

Crop Production



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Record Large Orange Production

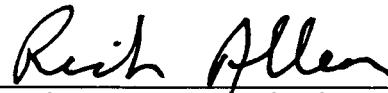
All oranges production for the 1997-98 season remains unchanged from the January forecast at a record large 14.3 million tons, up 12 percent from last season's record production. Florida's production is forecast at 254 million boxes (11.4 million tons), unchanged from January but 12 percent above last season. Florida's early-midseason and Valencia forecasts also remained unchanged from last month and are each record large crops. Early and midseason varieties are expected to produce 146 million boxes (6.57 million tons), 9 percent above last year. The Valencia forecast is 108 million boxes (4.86 million tons), 17 percent above a year ago.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield for the 1997-98 season is increased to 1.56 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, up from 1.55 gallons per box in January. The forecast projects the final yield as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association. Projected average yield for 1997-98 early and midseason varieties is 1.50 gallons per box compared to 1.48 a month ago and 1.52 the previous season. Valencia yield is projected at 1.65 gallons per box, unchanged from January, but down from 1.68 last season.

This report was approved on February 11, 1998.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
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Sugarcane: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Use, State, and United States, 1996-97

Use and State	Area Harvested		Yield 1/		Production 1/	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	1,000 Acres		---- Tons ----		-- 1,000 Tons --	
For Sugar						
FL	417.0	421.0	33.1	35.5	13,803	14,946
HI 2/	42.9	32.0	82.6	87.0	3,544	2,784
LA 2/	335.0	380.0	27.9	28.7	9,347	10,906
TX 2/	34.6	29.5	28.7	29.0	992	856
US	829.5	862.5	33.4	34.2	27,686	29,492
For Seed						
FL	21.0	18.0	33.1	35.5	695	639
HI 2/	3.1	3.0	30.6	28.7	95	86
LA 2/	35.0	30.0	27.9	28.7	976	861
TX 2/	0.3	2.0	33.3	23.0	10	46
US	59.4	53.0	29.9	30.8	1,776	1,632
For Sugar and Seed						
FL	438.0	439.0	33.1	35.5	14,498	15,585
HI 2/	46.0	35.0	79.1	82.0	3,639	2,870
LA 2/	370.0	410.0	27.9	28.7	10,323	11,767
TX 2/	34.9	31.5	28.7	28.6	1,002	902
US	888.9	915.5	33.1	34.0	29,462	31,124

1/ Net tons.

2/ Current estimates carried forward from earlier forecast.

Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
1995-96, 1996-97, and Forecasted February 1, 1998 1/

Crop and State	Utilized Production Boxes			Utilized Production Ton Equivalent		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
	----- 1,000 Boxes 2/ -----			----- 1,000 Tons -----		
Oranges						
Early Mid &						
Navel 3/						
AZ 4/	700	400	450	27	15	17
CA 4/	38,000	40,000	44,000	1,426	1,500	1,650
FL	121,200	134,200	146,000	5,454	6,039	6,570
TX	830	1,300	1,400	35	55	60
US	160,730	175,900	191,850	6,942	7,609	8,297
Valencia						
AZ 4/	950	600	550	36	23	21
CA 4/	20,000	28,000	30,000	750	1,050	1,125
FL	82,100	92,000	108,000	3,695	4,140	4,860
TX	110	120	150	4	5	6
US	103,160	120,720	138,700	4,485	5,218	6,012
All						
AZ 4/	1,650	1,000	1,000	63	38	38
CA 4/	58,000	68,000	74,000	2,176	2,550	2,775
FL	203,300	226,200	254,000	9,149	10,179	11,430
TX	940	1,420	1,550	39	60	66
US	263,890	296,620	330,550	11,427	12,827	14,309
Temples						
FL	2,150	2,400	2,300	97	108	104
Grapefruit						
White Seedless						
FL 5/	23,200	23,500	23,000	986	999	978
Colored Seedless						
FL 5/	28,100	31,400	28,500	1,194	1,334	1,211
Other						
FL	1,050	900	500	45	38	21
All						
AZ 4/	1,200	900	800	40	30	27
CA 4/	8,100	8,200	9,000	271	275	302
FL 5/	52,350	55,800	52,000	2,225	2,371	2,210
TX	4,550	5,300	4,600	182	212	184
US	66,200	70,200	66,400	2,718	2,888	2,723
Tangerines						
AZ 4/	1,000	550	500	38	21	19
CA 4/	2,600	2,600	2,400	98	98	90
FL	4,500	6,300	5,050	213	299	240
US	8,100	9,450	7,950	349	418	349
Lemons 4/						
AZ	5,100	2,600	2,600	194	99	99
CA	21,000	20,000	22,000	798	760	836
US	26,100	22,600	24,600	992	859	935
Tangelos						
FL	2,450	3,950	3,000	110	178	135
K-Early Citrus						
FL	160	150	40	7	7	2

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/ Excludes economic abandonment in 1995-96 of 3,000,000 boxes of Colored Seedless; in 1996-97 of 3,000,000 boxes of White Seedless and 3,000,000 boxes of Colored Seedless.

Papayas: Area and Fresh Production by Month, Hawaii, 1997-98

Month	Area				Fresh Production	
	Total in Crop		Harvested		1997	1998
	1997	1998	1997	1998	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:
	----- Acres -----				1,000 Pounds	
Dec	3,515		1,715		3,040	
Jan	3,435	3,510	1,500	1,730	3,425	2,820

California Nut Crops: Bearing Acreage, Yield, Production,
Price, and Value by Crop, 1995-96 and Revised 1997

Crop	Bearing Acreage			Yield per Acre 1/		
	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
	Acres			Tons (In-Shell Basis)		
Walnuts (English)	169,000	169,000	170,000	1.38	1.23	1.58
				Pounds (In-Shell Basis)		
Pistachios	60,300	64,300	65,400	2,450	1,630	2,750
				Pounds (Shelled Basis)		
Almonds	400,000	405,000	420,000	925	1,260	1,790
	Production			Price per Unit		
	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
	Tons (In-Shell Basis)			Dollars per Ton		
Walnuts (English) 2/	234,000	208,000	269,000	1,400	1,570	
	1,000 Pounds (In-Shell Basis)			Dollars per Pound		
Pistachios	148,000	105,000	180,000	1.09	1.16	1.13
	1,000 Pounds (Shelled Basis)					
Almonds 3/	370,000	510,000	750,000	2.48	2.08	1.50
	Value of Utilized Production					
	1995	1996	1997			
	1,000 Dollars					
Walnuts (English) 2/	327,600		326,560			
Pistachios	161,320		121,800	203,400		
Almonds 3/	880,896		1,018,368	1,080,000		

1/ Yield based on utilized production.

2/ Price and value estimates for 1997 will be published on July 7, 1998.

3/ Price and value estimates are based on the edible portion of the crop only. Included in production are inedible quantities of no value as follows: 1995 - 14.8 million pounds, 1996 - 20.4 million pounds, 1997 - 30.0 million pounds.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 1997-98
(Domestic Units)

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1997	1998	1997	1998

	1,000 Acres			

Grains & Hay				
Barley	6,910.0		6,425.0	
Corn for Grain	80,227.0		73,720.0	
Corn for Silage			5,758.0	
Hay, All			60,815.0	
Alfalfa			23,673.0	
All Other			37,142.0	
Oats	5,169.0		2,911.0	
Rice	3,056.0		3,034.0	
Rye	1,433.0	1,551.0	341.0	
Sorghum for Grain	10,108.0		9,391.0	
Sorghum for Silage			310.0	
Wheat, All	70,989.0		63,577.0	
Winter	48,342.0	46,597.0	41,813.0	
Durum	3,250.0		3,107.0	
Other Spring	19,397.0		18,657.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	728.0		698.0	
Flaxseed	146.0		135.0	
Mustard Seed	74.4		72.8	
Peanuts	1,429.0		1,405.8	
Rapeseed	1.7		1.5	
Safflower	249.0		235.0	
Soybeans for Beans	70,850.0		69,884.0	
Sunflower	2,949.0		2,852.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	13,818.0		13,283.5	
Upland	13,566.0		13,032.5	
Amer-Pima	252.0		251.0	
Sugarbeets	1,459.2		1,427.8	
Sugarcane			915.5	
Tobacco			797.3	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	8.1		7.6	
Dry Edible Beans	1,851.8		1,720.2	
Dry Edible Peas	293.6		276.6	
Lentils	181.0		172.0	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			5.6	
Ginger Root (HI)			0.3	
Hops			43.3	
Peppermint Oil			136.3	
Potatoes, All	1,362.0		1,325.5	
Winter	15.6	16.0	15.4	15.5
Spring	88.3		86.2	
Summer	68.6		65.9	
Fall	1,189.5		1,158.0	
Spearmint Oil			24.5	
Sweet Potatoes	86.9		83.5	
Taro (HI)			0.5	

Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 1997-98
(Domestic Units)

Crop	Unit	Yield		Production	
		1997	1998	1997	1998
				----- 1,000 -----	
Grains & Hay					
Barley	Bu	58.3		374,478	
Corn for Grain	"	127.0		9,365,574	
Corn for Silage	Ton	16.0		91,903	
Hay, All	"	2.50		152,120	
Alfalfa	"	3.35		79,242	
All Other	"	1.96		72,878	
Oats	Bu	60.5		176,104	
Rice 1/	Cwt	5,896		178,896	
Rye	Bu	26.1		8,912	
Sorghum for Grain	"	69.5		653,106	
Sorghum for Silage	Ton	12.5		3,885	
Wheat, All	Bu	39.7		2,526,552	
Winter	"	45.0		1,882,609	
Durum	"	27.7		86,193	
Other Spring	"	29.9		557,750	
Oilseeds					
Canola	Lb	1,310		914,385	
Flaxseed	Bu	16.1		2,171	
Mustard Seed	Lb	816		59,405	
Peanuts	"	2,523		3,546,360	
Rapeseed	"	1,300		1,950	
Safflower	"	1,830		430,050	
Soybeans for Beans	Bu	39.0		2,727,254	
Sunflower	Lb	1,320		3,763,428	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops					
Cotton, All 1/	Bale	686		18,976.9	
Upland 1/	"	679		18,439.9	
Amer-Pima 1/	"	1,027		537.0	
Sugarbeets	Ton	20.9		29,874	
Sugarcane	"	34.0		31,124	
Tobacco	Lb	2,106		1,678,821	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils					
Austrian Winter Peas 1/	Cwt	1,513		115	
Dry Edible Beans 1/	"	1,695		29,156	
Dry Edible Peas 1/	"	2,103		5,816	
Lentils 1/	"	1,390		2,391	
Wrinkled Seed Peas	"			682	
Potatoes & Misc.					
Coffee (HI)	Lb	1,610		9,000	
Ginger Root (HI)	"	44,000		12,100	
Hops	"	1,729		74,872.1	
Peppermint Oil	"	75		10,256	
Potatoes, All	Cwt	347		459,912	
Winter	"	203	190	3,124	2,940
Spring	"	252		21,749	
Summer	"	272		17,951	
Fall	"	360		417,088	
Spearmint Oil	Lb	98		2,403	
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt	156		13,025	
Taro (HI)	Lb	11,600		5,200	

1/ Yield in pounds.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 1996-98
(Domestic Units)

Crop	Unit	Production		
		1996	1997	1998
			1,000	
Citrus 1/				
Grapefruit	Ton	2,718	2,888	2,723
K-Early Citrus (FL)	"	7	7	2
Lemons	"	992	859	935
Oranges	"	11,427	12,827	14,309
Tangelos (FL)	"	110	178	135
Tangerines	"	349	418	349
Temples (FL)	"	97	108	104
Non-Citrus				
Apples	Lb	10,392.0	10,226.6	
Apricots	Ton	79.3	138.0	
Bananas (HI)	Lb	13,000.0	13,500.0	
Grapes	"	5,554.3	6,836.4	
Olives (CA)	Ton	166.0	104.0	
Papayas (HI)	Lb	41,800.0	41,000.0	
Peaches	"	2,116.3	2,651.1	
Pears	Ton	820.8	1,044.0	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	"	223.0	212.0	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	"	20.0	29.0	
Nuts & Misc.				
Almonds (CA)	Lb	510,000	750,000	
Hazelnuts	Ton	18.5	44.1	
Pecans	Lb	221,500	272,100	
Pistachios (CA)	"	105,000	180,000	
Walnuts (CA)	Ton	208.0	269.0	
Maple Syrup	Gal	1,567	1,293	

1/ Production years for citrus crops are 1995-96, 1996-97, and 1997-98.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 1997-98
(Metric Units)

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1997	1998	1997	1998
	Hectares			
Grains & Hay				
Barley	2,796,410		2,600,130	
Corn for Grain	32,467,060		29,833,750	
Corn for Silage			2,330,210	
Hay, All			24,611,220	
Alfalfa			9,580,230	
All Other			15,031,000	
Oats	2,091,840		1,178,050	
Rice	1,236,730		1,227,830	
Rye	579,920	627,670	138,000	
Sorghum for Grain	4,090,610		3,800,440	
Sorghum for Silage			125,450	
Wheat, All	28,728,540		25,728,980	
Winter	19,563,520	18,857,340	16,921,300	
Durum	1,315,240		1,257,370	
Other Spring	7,849,770		7,550,300	
Oilseeds				
Canola	294,610		282,470	
Flaxseed	59,080		54,630	
Mustard Seed	30,110		29,460	
Peanuts	578,300		568,910	
Rapeseed	690		610	
Safflower	100,770		95,100	
Soybeans for Beans	28,672,290		28,281,360	
Sunflower	1,193,430		1,154,180	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	5,592,010		5,375,700	
Upland	5,490,020		5,274,120	
Amer-Pima	101,980		101,580	
Sugarbeets	590,520		577,820	
Sugarcane			370,490	
Tobacco			322,650	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	3,280		3,080	
Dry Edible Beans	749,400		696,150	
Dry Edible Peas	118,820		111,940	
Lentils	73,250		69,610	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			2,270	
Ginger Root (HI)			110	
Hops			17,520	
Peppermint Oil			55,160	
Potatoes, All	551,190		536,420	
Winter	6,310	6,480	6,230	6,270
Spring	35,730		34,880	
Summer	27,760		26,670	
Fall	481,380		468,630	
Spearmint Oil			9,910	
Sweet Potatoes	35,170		33,790	
Taro (HI)			180	

Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 1997-98
(Metric Units)

Crop	Yield		Production	
	1997	1998	1997	1998
	Metric Tons			
Grains & Hay				
Barley	3.14		8,153,300	
Corn for Grain	7.97		237,896,540	
Corn for Silage			83,373,000	
Hay, All	5.61		138,000,940	
Alfalfa	7.50		71,887,130	
All Other	4.40		66,113,810	
Oats	2.17		2,556,140	
Rice	6.61		8,114,590	
Rye	1.64		226,380	
Sorghum for Grain			16,589,660	
Sorghum for Silage	4.37		3,524,410	
Wheat, All	2.67		68,761,480	
Winter	3.03		51,236,220	
Durum	1.87		2,345,790	
Other Spring	2.01		15,179,470	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.47		414,760	
Flaxseed	1.01		55,150	
Mustard Seed	0.91		26,950	
Peanuts	2.83		1,608,600	
Rapeseed			880	
Safflower	2.05		195,070	
Soybeans for Beans	2.62		74,223,690	
Sunflower	1.48		1,707,060	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	0.77		4,131,740	
Upland	0.76		4,014,820	
Amer-Pima	1.15		116,920	
Sugarbeets	46.90		27,101,240	
Sugarcane	76.21		28,235,220	
Tobacco	2.36		761,500	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	1.69		5,220	
Dry Edible Beans	1.90		1,322,490	
Dry Edible Peas	2.36		263,810	
Lentils	1.56		108,450	
Wrinkled Seed Peas			30,940	
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)	1.80		4,080	
Ginger Root (HI)	49.91		5,490	
Hops	1.94		33,960	
Peppermint Oil	0.08		4,650	
Potatoes, All	38.89		20,861,260	
Winter	22.74	21.27	141,700	133,360
Spring	28.28		986,520	
Summer	30.53		814,240	
Fall	40.37		18,918,790	
Spearmint Oil	0.11		1,090	
Sweet Potatoes	17.48		590,800	
Taro (HI)	13.11		2,360	

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 1996-98
(Metric Units)

Crop	Production		
	1996	1997	1998
	Metric tons		
Citrus 1/			
Grapefruit	2,465,730	2,619,950	2,470,260
K-Early Citrus (FL)	6,350	6,350	1,810
Lemons	899,930	779,270	848,220
Oranges	10,366,400	11,636,460	12,980,910
Tangelos (FL)	99,790	161,480	122,470
Tangerines	316,610	379,200	316,610
Temples (FL)	88,000	97,980	94,350
Non-Citrus			
Apples	4,710	4,640	
Apricots	71,940	125,190	
Bananas (HI)	5,900	6,120	
Grapes	5,038,780	6,201,880	
Olives (CA)	150,590	94,350	
Papayas (HI)	18,960	18,600	
Peaches	960	1,200	
Pears	744,570	947,100	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	18,140	26,310	
Nuts & Misc.			
Almonds (CA)	231,330	340,190	
Hazelnuts	16,780	40,010	
Pecans	100,470	123,420	
Pistachios (CA)	47,630	81,650	
Walnuts (CA)	188,690	244,030	
Maple Syrup	7,830	6,460	

1/ Production years for citrus crops are 1995-96, 1996-97, and 1997-98.

January Weather Summary: Weather patterns temporarily deviated from a classic El Niño structure, as Arctic air edged into the northern Plains and Pacific storms attacked the Northwest rather than southern California and the Southwest. Significant snow accumulated in the upper Midwest, but most winter wheat areas of the Northwest, Plains, and Ohio Valley saw only limited snow cover. Frequent storminess continued across the South and East, including an early-month powerhouse system that produced one of the worst ice storms on record in northern New England.

Precipitation averaged above normal in the eastern half of the Nation. Conditions were especially wet along the central Gulf Coast, in the Mid-Atlantic region, and in the Northeast. January precipitation records included:

January-Record Precipitation (Inches)

Location	Total	Former Record/Year
New Orleans, LA	19.28	19.25 in 1991
Mobile, AL	16.92	16.07 in 1991
Baton Rouge, LA	14.94	11.41 in 1990
Asheville, NC	9.96	7.47 in 1978
Roanoke, VA	7.97	7.73 in 1936
Blacksburg, VA	7.39	6.51 in 1996
Burlington, VT	5.15	4.69 in 1978

Although no records were set, wet weather also dominated the Northwest. Monthly totals of 13.63 inches in Redding, CA and 2.31 inches in Burns, OR were more than twice their respective normal values. In Medford, OR, measurable rain fell on 22 days during the month, breaking a record that had stood since 1919.

In addition to the above-normal precipitation, exceptionally cloudy weather prevailed, especially in the South, Midwest, and East. In Little Rock, AR, no sun shone on 9 consecutive days from January 6-14. In Oklahoma, Tulsa had 10 sunless days in a row (January 5-14), their longest such streak this half-century. Oklahoma City had only 28 minutes of sunshine during the same period. For the month, Chicago, IL saw only 60.1 hours of sunshine (20 percent of normal), breaking their January record. In Michigan, Grand Rapids had their second-cloudiest month on record (18.1 hours of sun, or 6 percent of possible), behind November 1992.

Despite the cloudiness, many parts of the Nation recorded their warmest January in many years:

Warmest January (degrees F) Since...

Location	Average/Departure	Previous/Year
Philadelphia, PA	41.0, +10.6	N/A in 1950
Boise, ID	38.9, + 9.9	41.0 in 1953
Paducah, KY	40.5, + 7.9	43.8 in 1990
Wilmington, DE	39.8, + 9.2	N/A in 1990
Indianapolis, IN	36.6, +11.1	37.3 in 1990
Allentown, PA	36.5, + 9.9	N/A in 1990
Binghamton, NY	30.8, + 9.7	31.5 in 1990
Sacramento, CA	51.9, + 5.2	53.2 in 1995

In Austin, TX, the month's lowest temperature was 34 degrees F, only the fourth time this century that their January temperatures remained above freezing. In Missouri, St. Louis' lowest temperature of the season-to-date--13 degrees F-- would become their highest low temperature on record during a winter season if it stands. Nationally, monthly temperatures averaged 3 to 12 degrees F above normal except on the northern Plains and across parts of the West Coast States.

Despite the above-normal temperatures, heavy snow fell in the upper Midwest and Great Lakes region, and a severe ice storm struck northern New York and New England. Monthly snowfall reached 20.4 inches in Minneapolis, MN, 23.7 inches in Milwaukee, WI, and 40.8 inches in Alpena, MI, accounting for more than 60 percent of their respective season-to-date totals. Snow fell on 18 of the month's 31 days in both Rochester, MN and LaCrosse, WI. Late in the month, an East-Coast storm caused beach erosion and dumped record snowfall in the central and southern Appalachians. On January 28, the tide reached 6.44 feet above mean lower low tide at Sewells Point, VA, their highest since March 1962. Farther west, Flat Top, WV netted a State-record 35 inches in 24 hours on January 27-28. Elsewhere in West Virginia, 24-hour snowfall records were established in Bluefield (21.9 inches) and Beckley (31.0 inches). Storm-total snowfall reached 42 inches in Ghent, WV and 40 inches in the mountains of western North Carolina.

Closer to the coast, however, season-to-date snowfall through January 31 stood at 0.5 inches in New York's Central Park and 0.1 inches at Washington's National Airport. Areas from northern New York to central and southern Maine would have welcomed snow from January 5-9. Instead, 2 to 4 inches of ice accumulated, causing extensive damage. Some of the worst destruction occurred on January 8, when Burlington, VT posted a single-day, January-record rainfall of 2.11 inches. Outside the ice zone, Rochester, NY (2.23 inches on January 7-8) collected a January-record 24-hour rainfall. On January 9 in New York, record flooding struck the Black River at Watertown (1.8 feet above the April 1993 record) and the Hudson River at Newcomb (breaking a January 1949 record). Excessive rainfall also soaked the Southeast, including January 8 rainfall in excess of 13 inches across parts of western North Carolina. Incredibly warm air overspread much of the Nation before and during the storm. As a result, Chicago marked its longest January streak with highs at or above 50 degrees F (4 days from January 2-5) since 1967. Highs reached or exceeded 60 degrees F on 8 consecutive days (January 2-9) in Washington, DC. Nationally, more than 120 daily-record highs were set during the first 9 days of the month.

Arctic air failed to spread much beyond the northern Plains, and even that cold air lost its effect after mid-month. The mercury dipped below 0 degrees F for the first time this winter on January 2 in Glasgow, MT and on January 10 in Marquette, MI. Both dates were represented record-late occurrences of sub-zero cold. By January 12, lows in Montana dipped to -35 degrees F in Miles City and -40 degrees F in Jordan. Average snow depths of 2 to 4 inches on the northern Plains offered some insulation for winter wheat during the coldest period. Due to milder weather later in the month, January temperature departures ranged from -3 to +7 degrees F on the northern Plains.

The cold air briefly invaded the Northwest, setting the stage for a significant winter storm. Snow blanketed the Northwest from January 9-11, accumulating 17 inches in The Dalles, OR and 13 inches near Centralia, WA. Freezing rain also affected some locations. Cold air continued to build into eastern Washington's wheat areas through January 12, when Spokane, WA registered -2 degrees F. Just 6 days later, very warm air returned to the region, however, as Hanford, WA (57 degrees F) notched a daily-record high.

Monthly precipitation was less than 25 percent of normal across a broad area from the Southwest into the central and southern High Plains. Only a trace of rain fell in Lubbock, TX, their lowest January total since 1986. In Colorado, Denver's monthly precipitation of 0.05 inches was their fifth-lowest January total on record.

General Crop Comments: January was characterized by unseasonably mild temperatures nationwide with very wet weather along the Pacific, Gulf, and Atlantic Coasts. Field activities in Coastal States were often halted by heavy rainfall or soils that were too saturated to support

equipment. In California, rains slowed vegetable harvests and slowed field preparations for the coming year. Several locations in the Southeast and Middle Atlantic States received record amounts of precipitation for the month of January. Some soybean and cotton fields remain unharvested in the Southeast and may have to be abandoned if the wet weather continues. The Florida citrus harvest was active despite cool, wet weather.

Farther north, weather patterns caused massive ice storms in New England and New York. Severe conditions hampered agricultural activities and stressed livestock, especially dairy herds. Maple and fruit trees were adversely affected by the storms. Growers were still cleaning up and assessing the extent of the damage at the end of the month.

The Corn Belt experienced generally snowy weather in northern areas and rain in the south during January. However, mild temperatures melted most of the snow, causing muddy fields and leaving winter-planted crops uncovered. Winter wheat fields showed signs of greening and breaking dormancy later in the month. Farmers were concerned about the effects the mild weather would have on insects and disease during the upcoming growing season.

Unseasonably mild temperatures prevailed over the major winter wheat-producing States. Rains provided adequate soil moisture in the southern Plains, but January was generally dry in the central and northern High Plains. Some snow accumulated on winter wheat fields in Montana, Wyoming, and South Dakota, but the majority of the fields had poor to very poor cover. In the Northwest, the crop was in generally good condition due to mild, wet weather. In the Southeast, saturated soils have caused ponding in fields, delayed chemical applications, and drained nutrients from the soil. Farmers nationwide were concerned the lack of snow cover and mild temperatures had left the winter wheat crop vulnerable to freezing temperatures. Little damage has occurred to the wheat crop thus far.

Sugarcane: U.S. sugarcane production for sugar and seed in 1997 is expected to total 31.1 million tons, up 6 percent from 1996 but unchanged from the Annual Summary. If realized, this would be a record production for sugarcane growers. The expected area for harvest, at 915,500 acres, is 3 percent above last year. The forecasted yield, at 34.0 tons per acre, is 0.9 ton above 1996.

In Florida, there have been no major problems thus far in the harvesting season. Harvest started in the middle of October 1997 and should conclude in the last half of March 1998. The 1997 Louisiana sugarcane crop was one of the best in several years. No major problems were experienced during the summer. Fall growth, tonnage, and sucrose content were excellent. Harvest finished by the end of December 1997. Hawaii's sugarcane production declined in 1997, reflecting the further downsizing of the sugar industry in the State. Sugar is now only produced on the islands of Maui and Kauai. Although the weather's effects were mixed during the year, they were generally favorable for sugarcane production. In Texas, 1997 production was down from last year due to decreased acreage. Harvest conditions were nearly ideal with trash at a minimum.

Temples: The 1997-98 forecast of Florida Temples is held at 2.30 million boxes (104,000 tons), down 4 percent from a year ago. January average fruit size is slightly below the seasonal mean. Fruit loss from droppage is slightly above the average. Estimated utilization to date is the same as last season at this time.

Grapefruit: The February 1 forecast of the 1997-98 U.S. grapefruit crop is 2.72 million tons, down 1 percent from last month and down 6 percent from last year's production.

The Florida all grapefruit forecast is 52.0 million boxes (2.21 million tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but down 7 percent from the production a year ago. The all seedless grapefruit forecast continued at 51.5 million boxes. The forecasts of 23.0 million boxes of white seedless and 28.5 million boxes of colored seedless are maintained. These forecasts are 2 percent and 9 percent lower, respectively, than the final recorded utilizations last season. The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast remained at 500,000 boxes, the smallest crop on record.

The January fruit size survey on the remaining white seedless indicated an average fruit size identical to what was projected in October. Fruit loss from droppage is one-half percent more than originally projected. For colored seedless, the average fruit size is slightly larger than projected on December 1 when the forecast was decreased. However, loss from droppage accelerated in the past month. Utilization to date of seedless grapefruit is 16.8 million boxes, slightly behind last year's pace. The colored seedless varieties account for 12.8 million of these boxes.

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

The Texas grapefruit forecast is reduced to 4.60 million boxes (184,000 tons), down 8 percent from the January 1 forecast and down 13 percent from last season. California's forecast is carried forward from January at 9.00 million boxes (302,000 tons), 10 percent higher than last year's utilized production. Arizona's forecast is also carried forward at 800,000 boxes (27,000 tons), 11 percent below the 1996-97 season.

Tangerines: The 1997-98 U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at 349,000 tons, down 6 percent from the January 1 forecast and down 17 percent from the previous season's utilized production. Florida's tangerine forecast is down 8 percent from last month to 5.05 million boxes (240,000 tons), 20 percent less than the production of a year ago. Weather conditions during January were detrimental to fresh shipments, resulting in more eliminations than anticipated. The early tangerine harvest is complete, and the later Honey tangerine harvest is well underway. Even though average fruit size is very close to record large, the fruit loss from droppage increased to near normal levels for this time of the season. The Arizona and California tangerine forecasts were carried forward from January 1.

Tangelos: Florida's 1997-98 forecast of tangelos is reduced to 3.00 million boxes (135,000 tons), down 9 percent from the January 1 forecast. The forecast is down 24 percent from last season's production which was the largest crop in the past nine seasons.

Florida Citrus: The weather conditions in Florida's citrus groves during January were generally wetter than normal with mild to cool days and several cold nights. There were no freezing conditions and only a little frost in the northern citrus counties. Moisture is adequate to surplus, with many growers and caretakers ditching and plowing to help move standing water that might cause problems away from tree roots. There were several hard rains and thunderstorms during the month that slowed harvesting crews picking for fresh fruit packing houses. However, harvesters moving oranges to the processors were able to pick 8 to 9 million boxes per week on average during January. Some of the processing plants started limiting the number of trailer

loads that harvesting crews could deliver each day. Movement of all seedless grapefruit was steady during the month ranging from 1.20 to 1.40 million boxes per week. Picking of tangerines, Temples, and tangelos was slowed considerably by the inclement weather. Caretakers were active cutting cover crops prior to harvesting and running hedging and topping equipment.

Texas Citrus: January was virtually dry in the Rio Grande Valley, and growers increased irrigation activity. Late in the month, many areas did receive beneficial rain; however, more is needed. Harvest continued without delay throughout the month. Fruit quality and size remained good.

California Citrus: Citrus harvest continued between rainstorms. Approximately 40 percent of the Navel orange crop had been picked by February 1. Quality was good, but some ice marking, rind breakdown, puff, and crease were reported. New crop Valencia orange harvest is expected to begin in the Coachella Valley by mid-February. Lemon picking continued with good quality and no internal problems reported. The grapefruit harvest remained active in the desert area. Tangerine picking continued with good color and eating quality.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya production is estimated at 2.82 million pounds for January, 7 percent lower than December and 18 percent lower than January 1997. January weather conditions were mostly dry after moderate to heavy showers in the beginning of the month. Cool temperatures slowed fruit maturation.

Area devoted to papaya production totaled 3,510 acres, virtually unchanged from December but 2 percent more than January 1997. Area harvested, totaling 1,730 acres, was 1 percent more than the previous month and 15 percent more than a year ago.

California Fruits & Nuts: Rainy weather hampered normal January cultural activities. Pruning of trees and vineyards, dormant spraying, and weed control were active when possible. Rains slowed bareroot and strawberry nursery stock digging. By the end of January, almond buds were swelling and blooms were beginning to open up in early varieties of plum and nectarine trees.

Walnuts, 1997 Revised: The 1997 California walnut production estimate has been revised to 269,000 tons (in-shell basis). This is up 29 percent (61,000 tons) from the 1996 crop and 8 percent (21,000 tons) above the January estimate. This is a record large crop, eclipsing the former record of 260,000 tons set in 1993. Estimates for the 1997 price and value will be published on July 7, 1998.

Almonds, 1997 Revised: California almond production is unchanged from the January estimate of 750 million meat pounds. This crop surpassed the previous record of 735 million pounds set in 1994. The 1997 crop is 47 percent higher than the 1996 crop. The average price dropped 58 cents from 1996, leveling out at \$1.50 per pound (shelled basis). Value of utilized production amounted to a record \$1.08 billion, six percent above the 1996 figure.

Pistachios, 1997 Revised: The 1997 California record pistachio crop has been revised upward to 180 million pounds (in-shell basis). This is up 71 percent from the 1996 production estimate and 1 percent above the January estimate. Acreage increased 2 percent over last year. The average price remained at \$1.13, down 3 cents from 1996. The value of utilized production was 203 million dollars, 67 percent above 1996.

Report Features

The next **"Crop Production"** report will be released at 8:30 a.m. ET on March 12, 1998.

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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Howard Hill - Cherries, Berries, Prunes, Plums, Cranberries, Grapes, Maple Syrup	(202) 720-7235
Dave Mueller - Fresh and Processing Vegetables, Onions	(202) 720-2157
Dave Ranek - Nuts, Floriculture	(202) 720-4215
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