget	5,149	5,539	5,857
Olympic	160	126	126
Perle	248	233	256
Tettnanger	2,278	1,991	1,595
Willamette	2,797	3,520	4,321
Other Varieties	1,329	2,834	6,042
Total	30,621	31,678	32,214
US	43,189	44,161	44,454

* Included in Other Varieties to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Sugarbeets: Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, Production,
Price, and Value by State and United States, 1995-96 1/

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield	
	1995	1996 2/	1995	1996 2/	1995	1996 2/
	1,000 Acres				Tons	
CA	116.0	84.0	114.0	82.0	28.0	29.5
CO	42.8	54.8	41.1	51.1	17.4	20.2
ID	198.0	187.0	197.0	184.0	24.0	24.8
MI	190.0	153.0	188.0	130.0	15.8	15.1
MN	427.0	441.0	420.0	438.0	17.7	18.2
MT	55.7	57.7	55.5	57.5	21.5	22.6
NE	75.9	55.8	72.3	51.2	16.4	17.8
NM		1.1		.9		29.8
ND	207.0	226.6	204.2	225.3	19.2	18.7
OH	16.3	4.9	15.3	4.6	15.0	18.8
OR	18.4	17.4	17.8	16.3	22.7	25.5
TX	20.2	14.1	19.3	12.6	18.2	19.2
WA		13.0		13.0		35.5
WY	63.0	58.0	61.5	56.8	20.3	18.9
Oth						
Sts 3/	14.3		14.1		34.3	
US	1,444.6	1,368.4	1,420.1	1,323.3	19.8	20.2
	Production		Price per Ton		Value of Production	
	1995	1996 2/	1995	1996 4/	1995	1996 4/
	--- 1,000 Tons ---		---- Dollars ----		1,000 Dollars	
CA	3,192	2,419	39.40		125,765	
CO	715	1,032	35.40		25,311	
ID	4,728	4,563	40.50		191,484	
MI	2,970	1,963	33.80		100,386	
MN	7,434	7,971	38.00		282,492	
MT	1,193	1,300	39.90		47,601	
NE	1,186	913	34.40		40,798	
NM		27				
ND	3,929	4,213	39.10		153,624	
OH	230	86				
OR	404	416	39.30		15,877	
TX	351	242	36.50		12,812	
WA		461				
WY	1,249	1,074	37.70		47,087	
Oth						
Sts 5/	484		38.40		27,426	
US	28,065	26,680	38.10		1,070,663	

- 1/ Relates to year of intended harvest except for overwintered spring planted beets in CA.
- 2/ Revised.
- 3/ Includes NM and WA prior to 1996.
- 4/ Estimates are not available. U.S. marketing year average price, value of production, and parity price will be published in "Agricultural Prices", released July 31, 1997. State estimates will be published in "Crop Values" to be released February 1998.
- 5/ Production data relates to NM and WA. Price and value of production data for OH are included to avoid disclosure of factory data.

Sugarcane: Area Harvested, Yield, Production, Price,
and Value by State and United States, 1995-96

State	Area Harvested		Yield 1/		Production 1/	
	1995	1996 2/	1995	1996 2/	1995	1996 2/
	1,000 Acres		Tons		1,000 Tons	
For Sugar						
FL	417.0	417.0	34.6	33.1	14,445	13,803
HI	48.5	42.9	81.5	82.6	3,953	3,544
LA	368.0	335.0	25.6	27.9	9,421	9,347
TX	41.2	34.6	32.4	28.7	1,336	992
US	874.7	829.5	33.3	33.4	29,155	27,686
For Seed						
FL	20.0	21.0	33.9	33.1	677	695
HI	4.5	3.1	26.0	30.6	117	95
LA	32.0	35.0	25.6	27.9	819	976
TX	1.1	.3	25.5	33.3	28	10
US	57.6	59.4	28.5	29.9	1,641	1,776
For Sugar and Seed						
FL	437.0	438.0	34.6	33.1	15,122	14,498
HI	53.0	46.0	76.8	79.1	4,070	3,639
LA	400.0	370.0	25.6	27.9	10,240	10,323
TX	42.3	34.9	32.2	28.7	1,364	1,002
US	932.3	888.9	33.0	33.1	30,796	29,462
	For Sugar			For Sugar and Seed		
	Price per Ton		Value of Production		Value of Production 3/	
	1995	1996 4/	1995	1996 4/	1995	1996 4/
	Dollars		1,000 Dollars			
FL	30.60		442,017		462,733	
HI	32.30		127,682		131,461	
LA	27.00		254,367		276,480	
TX	26.60		35,538		36,282	
US	29.50		859,604		906,956	

1/ Yield and production refer to net weight.

2/ Revised.

3/ Price per ton of cane for sugar used in evaluating value of production for seed.

4/ Estimates are not available. U.S. marketing year average price, value of production, and parity price will be published in "Agricultural Prices" released July 31, 1997. State estimates will be published in "Crop Values" to released February 1998.

Sweet Potatoes: Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production,
by State and United States, 1995-96 1/

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1995	1996	1995	1996
1,000 Acres				
AL	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.3
CA	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6
GA	2.5	2.1	2.4	2.0
LA	22.0	22.0	21.0	21.0
MS	6.2	8.3	5.5	8.1
NJ	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.2
NC	33.0	33.0	32.0	31.0
SC	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.6
TX	5.6	5.9	5.2	5.5
VA	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5
US	87.4	89.1	83.6	84.8
	Yield		Production	
	1995	1996	1995	1996
----- Cwt ----- ----- 1,000 Cwt -----				
AL	165	170	677	731
CA	200	225	1,920	2,160
GA	170	200	408	400
LA	150	160	3,150	3,360
MS	150	160	825	1,296
NJ	150	130	210	156
NC	150	140	4,800	4,340
SC	95	125	181	200
TX	125	135	650	743
VA	170	140	85	70
US	154	159	12,906	13,456

1/ Revised.

Maple Syrup: Production, Price, and Value
by State and United States, 1996-97 1/

State	Production		Average Price per Gallon		Value of Production	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	1,000 Gallons		Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
CT	10	9	42.70	33.40	427	301
ME	167	180	21.90	19.40	3,657	3,492
MA	49	44	38.90	31.00	1,906	1,364
MI	88	75	31.10	25.50	2,737	1,913
NH	89	76	37.20	29.50	3,311	2,242
NY	343	269	25.50	23.70	8,747	6,375
OH	90	95	28.50	26.00	2,565	2,470
PA	71	63	24.60	25.60	1,747	1,613
VT	550	395	26.50	22.30	14,575	8,809
WI	110	87	22.70	21.90	2,497	1,905
US	1,567	1,293	26.90	23.60	42,169	30,484

1/ Price and value for 1996 are revised. Price and value for 1997 are preliminary.

Maple Syrup: Percent of Sales by Type and State, 1995-96

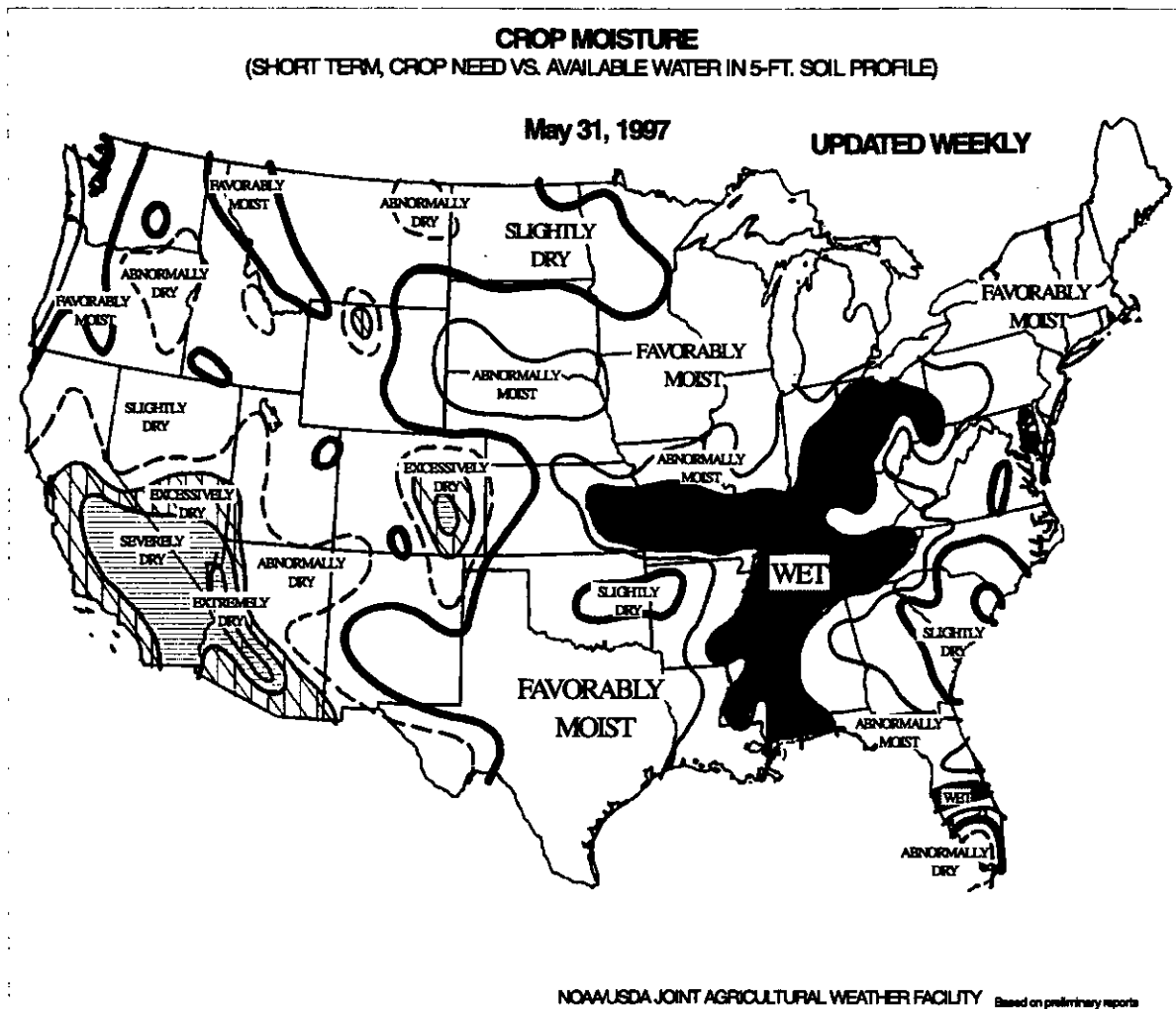
State	Retail		Wholesale and Bulk	
	1995	1996	1995	1996
	Percent			
CT	70	70	30	30
ME	5	5	95	95
MA	70	80	30	20
MI	50	64	50	36
NH	60	70	40	30
NY	48	50	52	50
OH	75	65	25	35
PA	51	48	49	52
VT	40	35	60	65
WI	53	37	47	63

Maple Syrup: Price by Type of Sales and Size of Container
by State, 1995-96 1/

Type and State	Gallons 1995	Gallons 1996	1/2 Gallons 1995	1/2 Gallons 1996	Quarts 1995	Quarts 1996	Pints 1995	Pints 1996	1/2 Pints 1995	1/2 Pints 1996
Dollars										
Retail										
CT	:35.00	35.40	19.60	20.50	11.10	11.00	6.00	6.95	4.20	4.25
ME	:30.20	32.30	16.90	17.50	9.45	9.35	5.45	5.55	3.60	3.70
MA	:30.10	32.40	17.80	18.30	10.50	10.60	6.40	6.65	4.15	4.05
MI	:27.60	27.70	15.60	17.00	8.28	9.17	5.24	5.81	3.14	3.47
NH	:31.20	32.10	17.80	17.80	10.40	10.50	6.25	6.20	3.70	3.80
NY	:29.10	28.20	15.70	16.50	9.00	10.00	5.60	6.05	3.70	3.65
OH	:26.30	26.50	14.50	15.00	8.50	9.20	5.20	5.70	3.80	4.30
PA	:27.90	28.70	15.20	16.10	8.50	9.00	5.10	5.40	3.40	3.70
VT	:28.80	28.30	16.90	16.50	10.40	10.10	6.45	6.15	4.20	4.20
WI	:23.40	24.80	12.40	13.10	7.30	7.09	4.00	4.45	2.90	2.67
Wholesale										
CT 2/	:		14.80	17.40	8.10	8.85	4.85	6.50	3.60	3.20
ME	:25.80	25.40	13.60	13.60	7.05	7.50	4.30	4.50	2.70	2.80
MA	:23.50	25.70	14.70	16.00	8.15	8.60	4.75	5.05	2.75	3.25
MI	:24.80	25.80	13.00	13.80	7.40	7.60	4.30	4.17	2.46	2.24
NH	:25.50	24.90	14.70	14.80	7.75	8.40	4.55	4.90	2.75	3.10
NY	:23.30	25.70	13.80	14.70	7.80	8.00	4.70	4.80	2.60	3.40
OH	:20.60	22.50	11.50	13.00	6.50	7.50	3.60	4.50	2.70	3.40
PA	:23.50	26.80	14.00	14.60	7.40	7.90	4.70	4.80	2.90	3.00
VT	:24.00	24.30	13.60	13.90	7.95	8.10	4.65	4.80	3.10	3.05
WI	:26.60	23.90	13.90	13.10	7.50	6.65	4.00	3.81	2.40	2.51
Bulk										
			Bulk All Grades		Bulk All Grades		All Sales			
			1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
			Dollars per Pound		Dollars per Gallon		Equivalent per Gallon			
CT 2/	:						40.20		42.70	
ME	: 1.50	1.83		16.50	20.20		18.30		21.90	
MA	: 1.22	1.38		13.50	15.20		38.10		38.90	
MI	: 1.63	1.77		18.00	19.50		26.90		31.10	
NH	: 1.29	1.36		14.20	15.00		38.00		37.20	
NY	: 1.15	1.35		12.60	14.90		23.50		25.50	
OH	: 1.30	1.60		14.40	17.50		28.80		28.50	
PA	: 1.10	1.30		11.30	13.50		25.10		24.60	
VT	: 1.46	1.48		16.10	16.30		27.80		26.50	
WI	: 1.29	1.42		14.20	15.60		25.40		22.70	

1/ Prices are revised.

2/ Data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.



Crop Moisture

Depicts short term (up to about 4 weeks) abnormal dryness or wetness affecting Agriculture, responds rapidly, can change considerably week to week, and indicates normal conditions at the beginning and end of the growing season.

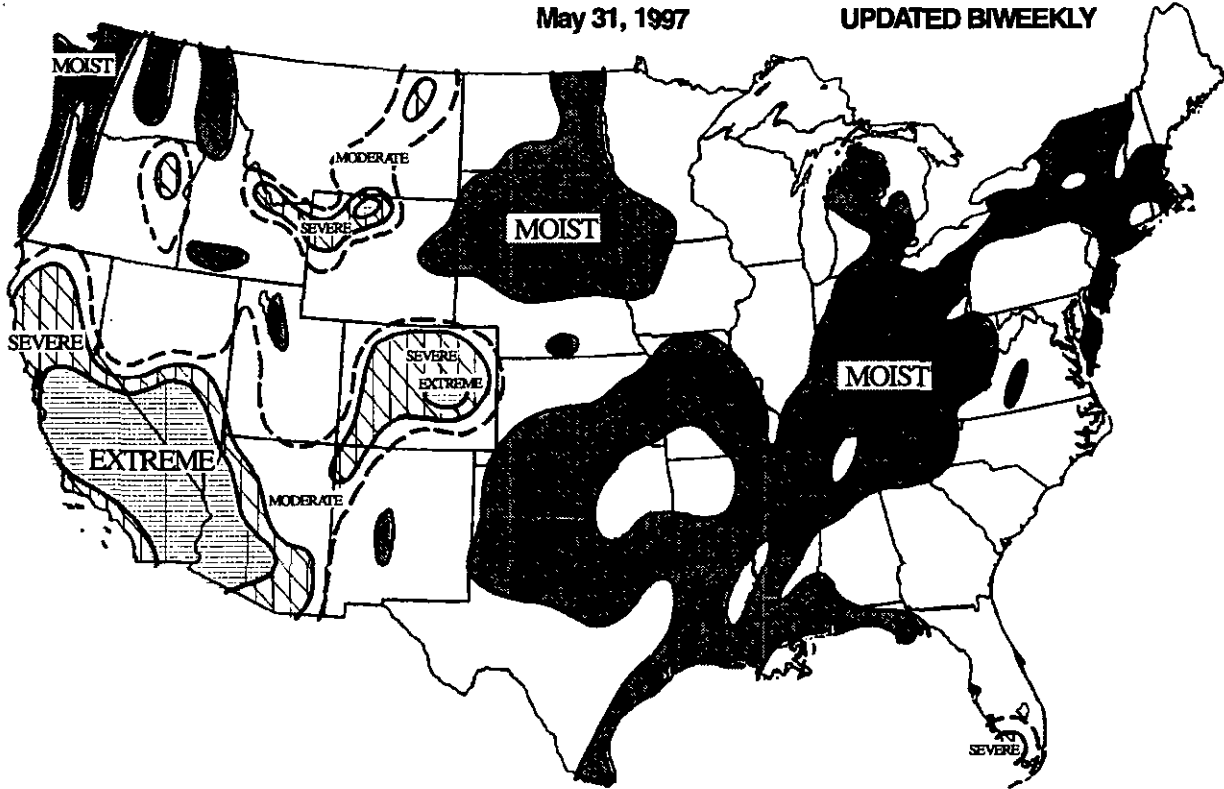
Uses...applicable in measuring the short term, week-to-week, status of dryness or wetness affecting warm season crops and field operations.

Limitations...may not be applicable to germination and shallow rooted crops which are unable to extract the deep or subsoil moisture from a 5-foot profile, or for cool season crops growing when temperatures are averaging below about 55 degrees fahrenheit. It is not generally indicative of the long term (months, years) drought or wet spells which are depicted by the drought severity index.

DROUGHT SEVERITY
(LONG TERM PALMER)

May 31, 1997

UPDATED BIWEEKLY



NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY Based on preliminary reports

Drought Severity

Drought severity index (Palmer): Depicts prolonged (months, years) abnormal dryness or wetness; responds slowly; changes little from week to week; and reflects long term moisture runoff, recharge, and deep percolation, as well as evapotranspiration.

Uses...applicable in measuring disruptive effects of prolonged dryness or wetness on water sensitive economies; designating disaster areas of drought or wetness and reflecting the general long-term status of water supplies in aquifers, reservoirs, and streams.

Limitations...is not generally indicative of short-term (few weeks) status of drought or wetness such as frequently affects crops and field operations (this is indicated by the crop moisture index).

May Weather Summary: A run of cool weather continued for a second consecutive month in areas east of a line from the Midwest to Texas, resulting in monthly temperatures 2 to 8 degrees F below normal. The coolest weather plagued the Midwestern and Great Lakes States, hampering crop development. Frost was reported across the Corn Belt as late as May 20-22, and snow added to seasonal-record totals in the Great Lakes States at mid-month. In contrast, hot weather persisted across the Southwest, producing departures of +2 to +8 degrees F and some May-record maxima at month's end.

Most of the month's rain fell before May 4 or after mid-month. The late-month rains were timely for Corn Belt crops, but were locally excessive. Late-month rainfall also eased topsoil dryness in the Southeast, but caused localized flooding in the central Gulf Coast region. On May 27, a severe weather outbreak across the South included a powerful tornado near Austin, TX, causing 27 fatalities. Variable amounts of moisture fell on the Plains, with dry pockets developing or persisting in the northern (North Dakota and eastern Montana) and central Plains (eastern Colorado and western Kansas). Most areas in the Northwest received adequate moisture, but long-term drought continued to intensify in the Southwest.

Several locations in the East registered a record-cold May:

Location	Average (degrees F)	Former Record/Year
Lansing, MI	48.3	50.2 in 1917
Gr. Rapids, MI	50.3	50.7 in 1907, 1924
Mansfield, OH	52.1	not available
Elkins, WV	52.4	52.6 in 1924
Pittsburgh, PA	54.2	54.3 in 1967
Bristol, TN	58.3	58.7 in 1967
Asheville, NC	58.3	59.4 in 1989
Paducah, KY	62.1	62.5 in 1976

Many other parts of the East and Midwest experienced their coolest May weather in many years:

Location	Average (degrees F)	Coolest May Since...
Muskegon, MI	48.9	48.9 in 1924
Rochester, MN	51.3	51.3 in 1967
Youngstown, OH	51.4	50.2 in 1967
Chicago, IL	53.8	53.2 in 1983
LaCrosse, WI	55.0	54.3 in 1983
Dayton, OH	55.8	55.0 in 1917
Columbus, OH	56.5	55.4 in 1967
Cincinnati, OH	57.1	56.6 in 1917
Huntington, WV	58.7	58.3 in 1924
Louisville, KY	59.4	59.0 in 1961
Evansville, IN	60.3	60.2 in 1924

Louisville had to wait until May 18 for their first 80-degree reading of the year, the latest date on record. In Lansing, the temperature topped 70 degrees F only once during the month (78 degrees F on May 24). Rochester's highs failed to reach the 60-degree plateau on 15 days during the month. On May 13, lows of 32 degrees F in Omaha, NE and 31 degrees F in Gilbert, AR represented the latest freeze on record for both locations. On the same morning, Lincoln, NE (27 degrees F) notched their latest sub-30-degree minimum on record. Widespread frost and freezing temperatures cloaked the Corn Belt on May 16. Sub-freezing readings were reported as far south as Vichy/Rolla, MO (31 degrees F) and Frankfort, KY (31 degrees F). In Cincinnati, OH, a low of 32 degrees F marked their second-latest freeze on record, behind May 25, 1925. On May 20-22, another batch of chilly air spread eastward across the Corn Belt, producing a final round of scattered frost.

In contrast, May-record warmth dotted the West, punctuated by May-record heat at month's end. In California, Fresno established their May record with 18 days of 90-degree heat, surpassing 16 days in 1940 and 1947. Monthly average temperature records were exceeded in:

Location	Average (degrees F)	Former Record/Year
Las Vegas, NV	81.6	80.7 in 1984
Sacramento, CA	74.5	73.8 in 1992
L.A. Civic Center, CA	72.7	72.4 in 1984
Eureka, CA	58.0	57.9 in 1993

On the last day of May, several all-time monthly records were shattered in Utah. Highs reached 95 degrees F in Salt Lake City, 93 degrees F in Blanding, 91 degrees F in Tooele, and 90 degrees F in Heber City. In Laughlin, NV, highs soared to 111 degrees F on May 30 and 31, toppling their former monthly record by 1 degree.

By the end of May, some locations in Texas surpassed their total rainfall for all of 1996. For example, Del Rio's January-May rainfall reached 13.24 inches, compared with 11.29 inches for last year. In Victoria, rainfall during the first 5 months of 1997 was 37.87 inches, not only surpassing last year's total of 29.61 inches, but also eclipsing their normal annual total of 37.41 inches.

Although generally dry weather prevailed across North Dakota, Devils Lake continued to rise. On May 13, the lake's surface rose to 1,441.0 feet above sea level, equalling the approximate historical maximum, set in 1830. Devils Lake is expected to crest near 1,444.0 feet in July.

May snowfall totaled 9.1 inches in Marquette, MI, padding their seasonal-record total to 272.2 inches. Another 0.1 inch fell on May 15 in Rochester, MN, boosting their record total to 84.7 inches. On May 15, Houghton Lake, MI received enough snow (3.3 inches) to eclipse their monthly record of 3.2 inches, set in 1994. On Michigan's Upper Peninsula, seasonal-snowfall records were established in Bergland (284.9 inches, 167 percent [%] of normal), Herman (384.0 inches, 160% of normal), Ironwood (301.8 inches, 176% of normal), and Munising (236.8 inches, 160% of normal). Farther east, New Hampshire's Mt. Washington received 91.7 inches by the 23rd, shattering their former May record of 52.2 inches.

The late-month wet spell boosted monthly rainfall to more than 150% of normal in several areas from the Gulf Coast to the Great Lakes States, including the eastern Corn Belt. On May 25, Pittsburgh, PA collected a May calendar-day record 2.48 inches of rain. Wet weather also pushed into the Northwest at month's end. On May 31, daily-rainfall records were established in locations such as Salem, OR (1.56 inches) and Seattle, WA (1.13 inches).

Very warm conditions dominated southern and western Alaska, where monthly temperatures averaged up to 6 degrees F above normal. In Bethel, a May-record-setting stretch of 70-degree maxima occurred on May 24-29. Although precipitation was above normal in the west, interior sections continued to observe below-normal totals. In Fairbanks, only 0.07 inches fell--11% of normal--capping their driest spring on record (0.14 inches).

General Crop Comments: Unseasonably cool weather east of the Rocky Mountains slowed crop emergence and development the entire month of May. Localities as far south as Kentucky recorded freezing temperatures well beyond their normal "last freeze date." Despite the cool weather, corn planting progressed well ahead of normal throughout the Corn Belt. As corn planting finished, farmers immediately switched to planting soybeans, which also progressed well ahead of the normal pace. However, below-normal temperatures hindered crop emergence and development, requiring limited replanting. Overall, corn condition as of June 1, 1997, was mostly good.

Continuous cool, wet weather hindered planting operations along the Gulf Coast and in the lower Mississippi and Ohio Valleys. Late-month rains eased a 3-week dry spell along the southern and middle Atlantic Coast. Southeastern cotton and peanut growers made good planting progress during the middle of the month. End-of-month rains improved crop conditions, but hindered planting progress.

Dry soils in the central and northern High Plains stressed the winter wheat crop for most of the month, causing conditions to decline. Favorable rains fell in the area the last half of May, alleviating drought-like conditions. Planting of spring wheat, barley, and oats was delayed until mid-month by cool weather and saturated soils in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. Drier soils allowed small grain farmers to plant at a rapid pace during the latter part of May.

Unlike the East, States west of the Rocky Mountains recorded above-normal temperatures during May. In the Northwest, winter wheat condition improved with late-month rains. Spring wheat, barley, and oat growers made good planting progress during the month. Six consecutive weeks of hot weather in the Southwest provided good crop planting and development conditions, but exacerbated long-term drought.

Winter Wheat: Area for grain harvest this year is forecast at 40.8 million acres, unchanged from May 1 but up 3 percent from 1996.

Yields in the Delta and Southeastern Soft Red Winter States are generally equal to or higher than last month. Cool weather has slowed Alabama's harvest; Arkansas' also trails average. The Georgia harvest is about half complete. Little or no disease problems have been reported in Kentucky's late developing crop. Heavy rains apparently hurt Indiana's wheat. The coolest May on record has slowed Michigan wheat development. Objective Yield Survey head count forecasts compare to 1995 in Illinois and Ohio, but are the highest since 1988 in Missouri.

Average head count populations are forecast from Washington's Objective Yield survey. Idaho's winter crop is maturing ahead of average. Oregon growers are less optimistic after May's hot weather.

Hard Red Winter Objective Yield head counts have improved in Kansas and are well above average levels. The Oklahoma and Texas count forecasts are at record high numbers. Colorado's compares to 1995. Nebraska's populations are near average while Montana's are similar to last year. South Dakota's crop is growing very slowly with only 26 percent in boot as of June 1. The California wheat harvest is about two weeks ahead of normal.

Durum Wheat: Durum production in Arizona and California is forecast at 21.8 million bushels, up 1 percent from May 1 because of improved Arizona yields. As of June 1, 30 percent of the Arizona acreage was harvested. This trails both last year and the 5-year average. California's Imperial Valley harvest was active through May and was about 75 percent complete by June 1; quality and protein content were a little lower than normal. Remaining acreages in both States are rated in good to excellent condition.

Sweet Cherries: Production in California, Oregon, and Washington is forecast at 163,000 tons, up 30 percent from last year and 23 percent above 1995. Growing conditions have been favorable for this year's crop.

The sweet cherry crop in California is forecast at 35,000 tons, up 42 percent from last year and 77 percent above the 1995 crop of 19,800 tons. Good weather throughout the growing season resulted in better yields.

Washington expects to produce 85,000 tons of sweet cherries in 1997, up 23 percent from the 1996 crop. If realized, this would be the largest crop since 1989. New plantings of later varieties will extend the season into August in the Wenatchee district. Growers are expecting a good quality crop this year.

Oregon is forecasting 43,000 tons of production, up 34 percent from the 1996 crop and up 13 percent from 1995. A mild winter improved prospects for 1997. An ideal fruit set resulted in good sizing and a full crop. Only scattered frost damage occurred in the Mid-Columbia region.

Peaches: The 1997 peach crop in California, Georgia, and South Carolina is forecast at 2.14 billion pounds, 23 percent above both last year and two years ago. Freestone peach production is projected at 1.04 billion pounds, 61 percent above last year and 19 percent above 1995. Production in Georgia is expected to return to more normal levels after last year's frosts, while South Carolina producers, who also suffered severe losses from frost in 1996, will harvest about two-thirds of a normal crop. Losses were mainly due to hail damage.

California's Clingstone crop is projected at 1.10 billion pounds, 1 percent above last year. Growers expect a normal yield with harvest to begin in mid-June.

South Carolina's peach crop, forecast at 150 million pounds, compares with 3 million pounds in 1996 and 215 million pounds in 1995. Growers survived an early bloom period without any serious frosts, but some orchards were later subjected to heavy storms with high winds, hail, and frost. Early varieties currently being picked are showing the weather effects with poor sizing.

The first forecast of the 1997 Georgia peach crop is 160 million pounds compared with 10 million pounds in 1996. This year's crop shows a heavy set as a result of a mild winter and a long, early spring. About one-third of the crop was harvested by June 1.

Dried Prunes: California production is forecast at 215,000 tons, 2 percent less than last year, but 19 percent above the 1995 crop. Weather during the critical pollination period was favorable, and growers indicate that they are expecting a near normal crop.

Apricots: California's 1997 apricot production is forecast at 125,000 tons, up 64 percent from last year's 76,000 tons and more than double the 1995 crop of 54,000 tons, but below the 1994 production level. Fruit set was good, which resulted from favorable chilling hours followed by a mild spring. The crop is running 7 to 10 days ahead of last year.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya production is estimated at 2.86 million pounds for May. This was 1 percent higher than April, but 16 percent lower than May 1996. May weather conditions were a mixture of light showers and sunshine over major papaya production areas. Papaya ring spot virus continued to adversely impact trees in infected orchards.

Area planted to papayas totaled 4,335 acres in May. This was 1 percent higher than April and 17 percent higher than May 1996. Harvested area, totaling 2,125 acres, was up less than 1 percent from last month and 10 percent higher than a year ago.

Grapefruit: The June 1 forecast of the 1996-97 U.S. grapefruit crop is a record large 3.06 million tons, unchanged from last month's forecast, but

13 percent larger than last year. This year's crop exceeds the previous record of 3.03 million tons for the 1976-77 season.

The Florida all grapefruit forecast is a record large 59.0 million boxes (2.51 million tons), unchanged from the last forecast, but 13 percent more than last season. The all seedless grapefruit forecast remains at 58.0 million boxes, while the seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast continues at 1.0 million boxes.

Average fruit size is smaller than the previous 2 seasons. Fruit droppage losses are slightly less than average. The June 1 Row Count survey showed 13 percent of rows remaining to be harvested for white grapefruit and colored grapefruit. Movement of all grapefruit was 54.5 million boxes.

The Florida forecasts are based on objective fruit count and measurement surveys in relationship to the harvest patterns and utilization of the past 2 seasons. All citrus forecasts project certified utilization, including a preseason allocation of less than 2 percent for unrecorded usage. Certifications include only fruit actually shipped in fresh pack or recorded at a processing plant.

The Texas grapefruit forecast, at 5.30 million boxes (212,000 tons), is unchanged from last month, but up 16 percent from last season.

Tangerines: The 1996-97 U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at a record large 437,000 tons, unchanged from last month's forecast but 26 percent above last season's crop. Florida's harvest is virtually complete and the forecast of 6.4 million boxes (304,000 tons) is unchanged from the May 1 forecast, but 42 percent above the 1995-96 season. Florida's increase was due to the lowest fruit droppage on record for Honey tangerines, increased bearing trees for Sunburst tangerines, and heavy fruit set for all varieties.

Tangelos: Florida's 1996-97 tangelo crop is 3.95 million boxes (178,000 tons), unchanged from last month's forecast but 61 percent higher than last season's 2.45 million boxes (110,000 tons). Harvest is complete with this being the largest crop since the 1987-88 season.

Temples: The Florida Temple forecast is 2.40 million boxes (108,000 tons), unchanged from the May 1 forecast but 12 percent higher than last season. Temple harvest is complete for the season.

Florida Citrus: Most of Florida's citrus groves were in good condition at the end of May. The east and west coast areas received above average rainfall during the month, while most of the other areas were a little below normal. There is an abundance of new growth on trees of all ages in well maintained groves. New crop fruit made good progress as most trees have stopped dropping the small green fruit that the trees cannot carry for next season. The Valencia oranges remaining for harvest are in good condition with excellent pounds solids and juice content. Grapefruit movement during May was more active than in recent years, and limited grapefruit harvest continues. Caretakers were very active in May cutting cover crops, completing post bloom spraying, and planting resets where older trees were removed.

Texas Citrus: Harvest of the 1996-97 citrus crop was virtually complete by late May. Rains in the Rio Grande Valley during May were beneficial and lessened the need for irrigation. A good fruit set has occurred for next season's orange and grapefruit crops.

California Fruits and Nuts: Thinning of stone fruit was completed by June 1.

Harvest of early varieties of cherries, peaches, nectarines, apricots, and plums started in the southern San Joaquin Valley and moved north during May. Grape leaves were pulled and vines suckered. Avocados, olives, and pecans completed bloom. A rain late in the month had little effect on the cherry or apricot harvest. High winds broke some heavily set almond branches.

California Citrus: Grapefruit harvest in the desert area was winding down by late May. Grapefruit picking in other areas gained momentum, with good to excellent quality reported. Lemon movement to date is ahead of previous years, but picking slowed in the South Coast area. Navel orange picking is virtually complete. A high percentage of the Valencia orange crop is going to export. Both export and domestic Valencias have good to excellent quality.

Bartlett Pears: Production in California, Washington, and Oregon is forecast at 565,000 tons, up 29 percent from last year and 14 percent above 1995. This includes a record large crop for Washington.

California's expected production of 300,000 tons is 5 percent more than 1996. The growing areas have enjoyed good spring weather. Quality and size are reported good with early maturity. In Oregon, growers expect to harvest 75,000 tons, up 67 percent from 1996's extremely low production. In Washington, the weather was good for pollination, and the fruit developed very well under warm conditions. Growers are busy applying fruit thinners. Expected production is 190,000 tons, 10,000 tons more than the previous record set in 1995.

Hops: Acreage strung for harvest in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho is forecast at 44,454 acres, up 1 percent from a year ago and 3 percent above 1995.

In Washington, hops are doing reasonably well in spite of the cool, damp spring which caused more than normal spraying for mildew (especially on the Cluster variety) and mites. Plants are in good condition with vines already at the top of many trellises. In Idaho, stringing was active during late May. Moisture levels continue high with plentiful water.

Sugar Crops, 1996 Revised: Sugarbeet production in 1996 totaled 26.7 million tons, down 5 percent from 1995. Area harvested totaled 1.32 million acres, down 7 percent from last year. Yield per acre averaged 20.2 tons, compared with the previous year's average of 19.8 tons. The sugarbeet estimates for New Mexico and Washington were reported separately starting in 1996.

Sugarcane production for sugar in 1996 totaled 29.5 million tons, 4 percent below last year's output. The decrease in production is the result of a decline in harvested acreage. Area harvested totaled 888,900 acres, 5 percent below 1995. The average yield of 33.1 tons per acre was virtually unchanged from last year.

Sweet Potatoes, 1996 Revised: The final estimate of sweet potato production for 1996 was 13.5 million cwt, 4 percent above 1995 and less than 1 percent above 1994. The revised estimate was 1 percent below the preliminary estimate made in the Annual Crop Production Summary. A larger than expected California crop helped make up for a shortfall in Texas. Harvest came from 84,800 acres, up 1 percent from a year earlier and 2 percent above two

years ago. The average yield of 159 cwt per acre was 5 cwt above 1995, but 3 cwt short of the record high yield in 1994.

Maple Syrup: The 1997 U.S. maple syrup production totaled 1.29 million gallons, down 17 percent from last year. The forecasted value of production is \$30.5 million, a decrease of 28 percent from 1996. The U.S. estimate consists of the ten major producing States.

Maple syrup production decreased in all States except Maine and Ohio. In general, producers experienced variable weather and cold temperatures that hampered good flow. All States but Ohio averaged a lower yield per tap. The tapping season was the same length as last season, but it started a few days earlier. Most of the New England area and New York tapped one week longer than Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. *Excessive snow cover hampered production* in northern Wisconsin and Michigan, but conditions were more favorable in the southern areas of Michigan. Syrup color was medium to light amber in all States but Wisconsin. The sap's sugar content was slightly lower than last year for the nation, but a little higher in New England. Maine had the highest sugar content. Preliminary prices for 1997's syrup are down from last year, possibly due to remaining inventories of last season's syrup.

Vermont led the U.S. in production with 395,000 gallons of syrup, but decreased 28 percent from last season. New York's production declined 22 percent to 269,000 gallons. Maine was the third leading state with production of 180,000 gallons, 8 percent more than 1996 and the highest production since 1988.

Reliability of June 1 Winter Wheat Production Forecast

Survey Procedures: Objective yield and farm operator surveys were conducted between May 24 and June 4 to gather information on expected yield as of June 1. The objective yield survey was conducted in the 10 States that accounted for 63 percent of the 1996 production. Farm operators were interviewed to update previously reported acreage data and seek permission to randomly locate two sample plots in selected winter wheat fields. The counts made within each sample plot depended upon the crop's maturity. In early fields, counts such as number of stalks, heads in late boot, and number of emerged heads were made to predict the number of heads that would be harvested. A 5-year historical average head weight is used until the crop matures to the point that heads can be clipped, threshed, and weighed. The number of heads times the weight of the heads in a sample plot can then be combined to an estimate of yield per acre. The 5-year average harvesting loss is subtracted to obtain a net yield. The plots are revisited each month until the crop reaches maturity and are harvested on the final visit.

The farm operator survey included a sample of approximately 6,000 winter wheat producers representing all major production areas. These producers were selected from an earlier acreage survey and were asked about the probable winter wheat yield on their operation. These growers will be surveyed throughout the growing season to provide indications of average yields as the season progresses.

Estimating Procedures: National and State level objective yield and grower reported data were reviewed for reasonableness and consistency with historical estimates. The survey data were also reviewed considering weather patterns and crop progress compared to previous month and previous years. Each State Statistical Office submits their analysis of the current situation to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB). The ASB uses the survey data and the State analyses to prepare the published June 1 forecasts.

Revision Policy: The June 1 production forecast will not be revised; instead, a new forecast will be made each month throughout the growing season. End-of-season estimates are made after harvest. At the end of the marketing season, a balance sheet is calculated using carryover stocks, production, exports, millings, feeding, and ending stocks. Revisions are then made if the balance sheet relationships or other administrative data warrant changes.

Reliability: To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the June 1 winter wheat production forecast, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. This is done by expressing the deviation between the June 1 production forecast and the final estimate as a percentage of the final estimate, and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1976-1996 20-year period; the square root of the average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error". Probability statements can be made concerning expected differences in the current forecast relative to the final end-of-season estimate, assuming that factors affecting this year's forecast are not different from those influencing recent years.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the June 1 winter wheat production forecast is 4.9 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current production forecast of 1.60 billion bushels will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 4.9 percent or approximately 78.6 million bushels. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 8.5 percent or approximately 136 million bushels. Differences between the June 1 winter wheat production forecast and the final estimate during the past 10 years have averaged 53 million bushels, ranging from 8 million to 108 million bushels. The June 1 forecast has been below the final estimate 3 times and above 7 times. This does not imply that the June 1 winter wheat forecast this year is likely to understate or overstate final production.

Index

	Page	
	Table	Narrative
Apricots.....	A-11	B- 6
Cherries.....	A- 8	B- 5
Citrus Fruit.....	A- 9	B- 7
Crop Moisture Maps.....		B- 1
Crop Summary.....	A- 3	
Hops.....	A-12	B- 8
Maple Syrup.....	A-16	B- 9
Papayas.....	A-11	B- 6
Peaches.....	A- 8	B- 6
Pears, Bartlett.....	A-10	B- 8
Prunes, Dried.....	A-11	B- 6
Reliability Statement.....		B-10
Sugarbeets.....	A-13	
Sugarcane.....	A-14	B- 8
Sweet Potatoes.....	A-15	B- 8
Wheat, by Class.....	A- 7	
Wheat, Durum.....	A- 7	B- 5
Wheat, Winter.....	A- 6	B- 5

Report Features

The next "**Crop Production**" report will be released at 8:30 a.m. ET on July 11, 1997.

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