

# Crop Production



USDA  
Washington, D.C.

---

Released March 12, 1998, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Crop Production" call at (202) 720-2127, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET. Forecasts refer to March 1, 1998.


## Orange Production Down 1 Percent

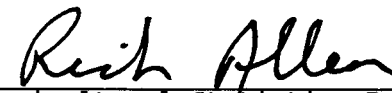
**All oranges** production for the 1997-98 season is forecast at a record large 14.2 million tons, down 1 percent from the February forecast but up 11 percent from last season's record production. Florida's production is forecast at 251 million boxes (11.3 million tons), down 1 percent from February but 11 percent above last season. Florida's early-midseason forecast is 143 million boxes (6.44 million boxes), 2 percent less than a month ago but 7 percent above last year's record large production. The Florida Valencia forecast remained unchanged from last month and is a record large crop of 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 maintained at 1.56 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix. 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 1.52 the previous season. Valencia yield is projected at 1.65 gallons per box, unchanged from February but down from 1.68 last season.

---

This report was approved on March 12, 1998.

  
Acting Secretary of  
Agriculture  
Richard E. Rominger

  
Agricultural Statistics Board  
Chairperson  
Rich Allen

## Contents

	Page	
	Tables	Narratives
Report Highlights .....	-	1
Sugarcane .....	4	17
Citrus Fruits .....	5	15
Papayas .....	6	16
Crop Summary (Domestic Units)		
Area Planted and Harvested .....	7	-
Yield and Production .....	8	-
Fruits and Nuts Production (Domestic Units) .....	9	-
Crop Summary (Metric Units)		
Area Planted and Harvested .....	10	-
Yield and Production .....	11	-
Fruits and Nuts Production (Metric Units) .....	12	-
February Weather Summary .....	-	13
General Crop Comments .....	-	14
Report Features .....	-	18

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	36.5	13,803	15,367
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	34.7	27,686	29,913
For Seed						
FL	21.0	18.0	33.1	36.5	695	657
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	31.1	1,776	1,650
For Sugar and Seed						
FL	438.0	439.0	33.1	36.5	14,498	16,024
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	34.5	29,462	31,563

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 March 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	143,000	5,454	6,039	6,435
TX	830	1,300	1,400	35	55	60
US	160,730	175,900	188,850	6,942	7,609	8,162
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	251,000	9,149	10,179	11,295
TX	940	1,420	1,550	39	60	66
US	263,890	296,620	327,550	11,427	12,827	14,174
Temples						
FL	2,150	2,400	2,300	97	108	104
Grapefruit						
White Seedless						
FL 5/	23,200	23,500	21,000	986	999	893
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	50,000	2,225	2,371	2,125
TX	4,550	5,300	4,600	182	212	184
US	66,200	70,200	64,400	2,718	2,888	2,638
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	5,000	213	299	238
US	8,100	9,450	7,900	349	418	347
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	2,850	110	178	128
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

		Area				Fresh Production		
Month	:	Total in Crop		Harvested		:	:	
	:	1997	1998	1997	1998	:	1997	1998
		Acres				1,000 Pounds		
Jan	:	3,435	3,510	1,500	1,730	:	3,425	2,820
Feb	:	3,530	3,505	1,485	1,735	:	3,020	2,645

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	"	34.5		31,563	
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	"	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	2,638
K-Early Citrus (FL)	"	7	7	2
Lemons	"	992	859	935
Oranges	"	11,427	12,827	14,174
Tangelos (FL)	"	110	178	128
Tangerines	"	349	418	347
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	Ton	5,554.3	6,836.4	
Olives (CA)	"	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			24,611,230	
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	28,728,530		25,728,970	
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	5,592,000		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	35.78		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	4.37		16,589,660	
Sorghum for Silage	28.09		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	1.44		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	77.29		28,633,470	
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	2,393,150
K-Early Citrus (FL)	6,350	6,350	1,810
Lemons	899,930	779,270	848,220
Oranges	10,366,400	11,636,460	12,858,440
Tangelos (FL)	99,790	161,480	116,120
Tangerines	316,610	379,200	314,790
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, Dried (CA)	202,300	192,320	
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.

**February Weather Summary:** A wet-weather spell stretched to 20 weeks in the Southeast, highlighted by an early-month storm that also dumped record snowfall in the Ohio Valley. In California and the Southwest, 4 weeks of nearly continuous storminess resulted in widespread flooding, mudslides, and agricultural disruptions. A late-month pattern shift delivered blizzard conditions to parts of the northern Plains. February precipitation records were set at more than a half-dozen locations in the Southeast and at least 19 stations in California. Monthly rainfall topped 400 percent of normal in central and southern California, southern Nevada, and southern Arizona. Totals less than 50 percent of normal were restricted to a few locations in the Rockies and Plains.

The first week of February featured a major storm traversing the Southeast and a series of storms pounding the West Coast. Both coastlines sustained beach erosion due to heavy surf. The Southeastern storm struck just a week after late-January's damaging "nor'easter." At Hampton Roads, VA, the February 4 tide peaked at 6.97 feet above mean lower low water (mllw), the highest since the March 1962 storm. That tide came only 7 days after the water reached 6.44 feet above mllw on January 28, which was comparable to the 6.42 feet observed during the storm of April 26-27, 1978. Farther inland, February 4-6 snowfall totaled 22.4 in Louisville, KY, and 18.5 inches in Cincinnati, OH, single-storm records in both locations. In the central Appalachians, Beckley, WV netted 13.0 inches just a week after a 32.0-inch snowfall. A few days earlier, during the night of February 2-3, the then-developing low-pressure system sparked severe thunderstorms in Peninsular Florida, producing gusts to 104 mph in Miami, 90 mph in Hollywood, and 66 mph in Homestead.

Meanwhile in California, a nearly continuous procession of storms arrived across northern and central areas in late-January, persisting until February 24. In northern coastal California, where heavy rain arrived earlier in January, Eureka noted rainfall of a trace or more on 57 of the year's first 59 days. Some of the worst river flooding affected the San Francisco Bay area on February 3, when the Pajaro River at Chittenden crested about 8 inches above the April 1958 record. On the same day, the Napa River at St. Helena peaked 1.9 feet below the record set in February 1986 and tied in March 1995. The Russian River at Guerneville crested more than 10 feet below the 1986 record, but about 6.6 feet above flood stage. Significant precipitation spread into southern California on several occasions, especially on February 2-3, 6-8, 14-17, and 22-24. The most impressive rainfall rates occurring during the last wave of storminess on February 22-23, when Mount Wilson received 10.12 inches during a 24-hour period. For the month, Bakersfield tallied 5.36 inches, 94 percent of their normal annual total. Bakersfield and another half-dozen California locations--including Santa Barbara with 21.74 inches--received record rainfall for any month.

Although the monthly precipitation of 3.20 inches in Tucson, AZ was their second-highest February total (4.15 inches fell in 1905), a trace or more of rain fell on 17 days, breaking the 1905 record by a day. February-record totals were observed, however, in parts the Southwest, including Salt Lake City, UT (4.89 inches) and Las Vegas, NV (2.89 inches). Farther east, February records were set in locations such as Wilmington, NC (11.22 inches), Tampa, FL (10.82 inches), and Roanoke, VA (8.00 inches).

Monthly temperatures ranged from 6 to 16 degrees F above normal across the Nation's northern tier east of the Rockies, resulting in February-record average temperatures at about 20 locations from the Great Lakes region into the Northeast. The warmth resulted in much of the month's precipitation falling as rain in the Great Lakes and Midwestern States. February snowfall was the lowest on record in more than a dozen cities, including Buffalo, NY (1.8 inches), Houghton Lake, MI (1.4 inches), Dubuque, IA (0.2 inches), and Peoria, IL (none). Above-normal monthly temperatures also prevailed across the Northwest

(departures of +2 to +5 degrees F) and across the southern half of the Nation east of the Rockies (0 to +7 degrees F). Near- to below-normal readings were restricted to California and the Southwest, where departures ranged from 0 to -4 degrees F.

February 28 marked the 45th consecutive day of above-normal temperatures in Milwaukee. In Illinois, streaks reached 40 days at both Peoria and Springfield. Especially impressive in many areas was the lack of night-time cold. Temperatures remained above 20 degrees F for the entire month in Topeka, KS, the first such occurrence since records began 102 years ago. Medford, OR had but one freeze during the month, breaking their February record of 3 days, set in 1958. February records for consecutive days above freezing were established in Omaha, NE (February 14-23) and Des Moines, IA (February 15-26). Unusually cloudy weather continued in many areas, including those that received little precipitation. For example, 0.31 inches (32 percent of normal) fell in Wichita, KS, but sunshine totaled only 118.25 hours (39 percent of possible), their lowest February amount since 1957.

Similar to the early-month scenario, major weather systems battered the Southwest and Southeast again toward month's end. In the West, the storm that produced southern California's downpours on February 22-23 turned northeastward, blanketing Salt Lake City, UT with their fourth-greatest storm-total snowfall (19.4 inches on February 24-25). Later on February 25, blizzard conditions engulfed eastern Montana, eastern Wyoming, western Nebraska, and the western Dakotas. The storm lingered into early March, dropping 103 inches of snow on Lead, SD. Wind gusts, which were clocked as high as 74 mph near Rapid City, SD, drove snow into drifts that reached 10 to 12 feet in some areas. Farther east, a tornado outbreak in central Florida killed 38 people on the night of February 22-23.

Dry weather continued in Hawaii through a fourth consecutive month. Conditions improved slightly toward month's end in Hilo, where more than 2 inches of rain fell during the last 13 days of February. Nevertheless, monthly rainfall was less than 25 percent of normal statewide.

**General Crop Comments:** A wet weather pattern that began last October continued in the Gulf and Atlantic Coast States. Field activities in the Southeast were often halted by rainfall and soils too saturated to support equipment. Some cotton and soybean fields remained unharvested in the Southeast and may be abandoned if wet weather continues. In Florida, frequent rains delayed the sugarcane harvest and other fieldwork. Harvesting of vegetable crops, strawberries, and citrus was active throughout the month when weather conditions permitted.

Unseasonably mild temperatures and adequate soil moisture conditions were reported over the major winter wheat-producing States. Snow cover protection was mostly adequate in the northern High Plains, but light or nonexistent elsewhere, leaving much of the crop susceptible to harsh weather. However, little wind and freeze damage have occurred to the wheat crop so far. By the end of the month, the winter wheat crop had begun to break dormancy in Kansas and the eastern Corn Belt States. Farther south, the crop was jointing in Oklahoma and heading in southern Texas.

Mild weather in the Corn Belt permitted some tillage and other field preparations in isolated areas, but in most areas the ground has thawed and is too muddy to support heavy equipment. Lack of frost left feedlots and pastures muddy as well. Farmers were concerned about the effects of the mild weather on insect populations, weed pressures, and disease problems for the upcoming growing season.

In the Northeastern United States, maple producers began tapping trees. Although the warm weather did not adversely affect fruit trees during February, growers were concerned that tender buds could sustain damage later if the weather suddenly turned colder. Cleanup from the January ice storm continued throughout the month. Farmers were still assessing damage from the storm, but some damage to alfalfa fields and sugar bushes was noted.

In California, record rainfall in many areas hampered vegetable harvests, curtailed field preparations, and postponed tomato planting. Standing water in low-lying areas stressed crops. In the Pacific Northwest, warm weather was bringing fruit trees out of dormancy earlier than normal.

**Grapefruit:** The March 1 forecast of the 1997-98 U.S. grapefruit crop is 2.64 million tons, down 3 percent from last month and down 9 percent from last year's production.

The Florida all grapefruit forecast of 50.0 million boxes (2.13 million tons) is down 4 percent from the previous forecast and down 10 percent from the production a year ago. The forecast of white seedless varieties is 21.0 million boxes, down 9 percent from the February 1 forecast and down 11 percent from the previous season. If realized, it will be the smallest crop recorded since the 1991-92 season. Both fresh and processed utilization of the white variety is lagging behind last season's pace. Weather conditions have contributed to some grade problems in the fresh area. High winds have accelerated droppage. Final recorded utilization of this variety will be dependent on the amount processors are willing to accept into inventory. The forecast for colored seedless grapefruit is maintained at 28.5 million boxes, 9 percent less than last year's final utilization. By the end of February, utilization is nearly 300,000 boxes ahead of last season. The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast is continued at 500,000 boxes. Average fruit size is still well above the average of the last seven seasons. However, loss from droppage accelerated last month, possibly the result of wind and rain.

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 remained at 4.60 million boxes (184,000 tons), down 13 percent from last season. California's forecast is carried forward 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.

**Tangelos:** Florida's 1997-98 forecast of tangelos is reduced to 2.85 million boxes (128,000 tons), down 5 percent from the February 1 forecast. The forecast is down 28 percent from last season's production of 3.95 million boxes, the largest recorded crop since 1987-88. Weekly utilizations have declined steadily. The route survey indicated some rows still remaining to be harvested.

**Tangerines:** The 1997-98 U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at 347,000 tons, down 1 percent from the February 1 forecast and down 17 percent from the previous season's utilized production. Florida's tangerine forecast is down 1 percent from last month to 5.00 million boxes (238,000 tons), 21 percent less than the production of a year ago. Adjusted utilizations of the early

varieties, including Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy, required the slight revision. February's average fruit size of the remaining late variety Honey tangerines exceeded all others in the past seven seasons. Fruit drop averaged slightly below 50 percent. The Arizona and California tangerine forecasts were carried forward from the previous month.

**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. Estimated certifications as of the end of February are at the level of last season. Harvest of the crop started earlier than last season.

**Florida Citrus:** Most of Florida's citrus groves endured a very wet February. Lakes, ponds, and streams are at very high levels as a result of weekly downpours since November. Virtually all counties in the citrus belt have reported new monthly rainfall records for the first two months of 1998. Caretakers have been busy trying to keep grove roads open and free of deep puddles left by the heavy rains. Above normal temperatures during February produced new growth and the beginning stages of bloom. By the end of the month, there were many young trees with open bloom. The remaining fruit to be harvested is in very good condition despite the wet conditions. Harvest of early and midseason oranges was very active during February. Movement of all seedless grapefruit was strongest on the lower east coast for both fresh and processed utilization. Temple and Honey tangerine harvests increased in all areas. Tangelo harvest is almost complete. Slightly more than 138 million boxes of early-midseason oranges, including Navels, were utilized through February. Valencia orange utilization had reached nearly four million boxes by March 1.

**Texas Citrus:** Intermittent rain slowed harvest in the Rio Grande Valley at times during February. Quality on all varieties remained good. Harvest of early oranges was nearly complete by month's end, and the Valencia harvest was getting underway. Grapefruit harvest was nearing 75 percent complete. Across the Rio Grande Valley, growers were reporting a good bloom for the 1998-99 crop.

**California Citrus:** Citrus harvesting was delayed due to the rainy weather during the first three weeks of February, but picked up during the last week of the month. Approximately one-half of the Navel orange crop had been picked by the end of the month. Good quality was reported but growers were concerned about rind breakdown and brown rot. New crop Valencia orange picking began in the desert area. Lemon harvest was active in all districts with good quality reported, but brown rot and wind scar were problems. Grapefruit and tangerine picking was active when the weather allowed with good quality reported.

**California Fruits & Nuts:** Very windy and wet weather during the first three weeks of February wreaked havoc for growers. Almond and early variety stone fruit trees were in bloom, but the bees had difficulty pollinating. Many growers could not enter their groves due to the extremely wet soil. Pruning, spraying, and tying vines were among the cultural activities that were delayed. The last week of February brought sunshine, with growers able to resume their orchard work.

**Papayas:** Fresh papaya production from Hawaii is estimated at 2.65 million pounds for February, 6 percent lower than January and 12 percent lower than February 1997. Weather conditions were dry for the first half of February.



Rainfall toward the end of February helped replenish soil moisture. Cool temperatures and lack of rainfall in non-irrigated orchards during January slowed fruit development and depressed yields.

Area devoted to papaya production totaled 3,505 acres in February, virtually the same as a month ago and 1 percent lower than last February. Harvested area, totaling 1,735 acres, was virtually unchanged from January and 17 percent higher than February 1997.

**Sugarcane:** U.S. sugarcane production for sugar and seed in 1997 is expected to total 31.6 million tons, up 7 percent from 1996 and 1 percent above the February 1 estimate. If realized, this would be a record production for sugarcane growers. The expected area for harvest, at 915,500 acres, is unchanged from the previous estimate and 3 percent above last year. The forecasted yield, at 34.5 tons per acre, is 0.5 tons above the February estimate and 1.4 tons above 1996.

In Florida, harvest was 2 weeks behind normal due to wet fields and mills have closed for short periods since no raw cane was available for processing. Some mills expected to stay open until early April to get the last of the crop processed. 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.

## Report Features

The next **"Crop Production"** report will be released at 8:30 a.m. ET on April 9, 1998.

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

C. Ray Halley, Chief	(202) 720-2127
Field Crops Section	
Bill Dowdy, Head	(202) 720-3843
Kevin Barnes - Soybeans, Minor Oilseeds	(202) 720-7369
Rhonda Brandt- Corn	(202) 720-7621
Doug Hartwig - Hay	(202) 720-8843
Mark E. Miller - Oats, Sugar Crops, Weekly Crop Weather	(202) 720-7621
Roger Latham - Cotton, Cotton Ginnings	(202) 720-5944
Jerry Ramirez - Barley, Sorghum	(202) 690-3234
Barbara Rater - Peanuts, Rice	(202) 720-7688
Vaughn Siegenthaler - Wheat, Rye	(202) 720-8068
Fruit, Vegetable & Special Crops Section	
Vince Matthews, Head	(202) 720-3843
Arvin Budge - Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes	(202) 720-4285
Dave DeWalt - Citrus, Tropical Fruits	(202) 720-5412
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
Linda Simpson - Noncitrus Fruits, Mint, Dry Beans & Peas, Mushrooms, Hops	(202) 690-0270
Debbie Williams - Apples, Strawberries, Tobacco	(202) 720-4288

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

---

## ACCESS TO REPORTS!!

---

For your convenience, there are several ways to obtain NASS reports, data products, and services:

### INTERNET ACCESS

All NASS reports are available free of charge on the worldwide Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and go to the NASS Home Page at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. Select "Today's Reports" or Publications and then Reports by Calendar or Publications and then Search, by Title or Subject.

### E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION

All NASS reports are available by subscription free of charge direct to your e-mail address. Send an e-mail message to: [usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu](mailto:usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu). In the body of the message type the word: **list**.

### AUTOFAX ACCESS

NASSFax service is available for some reports from your fax machine. Please call 202-720-2000, using the handset attached to your fax. Respond to the voice prompts. Document 0411 is a list of available reports.

-----

### PRINTED REPORTS OR DATA PRODUCTS

CALL OUR TOLL-FREE ORDER DESK: 800-999-6779 (U.S. and Canada)  
Other areas, please call 703-834-0125      FAX: 703-834-0110  
(Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order acceptable for payment.)

-----

### ASSISTANCE

For **assistance** with general agricultural statistics or further information about NASS or its products or services, contact the **Agricultural Statistics Hotline** at **800-727-9540**, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

---