Crop Production

National Agricultural Statistics Service

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Orange Production Down 1 Percent

All oranges production for the 1997-98 season is forecast at a record large 14.0 million tons, down 1 percent from the March forecast but up 11 percent from last season's revised record large production of 12.7 million tons. Florida's production is forecast at 248 million boxes (11.2 million tons), down 1 percent from March but 10 percent above last season. Florida's early-midseason forecast is 140 million boxes (6.30 million boxes), 2 percent less than a month ago but 4 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. The California all orange production forecast remains at 74.0 million boxes (2.78 million tons), unchanged from the January forecast and 16 percent more than the revised 1996-97 production of 64.0 million boxes (2.40 million tons). The Navel orange forecast continues at 44.0 million boxes (1.65 million tons), up 10 percent from a year ago. California's Valencia forecast also remains unchanged from the January forecast of 30.0 million boxes (1.13 million tons) but is 25 percent more than the revised production of 24.0 million boxes (900,000 tons) of the previous season.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield for the 1997-98 season is projected at 1.56 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, unchanged from last month. The forecast projects the final yield as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association. The early and midseason portion of the yield for 1997-98 is final at 1.49 gallons per box compared to 1.52 the previous season. Valencia yield is projected at 1.67 gallons per box, up slightly from March but lower than last season's final yield of 1.68 gallons per box.

This report was approved on April 9, 1998.

Acting Secretary of Agriculture
I. Miley Gonzalez

Agricultural Statistics Board
Acting Chairperson
Frederic A. Vogel

Contents

Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States, 1995-96, 1996-97 and Forecasted April 1, 1998 1/ 2/

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 3/ -----			------- 1,000 Tons -------		
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel 4/						
AZ	700	400	450	27	15	17
CA	38,000	40,000	44,000	1,426	1,500	1,650
FL	121,200	134,200	140,000	5,454	6,039	6,300
TX	830	1,300	1,400	35	55	60
US	160,730	175,900	185,850	6,942	7,609	8,027
Valencia						
AZ	950	600	550	36	23	21
CA	20,000	24,000	30,000	750	900	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	116,720	138,700	4,485	5,068	6,012
All						
AZ	1,650	1,000	1,000	63	38	38
CA	58,000	64,000	74,000	2,176	2,400	2,775
FL	203,300	226,200	248,000	9,149	10,179	11,160
TX	940	1,420	1,550	39	60	66
US	263,890	292,620	324,550	11,427	12,677	14,039
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	1,200	900	800	40	30	27
CA	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	1,000	550	500	38	21	19
CA	2,600	2,600	2,400	98	98	90
FL	4,500	6,300	5,100	213	299	242
US	8,100	9,450	8,000	349	418	351
Lemons						
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

See footnotes on next page.

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/ 1996-97 revised.

3/ 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.

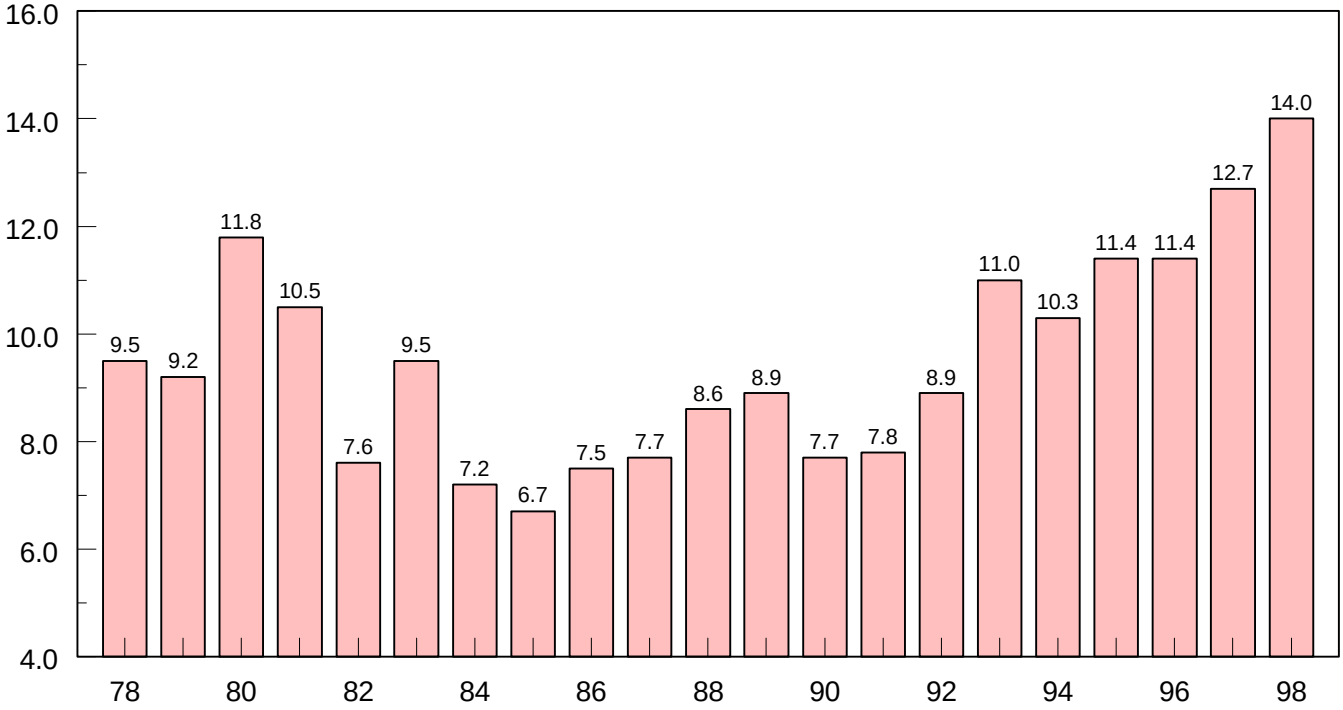
4/ Navel and miscellaneous varieties in AZ and CA. Early (including Navel) and midseason varieties in FL and TX. Small quantities of tangerines in TX.

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.

U.S. Orange Production

1978-1997 and Forecasted 1998

Million Tons



Up 11 % from last season

Record large crop

Potatoes: Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Seasonal Group, State, and United States, 1996-98

Seasonal Group and State	Area Planted 1997	Area Planted 1998	Area Harvested 1997	Area Harvested 1998	Yield 1997	Yield 1998	Production 1996	Production 1997	Production 1998
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt		
Winter									
CA	6.6	7.0	6.6	7.0	240	220	1,425	1,584	1,540
FL	9.0	8.5	8.8	8.0	175	180	1,848	1,540	1,440
Total	15.6	15.5	15.4	15.0	203	199	3,273	3,124	2,980
Spring									
AL	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	175	170	304	263	238
AZ	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.5	275	275	2,475	1,705	1,788
CA	20.7	18.9	20.7	18.9	400	370	7,538	8,280	6,993
FL	34.5	36.8	33.3	34.5	199	187	7,765	6,641	6,455
Hastings	25.5	26.5	24.5	24.5	210	190	6,325	5,145	4,655
Other FL	9.0	10.3	8.8	10.0	170	180	1,440	1,496	1,800
NC	17.0	17.5	16.5	17.0	200	185	3,230	3,300	3,145
TX	8.3	10.0	8.0	9.5	195	205	1,105	1,560	1,948
Total	88.3	91.2	86.2	87.8	252	234	22,417	21,749	20,567
Summer									
AL	6.0		5.9		150		1,005	885	
CA	5.9		5.9		360		2,088	2,124	
CO	7.8		7.6		350		3,381	2,660	
DE	4.3		4.2		230		1,248	966	
IL	4.8		4.6		325		1,650	1,495	
IA	1.3		1.3		210		315	273	
MD	3.4		3.4		280		559	952	
MO	6.4		5.8		255		1,633	1,479	
NE	4.4		4.3		390		1,485	1,677	
NJ	2.2		2.2		270		663	594	
NM	4.4		4.3		320		1,404	1,376	
NC	1.2		1.2		100		108	120	
TX	8.5		7.7		245		2,280	1,887	
VA	8.0		7.5		195		1,688	1,463	
Total	68.6		65.9		272		19,507	17,951	

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	
Feb	3,530	3,505	1,485	1,735	3,020	2,645
Mar	4,310	3,200	2,115	2,110	2,915	2,760

Peanuts: Farm Marketing Percents by Month, State, and United States, 1996 and 1997 Crop Years

Crop Year and State	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 1/	Feb
	Percent						
1996 Crop							
AL	33.3	57.2	8.9	0.6			
FL	45.7	49.7	4.0	0.6			
GA	42.7	49.9	6.6	0.8			
NC	1.2	76.4	15.4	4.4	2.6		
TX	5.3	66.0	23.3	3.9	1.2	0.3	
VA	11.2	63.8	14.0	6.7	4.3		
US	27.6	57.9	11.5	2.1	0.8	0.1	
1997 Crop							
AL	63.1	32.5	4.2	0.2			
FL	70.2	27.1	1.7	0.2	0.8		
GA	54.3	40.3	4.4	0.9	0.1		
NC		56.2	24.7	14.8	4.3		
TX	1.8	47.9	37.2	11.4	1.2	0.5	
VA	0.1	57.4	26.0	10.2	6.3		
US	34.8	43.0	15.6	5.3	1.2	0.1	

1/ January of the following year.

Peanuts: Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production by State and United States, 1996-97 1/

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1996	1997	1996	1997
	1,000 Acres			
AL	192.0	194.0	191.0	193.0
FL	90.0	92.0	82.0	84.0
GA	535.0	520.0	533.0	519.0
NM	16.5	18.0	16.5	17.3
NC	125.0	122.0	125.0	121.0
OK	85.0	79.0	81.0	77.0
SC	11.0	11.0	10.5	10.5
TX	270.0	320.0	265.0	315.0
VA	77.0	75.0	76.0	74.0
US	1,401.5	1,431.0	1,380.0	1,410.8

State	Yield		Production	
	1996	1997	1996	1997
	Pounds		1,000 Pounds	
AL	2,355	1,930	449,805	372,490
FL	2,880	2,715	236,160	228,060
GA	2,690	2,570	1,433,770	1,333,830
NM	2,300	2,700	37,950	46,710
NC	2,940	2,720	367,500	329,120
OK	2,410	2,400	195,210	184,800
SC	3,100	2,900	32,550	30,450
TX	2,600	2,610	689,000	822,150
VA	2,885	2,560	219,260	189,440
US	2,653	2,507	3,661,205	3,537,050

1/ 1997 Revised.

Peanuts: Price and Value by State and United States, 1996-97 1/

State	Price per Pound		Value of Production	
	1996	1997	1996	1997
	---- Dollars ----		----- 1,000 Dollars -----	
AL	.278	.275	125,046	102,435
FL	.281	.237	66,361	54,050
GA	.297	.272	425,830	362,802
NM	.305	.300	11,575	14,013
NC	.275	.267	101,063	87,875
OK	.300	.293	58,563	54,146
SC	.245	.287	7,975	8,739
TX	.248	.235	170,872	193,205
VA	.285	.289	62,489	54,748
US	.281	.264	1,029,774	932,013

1/ 1997 revised.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 1997-98 1/
(Domestic Units)

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1997	1998	1997	1998
	1,000 Acres			
Grains & Hay				
Barley	6,910.0	6,780.0	6,425.0	
Corn for Grain	80,227.0	80,781.0	73,720.0	
Corn for Silage			5,758.0	
Hay, All			60,815.0	60,735.0
Alfalfa			23,673.0	
All Other			37,142.0	
Oats	5,169.0	5,154.0	2,911.0	3,058.0
Rice	3,056.0	3,085.0	3,034.0	
Rye	1,433.0	1,551.0	341.0	
Sorghum for Grain	10,108.0	9,015.0	9,391.0	
Sorghum for Silage			310.0	
Wheat, All	70,989.0	67,027.0	63,577.0	
Winter	48,342.0	46,637.0	41,813.0	
Durum	3,250.0	4,075.0	3,107.0	
Other Spring	19,397.0	16,315.0	18,657.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	728.0		698.0	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	146.0	280.0	135.0	
Mustard Seed	74.4		72.8	
Peanuts	1,431.0	1,474.5	1,410.8	
Rapeseed	1.7		1.5	
Safflower	249.0		235.0	
Soybeans for Beans	70,850.0	72,000.0	69,884.0	
Sunflower	2,949.0	3,148.0	2,852.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	13,818.0	13,215.0	13,283.5	
Upland	13,566.0	12,948.0	13,032.5	
Amer-Pima	252.0	267.0	251.0	
Sugarbeets	1,459.2	1,496.7	1,427.8	
Sugarcane			915.5	
Tobacco			797.3	733.8
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	8.1		7.6	
Dry Edible Beans	1,851.8	1,940.3	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	15.5	15.4	15.0
Spring	88.3	91.2	86.2	87.8
Summer	68.6		65.9	
Fall	1,189.5		1,158.0	
Spearmint Oil			24.5	
Sweet Potatoes	86.9	85.7	83.5	
Taro (HI)			0.5	

1/ 1998 planted and harvested acres for all crops except potatoes are brought forward from the March **"Prospective Plantings"** report.

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

Crop	Unit	Yield 1997	Yield 1998	Production 1997	Production 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	
Cottonseed	Ton			7,278	
Flaxseed	Bu	16.1		2,171	
Mustard Seed	Lb	816		59,405	
Peanuts	"	2,507		3,537,050	
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	199	3,124	2,980
Spring	"	252	234	21,749	20,567
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	2,638
K-Early Citrus (FL)	"	7	7	2
Lemons	"	992	859	935
Oranges	"	11,427	12,677	14,039
Tangelos (FL)	"	110	178	128
Tangerines	"	349	418	351
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)	"		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 1/
(Metric Units)

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1997	1998	1997	1998
	Hectares			
Grains & Hay				
Barley	2,796,410	2,743,800	2,600,130	
Corn for Grain	32,467,060	32,691,260	29,833,750	
Corn for Silage			2,330,210	
Hay, All			24,611,230	24,578,850
Alfalfa			9,580,230	
All Other			15,031,000	
Oats	2,091,840	2,085,770	1,178,050	1,237,540
Rice	1,236,730	1,248,470	1,227,830	
Rye	579,920	627,670	138,000	
Sorghum for Grain	4,090,610	3,648,280	3,800,440	
Sorghum for Silage			125,450	
Wheat, All	28,728,530	27,125,160	25,728,970	
Winter	19,563,520	18,873,530	16,921,300	
Durum	1,315,240	1,649,110	1,257,370	
Other Spring	7,849,770	6,602,520	7,550,300	
Oilseeds				
Canola	294,610		282,470	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	59,080	113,310	54,630	
Mustard Seed	30,110		29,460	
Peanuts	579,110	596,720	570,940	
Rapeseed	690		610	
Safflower	100,770		95,100	
Soybeans for Beans	28,672,290	29,137,680	28,281,360	
Sunflower	1,193,430	1,273,960	1,154,180	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	5,592,000	5,347,980	5,375,700	
Upland	5,490,020	5,239,930	5,274,120	
Amer-Pima	101,980	108,050	101,580	
Sugarbeets	590,520	605,700	577,820	
Sugarcane			370,490	
Tobacco			322,650	296,950
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	3,280		3,080	
Dry Edible Beans	749,400	785,220	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	6,270	6,230	6,070
Spring	35,730	36,910	34,880	35,530
Summer	27,760		26,670	
Fall	481,380		468,630	
Spearmint Oil			9,910	
Sweet Potatoes	35,170	34,680	33,790	
Taro (HI)			180	

1/ 1998 planted and harvested acres for all crops except potatoes are brought forward from the March **"Prospective Plantings"** report.

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	
Cottonseed			6,602,490	
Flaxseed	1.01		55,150	
Mustard Seed	0.91		26,950	
Peanuts	2.81		1,604,380	
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	22.27	141,700	135,170
Spring	28.28	26.26	986,520	932,900
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	11,500,380	12,735,970
Tangelos (FL)	99,790	161,480	116,120
Tangerines	316,610	379,200	318,420
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)		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.

March Weather Summary: March's weather featured an impressive cold outbreak (about 150 daily-record lows from March 7-13) followed by a summer-like warm spell (about 200 daily-record highs and more than 20 monthly record highs from March 22-31). The Arctic outbreak produced the coldest weather of the season in many locations across the Central and Southeastern States in an otherwise mild winter. Snow cover protected winter wheat on the central and northern Plains, but in the Southeast, tender vegetation and peach blooms were damaged by three consecutive freezes (March 11-13). March temperatures ranged from 2 to 7 degrees F below normal on the Plains to as much as 5 degrees F above normal in the Great Lakes and Northeastern States. Monthly readings averaged within 2 degrees F of normal in California and the Southwest, although sharply cooler air arrived at month's end, in conjunction with a renewed series of storms.

In California, a month-long stretch without torrential rain--which allowed for recovery from the February deluge--was replaced by cold, wet conditions toward month's end. Monthly rainfall totaled more than 200 percent of normal across parts of southern California, the Southwest, and the southern Plains. In California, Bakersfield's seasonal (July 1, 1997, to date) rainfall reached an all-time-record 11.82 inches, breaking their 1977-78 standard of 11.73 inches. Rainfall of 7.34 inches in Tulsa, OK was their third-highest March total on record, and greatest since 11.94 inches fell in 1973. Wet conditions were also noted across the upper Midwest and much of the East. March precipitation records were established in Alpena, MI (7.32 inches), Madison, WI (5.46 inches), and Sioux Falls, SD (4.08 inches). Alpena also tallied a March-record snowfall (46.6 inches).

An active storm track across the Central and Midwestern States helped to provide abundant snowfall. Monthly totals of 13.6 inches in Wichita, KS and 12.3 inches in Norfolk, NE represented more than 50 percent of their respective season-to-date totals. On March 8, Des Moines, IA received 11.0 inches of snow, their greatest calendar-day total on record in March. Little more than a week later, on March 17-19, another storm dumped 40.1 inches in Coal Creek Canyon, CO, west of Denver. The storm helped to lift monthly snowfall to 17.5 inches in Colorado Springs, CO and 18.5 inches in Dodge City, KS. Snow returned to the Western and North Central States toward month's end, helping to boost monthly snowfall to 35.8 inches in Flagstaff, AZ and 21.4 inches in Sioux Falls, SD. On southern California's Mt. Laguna, the snow depth reached 19 inches on March 29.

During a 96-hour period early in the month (March 4-8), 4 to 12 inches of rain inundated parts of the Southeast. The downpours, a culmination of a 5-month wet spell, sent rivers to near-record levels in parts of Alabama, Georgia, and western Florida. In southeastern Alabama, the Pea River at Elba crested at 9.20 feet above flood stage on March 9, 2 days after overwhelming a levee and flooding much of the town. The crest was Elba's third highest on record, 10 inches above the July 1994 (Tropical Storm Alberto) level. Other gauging points that approached record stages included the Apalachicola River at Blountstown, FL (third highest on record), the Withlacoochee River at Valdosta, GA (fourth highest), and the Choctawhatchee River at Newton, AL (fourth highest). In addition, severe flooding occurred along parts of Georgia's Flint River. Meanwhile in Virginia, a continuation of wet conditions through most of the month resulted in record January-March precipitation in locations such as Roanoke (21.17 inches; 232 percent of normal) and Richmond (19.33 inches; 193 percent).

On March 9, streaks of above-normal temperatures ended at 47 days in Moline, IL and 53 days in Milwaukee, WI. During the Arctic outbreak of March 7-13, monthly records were established in Rawlins, WY (-23 degrees F on the 8th) and Hastings, NE (-15 degrees F on the 11th). On the 11th in South Dakota, Rapid City's low of -18 degrees F was their second-lowest reading in March, behind -21 degrees F on March 8, 1996. Other lows included -27 degrees F in Valentine, NE and -28 degrees F in Williston, ND. A day later in Iowa, lows of -24 degrees F in Bedford and Guthrie Center ranked as the State's fourth-lowest March readings.

In Omaha, NE, a low of -11 degrees F represented the latest occurrence of the season's lowest temperature. Kansas City, MO posted a low of -7 degrees F, their latest sub-zero reading during any winter season.

Across the Southeast, a 3-day spell of damaging cold commenced on March 11. Total durations of sub-28-degree cold reached 10 to 34 hours across northern Georgia and the northwestern half of South Carolina. By March 13, sub-freezing readings were noted as far south as the Florida cities of Gainesville (29 degrees F) and Ocala (30 degrees F). Other minima in the Southeast included 20 degrees F at both Augusta, GA and Columbia, SC.

In the East, the late-month record warmth came just a few days after a significant snowstorm. On March 22, 5.0 inches fell in New York's Central Park, boosting the season-to-date snowfall to 5.5 inches. Nine days later, the Park posted a March-record-tying high of 86 degrees F. Other totals during the March 21-22 storm included 13 inches in Conway, NH and 16 inches in Essex, VT. But on the last 4 days of the month, highs soared to March-record levels in more than 20 locations. On the 31st, highs reached 89 degrees F in Boston, MA, Concord, NH, Albany, NY, and Hartford, CT. In Portland, ME, a high of 88 degrees F on the 31st was not only a monthly record, but also represented a March-record 84-degree swing from their low of 4 degrees F on the 13th.

Serious drought continued in Hawaii through March. On Oahu, Honolulu experienced their third-driest March (0.03 inches; 1 percent of normal) and January-March (1.01 inches; 13 percent) periods on record. At the major reporting stations, 6-month rainfall ranged from 4.86 inches (28 percent of normal) in Honolulu to 16.68 inches (59 percent) in Lihue. Hilo received 37.47 inches (47 percent of normal) from October to March, but only 6.21 inches (18 percent) since January 1, 1998.

General Crop Comments: Cold weather slowed winter wheat development in the central Great Plains and Southeast early in the month. Considerable leaf burn resulted from a mid-month blast of cold air that brought sub-zero temperatures as far south as Kansas. However, permanent damage from the strong winds and freezing temperatures was expected to be minor. Farther north, snow cover helped protect the crop from the windy, cold conditions. As the cold air retreated, growth resumed, accelerating late in the month when record high temperatures pushed northward into the High Plains. By the end of the month, over half of the crop had reached the jointing stage in Oklahoma, and the crop was beginning to head in Texas and Louisiana.

Warm, dry weather during the last week of the month allowed farmers in the Corn Belt and northern Plains to begin spring tillage operations. Some oats were seeded in Illinois, and Colorado producers made good progress on their small grain seedings. In the Southeast, rain caused flooding, delaying corn planting and keeping farmers out of their fields until late in the month. In Georgia, a few cotton and soybean fields remained unharvested from last year’s crop. Corn planting accelerated during the final week of the month, but remained behind normal. A sugarcane plant in Florida expected to remain in operation until April to finish processing the late-harvested crop.

Peach orchards suffered frost damage when sub-freezing temperatures reached the Gulf coast and northern Florida for three straight nights. Blooms were killed on some early varieties. Strawberry and blueberry growers also struggled to save their crops. In Texas, some pecan trees lost blooms to the cold temperatures.

The Pacific Coast States began the month with a continuation of below-normal temperatures, but the earlier stormy pattern abated in California and allowed fieldwork to resume in most areas. Most small grain and alfalfa fields recovered from earlier flooding, but some low-lying wheat and barley fields remained wet and growth was stunted. Sunny weather assisted pollination of

almonds and stone fruits. Some cotton was planted in the San Joaquin Valley, but soil temperatures were still too low in most areas.

Grapefruit: The April 1 forecast of the 1997-98 U.S. grapefruit crop continues at 2.64 million tons, unchanged from last month and down 9 percent from last year's final utilization.

Florida's all grapefruit forecast remains at 50.0 million boxes (2.13 million tons), the same as last month's forecast but down 10 percent from the previous year's record utilization.

White seedless grapefruit is forecast at 21.0 million boxes, unchanged from a month ago and 11 percent less than last season. Both fresh and processed utilization is lagging behind last season. Weather and weak market conditions for export have contributed to reduced movement in the fresh production area. High winds have also increased droppage in some of the older interior area groves. Final recorded utilization of this variety will be dependent on the amount processors are willing to accept into inventory.

Colored seedless varieties are forecast at 28.5 million boxes, unchanged from last month, 9 percent less than the record crop utilized last season, but near the level of utilization in the 1994-95 and 1995-96 seasons. Estimated utilization as of April 1, 1998, is 1.34 million boxes ahead of last season to the same date.

The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast is continued at 500,000 boxes. As of April 1, 1998, almost 500,000 boxes are estimated to have been utilized. Loss from droppage increased 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.

California's grapefruit forecast remains unchanged from the previous forecast of 9.00 million boxes (302,000 tons). If realized, the utilization will be a 10 percent increase from the 1996-97 season. Harvesting has slowed during the previous three months as picking wound down in a few areas and gained momentum in other areas. Weather conditions have been fair, with some problems caused by rain. Good size and quality have been reported.

The Texas grapefruit forecast, at 4.60 million boxes (184,000 tons), is unchanged from the March 1 forecast but is down 13 percent from last season. Good quality fruit continued to be picked as the harvesting season passed the 75 percent complete mark. Arizona's forecast is unchanged from the previous forecast of 800,000 boxes (27,000 tons), 11 percent below the 1996-97 season.

Lemons: The 1997-98 lemon crop is forecast at 935,000 tons, unchanged from the last forecast in January but 9 percent higher than the 1996-97 crop.

California production in 1997-98 is forecast at 22.0 million boxes (836,000 tons), unchanged from the January forecast but 10 percent more than last year. Central Valley lemons are rated as fair to good, while South Coast area lemons are rated as good to very good. Grade defects include flatsides, tip bruising, and wind scar. The Arizona lemon crop is expected to be 2.60 million boxes (99,000 tons), the same as the previous forecast and the same as last season's production.

Tangerines: The 1997-98 U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at 351,000 tons, up 1 percent from the March 1 forecast but down 16 percent from the previous season's utilized production. Florida's utilization is expected at 5.10 million boxes (242,000 tons), up 2 percent from last month's forecast but down 19 percent from the 1996-97 season. The early portion of the tangerine forecast (Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy) is final, but the Honey tangerine forecast is increased from a month ago. Estimated utilization of Honey tangerines is over 200,000 boxes ahead of last season, reflecting slightly advanced maturity. The row count survey on March 30-31 showed over 20 percent of the rows remain to be harvested.

California's tangerine forecast is 2.40 million boxes (90,000 tons), unchanged from January but down 8 percent from a year ago. Grades have been fair to good, but eating quality and flavor are good to excellent. Defects in California's tangerines include scar, sunburn, pliable fruit, and picking injuries. Arizona's tangerine utilization is expected at 500,000 boxes (19,000 tons), the same as January but 9 percent less than what was utilized last season.

Tangelos: Florida's 1997-98 forecast of tangelos is final at 2.85 million boxes (128,000 tons), unchanged from the March 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 for harvest, mostly in small blocks or as pollinators.

Temples: The 1997-98 forecast of Florida Temple production is held at 2.30 million boxes (104,000 tons), down 4 percent from a year ago. Although harvest started earlier than last season, estimated certifications as of the end of March are less than last season's level to the same date.

Florida Citrus: March was generally colder, wetter, and windier than normal in Florida's citrus belt. Several citrus counties recorded record rainfall for the month. Some groves were not accessible due to water accumulation in the grove roads and between tree rows. The abundance of rainfall generated a lot of new growth and bloom buds of all stages. Some Valencia and Navel groves were in full open bloom by the end of the month with many other types following close behind. Early and midseason orange harvest ended for all practical purposes by the end of March. Valencia harvest is very active with estimated weekly utilization now more than seven million boxes. Harvest of all seedless grapefruit is strongest on the lower east coast, and the fruit is moving as both fresh and processing. Picking of Temples and Honey tangerines slowed during the last part of the month as supplies were running low. Caretakers spent most of their time discing and deep plowing to aerate the wet grove soil. A few growers have started post bloom nutritional spraying.

As of April 1, more than 31.1 million boxes of Valencias have been moved, well ahead of the 20.0 million that had been utilized by last April 1. Approximately 36.8 million boxes of seedless grapefruit have been utilized. Seedy grapefruit certifications totaled 498,000 boxes. Utilization of all tangerines through March was 4.95 million boxes. Tangelo and Temple movement was 2.81 million boxes and 2.19 million boxes, respectively, by the end of March.

Texas Citrus: Harvest moved ahead without much delay during March. The early orange harvest was complete. Harvest of Valencias increased rapidly and moved past the halfway point. Grapefruit harvest passed the 75 percent complete mark with good quality fruit reported.

California Citrus: Picking of grapefruit was active, but slow in the desert area. Good size and quality were reported. In the Central Valley, shippers were packing lemons for export. Both domestic and export quality was good. Picking of lemons was also active in the South Coast area with good grades. Growers in both areas were concerned about flatsides, tip bruising, and windscar. Approximately 70 percent of the navel crop has been picked. Good quality was reported with large-sized fruit. Rind breakdown, puff, and crease were reported. By April 1 the Valencia orange harvest was active in all three districts. Most of the fruit has been going to export. Quality was reported as good to excellent. The tangerine harvest was winding down with export and domestic quality fair to good. Eating quality and flavor have been good to excellent. Some scar, sunburn, and picking injuries were reported.

California Fruit and Nut: Drier weather during March allowed growers to do more cultural activities in orchards and vineyards. Activities included pruning, weed control and spraying for brown rot. Pollination improved in almond and stone fruit trees with the sunshine and warmer weather. By the end of the month most of the trees were past bloom and were leafing out.

Winter Potatoes: Production of winter potatoes in 1998 is estimated at 2.98 million cwt. This is down 5 percent from 1997 but 1 percent above the January 1 forecast. Area for harvest is estimated at 15,000 acres, down 3 percent from a year ago but 3 percent above two years ago. The average yield is projected at 199 cwt per acre, 4 cwt lower than last year and 27 cwt below 1996.

Wet winter weather delayed planting and hurt early-planted fields. Some acreage was replanted because of wet soils. Harvest in California is almost finished at the end of a late season. Florida's yields were low at first but improved during the season. Harvest should be active through most of April.

Spring Potatoes: Spring potato production is forecast at 20.6 million cwt, down 5 percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago. Area for harvest is estimated at 87,800 acres, up 2 percent from a year ago but 2 percent below two years ago. The average yield, projected at 234 cwt per acre, is down 18 cwt from last year and 15 cwt below 1996.

Acreage is higher than last year in 4 of the 6 Spring States. Wet winter weather slowed planting and damaged early planted fields. Yields are expected to be below last year except in Arizona and Texas. Harvest is underway in Arizona and Central Florida. Early yields are poor in Florida where rain and flooding damaged potatoes. Harvest in the Hastings, Florida area will start in late April and continue through May. Conditions in Alabama have improved with drier weather since the third week in March.

Texas harvest will start in early April in the southern regions. California has had a wet spring, and warm weather is needed to move the potatoes along. In North Carolina, wet March weather delayed planting and may lead to lower yields.

Summer Potatoes, 1997 Final: The final estimate of summer potatoes places crop production at 18.0 million cwt. This is unchanged from the preliminary estimate made in January. Production was down 8 percent from 1996 but less than 1 percent larger than the 1995 crop. Harvested area was estimated at 65,900 acres, down 12 percent from 1996 and 7 percent below 1995 harvest. The average yield was estimated at 272 cwt per acre, up 11 cwt from 1996 and 18 cwt above 1995.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya output is estimated at 2.76 million pounds in March, 4 percent more than February but 5 percent less than last March. Area devoted to papaya production totaled 3,200 acres in March, 9 percent lower than the previous month and 26 percent lower than a year ago. Harvested area, totaling 2,110 acres, was 22 percent higher than February but virtually unchanged from March 1997.

Light, passing showers occurred throughout the month. Additional rainfall would benefit non-irrigated areas. Orchards in the Puna area of the Big Island have experienced heavy flower drop due to low moisture. Some new plantings have failed and farmers have been advised to wait until the drought is over before planting again. Fruit normally takes longer to mature at this time of the year, but lack of water has extended time to maturation. Orchards outside of Puna have smaller fruit than normal due to the dry conditions.

Peanuts, 1997 Final: U.S. peanut production in 1997 totaled 3.54 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the 1996 crop and virtually unchanged from the January estimate. Planted and harvested areas at 1.43 and 1.41 million acres, respectively, were both up 2 percent from 1996. The U.S. yield per harvested acre averaged 2,507 pounds, down 146 pounds from 1996. Georgia remained the leading peanut producer with 38 percent of the total U.S. peanut production, followed by Texas with 23 percent. Dry weather, disease problems, and insect pressure reduced crop potential in the Southeast and Virginia-North Carolina regions. However, growers in the Southwest enjoyed a banner year. Producers in Texas averaged a record 2,610 pounds per acre, 10 pounds above the previous record set last year. Planted acreage in the Southwest region jumped 12 percent from a year ago.

The 1997 marketing year average price received by farmers for peanuts was 26.4 cents per pound, down 1.7 cents from 1996. The value of peanut production for the 1997 crop totaled $932 million, down 9 percent from a year earlier.

Report Features

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

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