

Crop Production



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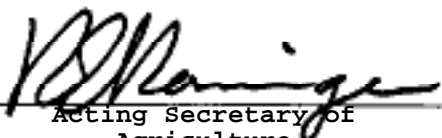
Winter Wheat Production Down 9 Percent


Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.71 billion bushels, down 9 percent from last year. Based on conditions as of May 1, the U.S. yield is forecast at 41.9 bushels per acre. This is down 3.1 bushels from last year's record high average but, if realized, would still be the second highest U.S. average. Grain area totals 40.7 million acres, down 3 percent from 1997. All classes of wheat are down from last year with HardRed showing the largest percentage drop.

All oranges production for the 1997-98 season is forecast at a record large 14.0 million tons, the same as the April 1 forecast but up 11 percent from last season's previous record large production of 12.7 million tons. Florida's production forecast remains at 248 million boxes (11.2 million tons), 10 percent above last season. Florida's early-midseason forecast is 140 million boxes (6.30 million boxes), the same as the previous forecast 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.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield for the 1997-98 season is projected at a record high 1.58 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, up from the 1.56 gallon per box projection of a month ago. 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 a record high 1.70 gallons per box, up from April's 1.67 projection.

This report was approved on May 12, 1998.


Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Richard E. Rominger


Agricultural Statistics Board
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Winter Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production, by State
and United States, 1997 and Forecasted May 1, 1998

State:	Planted :		Area Harvested :		Yield :		Production	
	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	
	----- 1,000 Acres -----				--- Bushels ---		-- 1,000 Bushels --	
AL	120	100	90		42.0	45.0	4,200	4,050
AZ	10	9	9		85.0	80.0	765	720
AR	950	820	890		48.0	52.0	39,360	46,280
CA	500	400	370		75.0	70.0	30,000	25,900
CO	2,950	2,850	2,750		32.0	36.0	91,200	99,000
DE	75	73	73		73.0	65.0	5,329	4,745
FL	15	15	13		39.0	41.0	585	533
GA	290	360	240		44.0	45.0	15,840	10,800
ID	820	870	770		80.0	80.0	69,600	61,600
IL	1,250	1,150	1,200		61.0	54.0	70,150	64,800
IN	700	660	670		58.0	60.0	38,280	40,200
IA	30	27	30		42.0	42.0	1,134	1,260
KS	10,700	11,000	10,200		46.0	37.0	506,000	377,400
KY	750	530	500		54.0	53.0	28,620	26,500
LA	100	115	90		37.0	34.0	4,255	3,060
MD	225	215	220		68.0	63.0	14,620	13,860
MI	580	540	570		62.0	56.0	33,480	31,920
MN	60	60	55		32.0	32.0	1,920	1,760
MS	150	175	135		43.0	42.0	7,525	5,670
MO	1,200	1,040	1,120		55.0	45.0	57,200	50,400
MT	1,400	1,450	1,300		39.0	34.0	56,550	44,200
NE	1,900	1,900	1,850		37.0	37.0	70,300	68,450
NV	7	11	6		100.0	100.0	1,100	600
NJ	48	34	44		60.0	54.0	2,040	2,376
NM	415	285	265		35.0	27.0	9,975	7,155
NY	140	135	135		56.0	58.0	7,560	7,830
NC	730	670	650		52.0	47.0	34,840	30,550
ND	70	55	65		21.0	30.0	1,155	1,950
OH	1,200	1,090	1,160		63.0	62.0	68,670	71,920
OK	6,800	5,400	5,400		33.0	32.0	178,200	172,800
OR	820	840	790		67.0	65.0	56,280	51,350
PA	195	175	190		52.0	53.0	9,100	10,070
SC	265	300	255		50.0	40.0	15,000	10,200
SD	1,450	1,050	1,350		30.0	35.0	31,500	47,250
TN	600	370	400		45.0	44.0	16,650	17,600
TX	6,100	4,100	4,000		29.0	30.0	118,900	120,000
UT	155	160	150		49.0	50.0	7,840	7,500
VA	275	250	240		68.0	60.0	17,000	14,400
WA	2,200	2,150	2,100		67.0	64.0	144,050	134,400
WV	12	9	10		54.0	55.0	486	550
WI	140	135	135		58.0	55.0	7,830	7,425
WY	240	235	225		32.0	30.0	7,520	6,750
US	46,637	41,813	40,715		45.0	41.9	1,882,609	1,705,784

Durum Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production, by State
and United States, 1996-97 and Forecasted May 1, 1998 1/

State:	Area Harvested		Yield		Production		
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		---- 1,000 Bushels ---		
AZ	89	140	90.0	90.0	14,760	8,010	12,600
CA	144	156	95.0	95.0	13,800	13,680	14,820
MN	5		34.0		430	170	
MT	280		26.0		7,000	7,280	
ND	2,570		22.0		79,380	56,540	
SD	19		27.0		720	513	
US	3,107		27.7		116,090	86,193	

1/ Area harvested for U.S. and northern States will be published in "Acreage" released June 30, 1998. Yield and production will be published in "Crop Production" released July 10, 1998.

Wheat: Production by Class, United States, 1996-1997
and Forecasted May 1, 1998 1/

Year	Winter			Spring			Total
	Hard Red	Soft Red	White	Hard Red	Durum	White	
	1,000 Bushels						
1996	761,412	422,019	293,627	630,866	116,090	61,119	2,285,133
1997	1,120,891	483,890	277,828	500,643	86,193	57,107	2,526,552
1998	989,560	460,737	255,487				

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

Hay: Stocks on Farms, by State and United States,
December 1 and May 1, 1995-98

State	December 1			May 1		
	1995	1996	1997	1996	1997	1998
	1,000 Tons					
AL	1,270	1,489	1,489	106	193	173
AZ	265	82	167	28	28	25
AR	1,910	1,850	2,000	141	231	250
CA	2,250	2,594	1,624	361	160	431
CO	2,390	1,945	1,975	636	203	570
CT	78	97	57	11	13	14
DE	9	11	7	1	6	5
FL	397	437	400	29	31	60
GA	1,050	924	1,045	150	302	203
ID	2,794	2,285	2,986	660	286	566
IL	1,979	1,350	1,400	432	304	503
IN	1,584	1,131	1,213	216	162	327
IA	4,079	3,500	3,360	736	715	640
KS	4,590	5,600	5,600	787	841	889
KY	4,806	4,334	4,352	492	627	727
LA	513	502	541	15	126	83
ME	272	202	166	126	57	28
MD	265	433	360	55	84	52
MA	115	95	92	17	13	17
MI	3,166	2,514	2,000	754	460	402
MN	4,374	4,018	3,700	694	540	620
MS	1,368	1,620	1,522	50	160	190
MO	6,000	6,159	6,115	955	830	863
MT	4,931	4,674	5,042	858	492	1,151
NE	4,813	5,063	4,360	1,325	968	1,171
NV	750	752	711	166	60	151
NH	82	70	42	16	12	8
NJ	131	92	138	48	27	20
NM	600	590	540	40	80	190
NY	2,069	2,254	1,956	552	555	338
NC	900	970	990	116	115	130
ND	5,044	4,777	3,841	1,019	675	695
OH	2,421	2,074	2,400	323	173	600
OK	3,600	4,500	4,400	500	800	900
OR	2,310	2,108	1,653	264	97	641
PA	2,513	2,613	2,100	617	600	415
RI	6	7	8	1	1	1
SC	468	308	390	72	101	78
SD	8,960	8,530	8,180	3,077	1,570	2,100
TN	3,136	3,049	3,184	235	419	555
TX	7,322	6,252	8,632	570	1,400	2,158
UT	1,481	1,327	1,630	349	302	435
VT	391	330	267	100	86	75
VA	2,185	2,698	1,567	257	630	254
WA	1,410	1,162	1,373	426	283	327
WV	855	895	813	53	117	106
WI	4,900	4,600	4,000	1,569	1,150	1,150
WY	2,636	1,965	2,129	734	287	363
US	109,438	104,832	102,517	20,739	17,372	21,650

Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
1995-96, 1996-97 and Forecasted May 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	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 4/	950	600	550	36	23	21
CA 4/	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	170	4	5	7
US	103,160	116,720	138,720	4,485	5,068	6,013
All						
AZ 4/	1,650	1,000	1,000	63	38	38
CA 4/	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	1,570	39	60	67
US	263,890	292,620	324,570	11,427	12,677	14,040
Temples						
FL	2,150	2,400	2,250	97	108	101
Grapefruit						
White Seedless						
FL 5/	23,200	23,500	18,400	986	999	782
Colored Seedless						
FL 5/	28,100	31,400	30,000	1,194	1,334	1,275
Other						
FL	1,050	900	600	45	38	26
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	49,000	2,225	2,371	2,083
TX	4,550	5,300	4,600	182	212	184
US	66,200	70,200	63,400	2,718	2,888	2,596
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	5,250	213	299	249
US	8,100	9,450	8,150	349	418	358
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

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/ 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.

Spring Potatoes: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by State
and United States, 1996-97 and Forecasted May 1, 1998

State	Area Harvested		Yield		Production		
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
	1,000 Acres		Cwt		1,000 Cwt		
AL	1.5	1.7	175	165	304	263	281
AZ	6.2	8.2	275	235	2,475	1,705	1,927
CA	20.7	18.9	400	335	7,538	8,280	6,332
FL	33.3	34.5	199	178	7,765	6,641	6,155
Hastings	24.5	24.5	210	190	6,325	5,145	4,655
Other FL	8.8	10.0	170	150	1,440	1,496	1,500
NC	16.5	17.0	200	185	3,230	3,300	3,145
TX	8.0	9.5	195	170	1,105	1,560	1,615
US	86.2	89.8	252	217	22,417	21,749	19,455

Almonds (shelled basis): Utilized Production,
California, 1996-97 and Forecasted May 1, 1998

State	1996	1997 1/	1998
	1,000 Pounds		
CA	510,000	757,000	550,000

1/ Revised.

Avocados: Bearing Acreage, Yield, Production, Price,
and Value, Florida and Hawaii, 1996-98

Year	Bearing Acreage	Yield per Acre	Production		Utilization	
	1/		Total	Utilized	Fresh	Processed
	Acres		Tons			
FL						
1996-97	5,700	4.12	23,500	23,500	23,500	
1997-98	5,700	4.21	24,000	24,000	24,000	
HI						
1996-97	180	1.11	200	200	200	
1997-98	220	1.14	250	250	250	
Price per Ton			Value of Production			
	Fresh	Processed	All	Fresh	Processed	All
	Dollars			1,000 Dollars		
FL						
1996-97	528.00		528.00	12,408		12,408
1997-98	584.00		584.00	14,016		14,016
HI						
1996-97	1,070.00		1,070.00	214		214
1997-98	1,060.00		1,060.00	265		265

1/ Bearing acreage estimates are based on periodic orchard inventory surveys.

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	
Mar	4,310	3,200	2,115	2,110	2,915	2,760
Apr	4,310	3,200	2,120	2,140	2,720	3,015

Bananas, Papayas, and Taro: Area Harvested, Yield,
and Production, Hawaii, 1996-97 1/

Crop	Area Harvested		Yield	
	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- Acres -----		----- Pounds -----	
Bananas	1,040	1,020	12,500	13,400
Papayas 2/	1,835	1,985	22,800	19,500
Taro 3/	530	450		
	Total Production		Utilized Production	
	1996	1997	1996	1997
	1,000 Pounds			
Bananas 4/			13,000	13,700
Papayas 4/			41,800	38,800
Taro	5,700	5,500	5,700	5,500

- 1/ 1997 revised.
- 2/ Area harvested is average during the year.
- 3/ Acreage is total acres in crop, not harvested acreage. Yield is not estimated.
- 4/ Only utilized production is estimated.

Tobacco: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by Class,
Type, State, and United States, 1996-97 1/

Class and Type	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- Acres -----		--- Pounds --		--- 1,000 Pounds --	
Class 1, Flue-cured						
Type 11, Old Belts						
NC	76,000	90,000	2,120	2,025	161,120	182,250
VA	37,700	41,000	2,235	2,315	84,260	94,915
US	113,700	131,000	2,158	2,116	245,380	277,165
Type 12, Eastern NC Belt						
NC	167,000	179,000	2,025	2,445	338,175	437,655
Type 13, NC Border & SC Belt						
NC	37,000	40,000	1,980	2,455	73,260	98,200
SC	51,000	54,000	2,310	2,340	117,810	126,360
US	88,000	94,000	2,171	2,389	191,070	224,560
Type 14, GA-FL Belt						
FL	7,500	7,300	2,680	2,610	20,100	19,053
GA	46,000	43,000	2,470	2,075	113,620	89,225
US	53,500	50,300	2,499	2,153	133,720	108,278
Total 11-14	422,200	454,300	2,151	2,306	908,345	1,047,658
Class 2, Fire-cured						
Type 21, VA Belt						
VA	1,100	1,200	1,580	1,640	1,738	1,968
Type 22, Eastern District						
KY	3,800	3,750	2,720	2,560	10,336	9,600
TN	7,500	7,400	2,550	2,480	19,125	18,352
US	11,300	11,150	2,607	2,507	29,461	27,952
Type 23, Western District						
KY	3,600	3,600	3,160	2,970	11,376	10,692
TN	580	600	2,850	2,750	1,653	1,650
US	4,180	4,200	3,117	2,939	13,029	12,342
Total 21-23	16,580	16,550	2,668	2,554	44,228	42,262
Class 3, Air-cured						
Class 3A, Light Air-cured						
Type 31, Burley						
IN	7,600	8,900	1,970	2,100	14,972	18,690
KY	185,000	220,000	1,980	2,140	366,300	470,800
MO	2,700	3,000	2,230	2,345	6,021	7,035
NC	7,800	8,400	1,665	1,585	12,987	13,314
OH	8,000	11,400	1,580	1,960	12,640	22,300
TN	46,000	51,000	1,915	1,830	88,090	93,330
VA	9,500	10,800	1,835	1,905	17,433	20,574
WV	1,700	1,800	1,200	1,700	2,040	3,060
US	268,300	315,300	1,940	2,059	520,483	649,103
Type 32, Southern MD Belt						
MD	8,000	8,000	1,250	1,500	10,000	12,000
PA 2/	3,200	3,000	1,900	1,900	6,080	5,700
US	11,200	11,000	1,436	1,609	16,080	17,700
Total 31-32	279,500	326,300	1,920	2,044	536,563	666,803

See footnotes at end of table.

--continued

Tobacco: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by Class, Type,
State, and United States, 1996-97 1/ (continued)

Class and Type	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- Acres -----		--- Pounds --		--- 1,000 Pounds ---	
Class 3, Air-cured						
Class 3B, Dark Air-cured						
Type 35, One Sucker Belt						
KY	2,100	2,050	2,340	2,290	4,914	4,695
TN	480	480	2,125	2,000	1,020	960
US	2,580	2,530	2,300	2,235	5,934	5,655
Type 36, Green River Belt						
KY	1,200	1,100	2,180	2,310	2,616	2,541
Type 37, VA Sun-cured Belt						
VA	70	80	1,600	1,485	112	119
Total 35-37	3,850	3,710	2,250	2,241	8,662	8,315
Class 4, Cigar Filler						
Type 41, PA Seedleaf PA	4,600	4,600	2,040	2,100	9,384	9,660
Class 5, Cigar Binder						
Class 5A, CT Valley Binder						
Type 51, CT Valley Broadleaf						
CT	1,220	1,230	1,840	1,730	2,245	2,128
MA	410	780	1,600	1,850	656	1,443
US	1,630	2,010	1,780	1,777	2,901	3,571
Class 5B, WI Binder						
Type 54, Southern WI						
WI	1,900	1,800	1,900	2,330	3,610	4,194
Type 55, Northern WI						
WI	970	750	1,600	1,995	1,552	1,496
Total 54-55	2,870	2,550	1,799	2,231	5,162	5,690
Total 51-55	4,500	4,560	1,792	2,031	8,063	9,261
Class 6, Cigar Wrapper						
Type 61, CT Valley Shade-grown						
CT	1,040	1,040	1,490	1,415	1,550	1,472
MA	390	420	1,425	1,510	556	634
US	1,430	1,460	1,473	1,442	2,106	2,106
All Cigar Types						
Total 41-61	10,530	10,620	1,857	1,980	19,553	21,027
All Tobacco	732,660	811,480	2,071	2,201	1,517,351	1,786,065

1/ 1997 revised.

2/ Estimates carried forward from "Crop Production" Annual Summary released January 13, 1998.

Tobacco: Price and Value by Class, Type,
State, and United States, 1996-97 1/

Class and Type	Price per Pound		Value of Production	
	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- Dollars -----		----- 1,000 Dollars -----	
Class 1, Flue-cured				
Type 11, Old Belts				
NC	1.860	1.710	299,683	311,648
VA	1.871	1.727	157,650	163,918
US	1.864	1.716	457,333	475,566
Type 12, Eastern NC Belt				
NC	1.830	1.720	618,860	752,767
Type 13, NC Border & SC Belt				
NC	1.810	1.720	132,601	168,904
SC	1.822	1.735	214,650	219,235
US	1.817	1.728	347,251	388,139
Type 14, GA-FL Belt				
FL	1.808	1.721	36,341	32,790
GA	1.813	1.712	205,993	152,753
US	1.812	1.714	242,334	185,543
Total 11-14	1.834	1.720	1,665,778	1,802,015
Class 2, Fire-cured				
Type 21, VA Belt				
VA	1.790	2.125	3,111	4,182
Type 22, Eastern District				
KY	2.246	2.268	23,215	21,773
TN	2.252	2.260	43,070	41,476
US	2.250	2.263	66,285	63,249
Type 23, Western District				
KY	2.233	2.242	25,403	23,971
TN	2.227	2.226	3,681	3,673
US	2.232	2.240	29,084	27,644
Total 21-23	2.227	2.250	98,480	95,075
Class 3, Air-cured				
Class 3A, Light Air-cured				
Type 31, Burley				
IN	1.920	1.870	28,746	34,950
KY	1.922	1.886	704,029	887,929
MO	1.918	1.895	11,548	13,331
NC	1.920	1.860	24,935	24,764
OH	1.926	1.869	24,345	41,679
TN	1.920	1.886	169,133	176,020
VA	1.920	1.903	33,471	39,152
WV	1.923	1.878	3,923	5,747
US	1.922	1.885	1,000,130	1,223,572
Type 32, Southern MD Belt				
MD	1.920	1.720	19,200	20,640
PA	1.750	1.300	10,640	7,410
US	1.856	1.585	29,840	28,050
Total 31-32	1.920	1.877	1,029,970	1,251,622

See footnotes at end of table.

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Tobacco: Price and Value by Class, Type, State,
and United States, 1996-97 1/ (continued)

Class and Type	Price per Pound		Value of Production	
	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- Dollars -----		----- 1,000 Dollars -----	
Class 3, Air-cured				
Class 3B, Dark Air-cured				
Type 35, One Sucker Belt				
KY	1.945	2.011	9,558	9,442
TN	1.915	2.003	1,953	1,923
US	1.940	2.010	11,511	11,365
Type 36, Green River Belt				
KY	1.979	2.034	5,177	5,168
Type 37, VA Sun-cured Belt				
VA	1.782	1.908	200	227
Total 35-37	1.950	2.016	16,888	16,760
Class 4, Cigar Filler				
Type 41, PA Seedleaf PA	1.550	1.600	14,545	15,456
Class 5, Cigar Binder				
Class 5A, CT Valley Binder				
Type 51, CT Valley Broadleaf				
CT	6.200	6.000	13,919	12,768
MA	6.550	9.500	4,297	13,709
US	6.280	7.414	18,216	26,477
Class 5B, WI Binder				
Type 54, Southern WI				
WI	1.480	1.500	5,343	6,291
Type 55, Northern WI				
WI	1.500	1.520	2,328	2,274
Total 54-55	1.486	1.505	7,671	8,565
Total 51-55	3.211	3.784	25,887	35,042
Class 6, Cigar Wrapper				
Type 61, CT Valley Shade-grown				
CT 2/				
MA 2/				
US 2/				
All Cigar Types				
Total 41-55 2/	2.317	2.669	40,432	50,498
All Tobacco 2/	1.882	1.803	2,851,548	3,215,970

1/ 1997 revised.

2/ CT and MA Type 61 price and value not published to avoid disclosure; not included in All Cigar Types or All Tobacco.

Tobacco: Area Harvested, Yield, Production, Price, and Value
by State and United States, 1996-97 1/

State	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- Acres -----		---- Pounds ---		----- 1,000 Pounds -----	
CT	2,260	2,270	1,679	1,586	3,795	3,600
FL	7,500	7,300	2,680	2,610	20,100	19,053
GA	46,000	43,000	2,470	2,075	113,620	89,225
IN	7,600	8,900	1,970	2,100	14,972	18,690
KY	195,700	230,500	2,021	2,162	395,542	498,328
MD	8,000	8,000	1,250	1,500	10,000	12,000
MA	800	1,200	1,515	1,731	1,212	2,077
MO	2,700	3,000	2,230	2,345	6,021	7,035
NC	287,800	317,400	2,035	2,304	585,542	731,419
OH	8,000	11,400	1,580	1,956	12,640	22,300
PA	7,800	7,600	1,983	2,021	15,464	15,360
SC	51,000	54,000	2,310	2,340	117,810	126,360
TN	54,560	59,480	2,014	1,922	109,888	114,292
VA	48,370	53,080	2,141	2,215	103,543	117,576
WV	1,700	1,800	1,200	1,700	2,040	3,060
WI	2,870	2,550	1,799	2,231	5,162	5,690
US	732,660	811,480	2,071	2,201	1,517,351	1,786,065
	Price		Value of			
	per Pound		Production			
	1996	1997	1996	1997		
	----- Dollars -----		----- 1,000 Dollars -----			
CT 2/	6.200	6.000	13,919	12,768		
FL	1.808	1.721	36,341	32,790		
GA	1.813	1.712	205,993	152,753		
IN	1.920	1.870	28,746	34,950		
KY	1.940	1.903	767,382	948,283		
MD	1.920	1.720	19,200	20,640		
MA 2/	6.550	9.500	4,297	13,709		
MO	1.918	1.895	11,548	13,331		
NC	1.838	1.720	1,076,079	1,258,083		
OH	1.926	1.869	24,345	41,679		
PA	1.629	1.489	25,185	22,866		
SC	1.822	1.735	214,650	219,235		
TN	1.982	1.952	217,837	223,092		
VA	1.878	1.765	194,432	207,479		
WV	1.923	1.878	3,923	5,747		
WI	1.486	1.505	7,671	8,565		
US	1.882	1.803	2,851,548	3,215,970		

1/ 1997 revised.

2/ CT and MA Type 61 price and value not published to avoid disclosure; not included in U.S. total.

Tobacco: Farm Marketings, Percent of Sales by Class,
Month, and State, 1997 Marketing Year

Class and State	1997					1998					Total	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		
	Percent											
Flue-cured												
FL	16	32	35	17								100
GA	16	31	36	17								100
NC	3	21	34	36	6							100
SC	13	32	34	21								100
VA		17	31	38	14							100
Fire-cured												
VA						80	20					100
KY							39	53	7	1		100
TN							38	51	11			100
Air-cured												
IN					10	37	31	14	4	4		100
KY					12	43	29	10	3	3		100
MD									60	40		100
MO					24	46	30					100
NC					17	60	22	1				100
OH					9	41	37	12	1			100
PA 1/												
TN					16	57	21	5	1			100
VA					19	66	15					100
WV					20	52	26	2				100

1/ Sales by month are not available.

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

Type and State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- 1,000 Acres -----				----- Pounds -----	
Upland						
AL	520.0	535.0	516.0	442.0	734	597
AZ	315.0	325.0	314.0	324.0	1,189	1,255
AR	1,000.0	950.0	990.0	940.0	793	859
CA	1,000.0	880.0	995.0	875.0	1,153	1,202
FL	99.0	100.0	98.2	99.0	637	577
GA	1,340.0	1,440.0	1,336.0	1,425.0	747	646
KS	4.5	12.0	4.0	10.0	492	418
LA	890.0	630.0	885.0	625.0	697	757
MS	1,120.0	985.0	1,100.0	970.0	819	901
MO	390.0	380.0	385.0	375.0	737	723
NM	59.0	70.0	55.0	66.0	733	676
NC	721.0	670.0	710.0	665.0	677	671
OK	290.0	200.0	210.0	190.0	306	462
SC	284.0	290.0	282.0	285.0	774	691
TN	540.0	490.0	530.0	480.0	611	662
TX	5,700.0	5,500.0	4,100.0	5,150.0	509	479
VA	103.0	101.0	102.0	100.0	748	659
US	14,375.5	13,558.0	12,612.2	13,021.0	701	673
Amer-Pima:						
AZ	42.0	22.0	41.9	22.0	852	912
CA	165.0	185.0	164.0	184.0	1,098	1,141
NM	14.0	11.0	14.0	11.0	651	641
TX	37.0	32.0	36.0	32.0	801	815
US	258.0	250.0	255.9	249.0	991	1,056
All						
AL	520.0	535.0	516.0	442.0	734	597
AZ	357.0	347.0	355.9	346.0	1,150	1,233
AR	1,000.0	950.0	990.0	940.0	793	859
CA	1,165.0	1,065.0	1,159.0	1,059.0	1,145	1,191
FL	99.0	100.0	98.2	99.0	637	577
GA	1,340.0	1,440.0	1,336.0	1,425.0	747	646
KS	4.5	12.0	4.0	10.0	492	418
LA	890.0	630.0	885.0	625.0	697	757
MS	1,120.0	985.0	1,100.0	970.0	819	901
MO	390.0	380.0	385.0	375.0	737	723
NM	73.0	81.0	69.0	77.0	717	671
NC	721.0	670.0	710.0	665.0	677	671
OK	290.0	200.0	210.0	190.0	306	462
SC	284.0	290.0	282.0	285.0	774	691
TN	540.0	490.0	530.0	480.0	611	662
TX	5,737.0	5,532.0	4,136.0	5,182.0	511	481
VA	103.0	101.0	102.0	100.0	748	659
US	14,633.5	13,808.0	12,868.1	13,270.0	707	680

1/ 1997 revised.

Cotton: Production and Bales Ginned by Type,
State, and United States, 1996-97

Type and State	Production in 480-lb Net Weight Bales 1/		Lint-seed Ratio 2/		Bales Ginned in 480-lb Net Weight Bales 3/	
	1996	1997 4/	1996	1997	1996	1997
	--- 1,000 Bales ---		----- Bales -----			
Upland						
AL	789.0	550.0			781,700	545,900
AZ	778.0	847.0			762,200	824,550
AR	1,636.0	1,683.0			1,621,350	1,654,750
CA	2,390.0	2,191.0			2,404,250	2,212,950
FL 5/	130.4	119.1				
GA	2,079.0	1,919.0			2,102,850	1,942,100
KS 5/	4.1	8.7				
LA	1,286.0	986.0			1,322,150	1,022,000
MS	1,876.0	1,821.0			1,866,450	1,808,400
MO	591.0	565.0			565,500	555,350
NM	84.0	93.0			75,250	69,250
NC	1,002.0	930.0			1,013,700	941,150
OK	134.0	183.0			127,650	180,550
SC	455.0	410.0			440,800	395,750
TN	675.0	662.0			677,400	660,600
TX	4,345.0	5,140.0			4,354,150	5,164,750
VA	159.0	137.2			155,250	133,050
US	18,413.5	18,245.0			18,400,550	18,239,650
Amer-Pima:						
AZ	74.4	41.8			74,800	42,350
CA	375.0	437.2			374,150	436,600
NM	19.0	14.7			14,650	10,500
TX	60.1	54.3			64,400	58,500
US	528.5	548.0			528,000	547,950
All						
AL	789.0	550.0			781,700	545,900
AZ	852.4	888.8			837,000	866,900
AR	1,636.0	1,683.0	0.378	0.383	1,621,350	1,654,750
CA	2,765.0	2,628.2	0.394	0.396	2,778,400	2,649,550
FL 5/	130.4	119.1				
GA	2,079.0	1,919.0			2,102,850	1,942,100
KS 5/	4.1	8.7				
LA	1,286.0	986.0	0.393	0.392	1,322,150	1,022,000
MS	1,876.0	1,821.0	0.379	0.380	1,866,450	1,808,400
MO	591.0	565.0			565,500	555,350
NM	103.0	107.7			89,900	79,750
NC	1,002.0	930.0			1,013,700	941,150
OK	134.0	183.0			127,650	180,550
SC	455.0	410.0			440,800	395,750
TN	675.0	662.0			677,400	660,600
TX	4,405.1	5,194.3	0.368	0.377	4,418,550	5,223,250
VA	159.0	137.2			155,250	133,050
US	18,942.0	18,793.0			18,928,550	18,787,600

- 1/ Production ginned and to be ginned.
- 2/ Estimates available only for the five states shown. Three-year average.
- 3/ Equivalent 480-lb net weight bales ginned, not adjusted for cross-State movement.
- 4/ 1997 revised.
- 5/ Bales withheld to avoid disclosure of individual gins, but are included in U.S. totals.

Cottonseed: Production and Farm Disposition,
by State and United States, 1996-97 1/

State:	Production		Farm Disposition				Used for	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1997	1998
			1,000 Tons					
AL	273.0	196.0	95.0	87.0	178.0	109.0	6.2	5.8
AZ	324.0	312.0	124.0	73.0	200.0	239.0	3.1	2.4
AR	635.0	632.0	596.0	528.0	39.0	104.0	9.0	7.9
CA	1,020.0	942.0	134.0	153.0	886.0	789.0	9.1	8.4
FL	46.0	45.0	26.0	31.0	20.0	14.0	1.1	1.0
GA	681.0	660.0	329.0	332.0	352.0	328.0	17.3	16.2
KS	1.4	3.1	1.4	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
LA	499.0	359.0	340.0	206.0	159.0	153.0	5.7	5.1
MS	735.0	704.0	681.0	660.0	54.0	44.0	9.9	8.6
MO	234.0	223.0	188.0	148.0	46.0	75.0	4.0	4.4
NM	38.1	40.5	6.8	2.3	31.3	38.2	0.8	0.7
NC	343.0	321.0	38.0	63.0	305.0	258.0	6.0	5.6
OK	56.0	72.0	52.0	56.0	4.0	16.0	2.2	2.0
SC	155.0	142.0	100.0	89.0	55.0	53.0	2.0	1.8
TN	262.0	260.0	212.0	208.0	50.0	52.0	5.1	4.7
TX	1,784.0	1,983.0	1,440.0	1,543.0	344.0	440.0	55.3	56.3
VA	57.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	57.0	40.0	0.9	0.9
US	7,143.5	6,934.6	4,363.2	4,182.4	2,780.3	2,752.2	137.8	132.0

1/ 1996 crop revised, 1997 crop preliminary.

2/ Includes planting seed, feed, exports, inter-farm sales, shrinkage, loss and other uses.

3/ Included in "other" farm disposition. Planting seed from previous years' crops.

Cotton: Cumulative Large Bolls and Harvesting Loss

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducted cotton objective yield surveys in 5 States which accounted for 65 percent of the 1997 U.S. Upland cotton production. Plots were randomly selected from a scientific sample of cotton fields. Two sample plots per field were visited monthly from about August 1 through harvest to obtain specific counts and measurements. The "large bolls" are total bolls counted from August through harvest. This count includes only bolls greater than one inch in diameter and burrs.

Cotton: Cumulative Large Bolls and Harvesting Loss
by State, 1988-1997

Year	Arkansas		California	
	Large Bolls 1/	Harvest Loss Per Acre	Large Bolls 1/	Harvest Loss Per Acre
	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds
1988	717	63	797	137
1989	578	57	802	125
1990	669	74	843	131
1991	782	89	814	110
1992	817	73	819	116
1993	753	105	839	122
1994	812	83	806	133
1995	689	66	680	105
1996	741	64	758	165
1997	783	101	714	103
	Louisiana		Mississippi	
	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds
1988	710	73	726	86
1989	708	83	710	90
1990	888	78	693	93
1991	770	68	726	90
1992	875	60	708	84
1993	661	65	608	76
1994	748	75	760	99
1995	615	49	607	78
1996	623	52	741	82
1997	670	45	868	76

1/ Total large bolls in 40 feet of row.

-- continued

Cotton: Cumulative Large Bolls and Harvesting Loss
by State, 1988-97 (continued)

		Texas	
Year	Large Bolls 1/	Harvest Loss Per Acre	
	Number	Pounds	
1988	463	34	
1989	369	32	
1990	489	39	
1991	430	41	
1992	489	53	
1993	489	36	
1994	486	41	
1995	415	36	
1996	505	39	
1997	508	27	

1/ Total large bolls in 40 feet of row.

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

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 2/	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 2/	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	40,715.0
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	13,808.0	13,215.0	13,270.0	
Upland	13,558.0	12,948.0	13,021.0	
Amer-Pima	250.0	267.0	249.0	
Sugarbeets	1,459.2	1,496.7	1,427.8	
Sugarcane			915.5	
Tobacco			811.5	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	93.2	86.2	89.8
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) 3/			0.5	

1/ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 1998 crop year.

2/ Area planted for all purposes.

3/ Acreage is total acres in crop, not harvested acreage.

Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 1997-98
(Domestic Units) 1/

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 2/	: 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	41.9	1,882,609	1,705,784
Durum	: "	27.7		86,193	
Other Spring	: "	29.9		557,750	
Oilseeds					
Canola	: Lb	1,310		914,385	
Cottonseed	: Ton			6,935	
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 2/	: Bale	680		18,793.0	
Upland 2/	: "	673		18,245.0	
Amer-Pima 2/	: "	1,056		548.0	
Sugarbeets	: Ton	20.9		29,874	
Sugarcane	: "	34.5		31,563	
Tobacco	: Lb	2,201		1,786,065	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils					
Austrian Winter Peas 2/	: Cwt	1,513		115	
Dry Edible Beans 2/	: "	1,695		29,156	
Dry Edible Peas 2/	: "	2,103		5,816	
Lentils 2/	: "	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	217	21,749	19,455
Summer	: "	272		17,951	
Fall	: "	360		417,088	
Spearmint Oil	: Lb	98		2,403	
Sweet Potatoes	: Cwt	156		13,025	
Taro (HI) 3/	: Lb			5,500	

- 1/ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 1998 crop year.
2/ Yield in pounds.
3/ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 1996-98
(Domestic Units) 1/

Crop	Unit	Production		
		1996	1997	1998
			1,000	
Citrus 2/				
Grapefruit	Ton	2,718	2,888	2,596
K-Early Citrus (FL)	"	7	7	2
Lemons	"	992	859	935
Oranges	"	11,427	12,677	14,040
Tangelos (FL)	"	110	178	128
Tangerines	"	349	418	358
Temples (FL)	"	97	108	101
Non-Citrus				
Apples	Lb	10,392.0	10,226.6	
Apricots	Ton	79.3	138.0	
Bananas (HI)	Lb	13,000.0	13,700.0	
Grapes	Ton	5,554.3	6,836.4	
Olives (CA)	"	166.0	104.0	
Papayas (HI)	Lb	41,800.0	38,800.0	
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	757,000	550,000
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/ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 1998 crop year.
- 2/ Production years are 1995-96, 1996-97, and 1997-98.

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

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 2/	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 2/	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	16,476,950
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	5,587,960	5,347,980	5,370,240	
Upland	5,486,790	5,239,930	5,269,470	
Amer-Pima	101,170	108,050	100,770	
Sugarbeets	590,520	605,700	577,820	
Sugarcane			370,490	
Tobacco			328,410	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	37,720	34,880	36,340
Summer	27,760		26,670	
Fall	481,380		468,630	
Spearmint Oil			9,910	
Sweet Potatoes	35,170	34,680	33,790	
Taro (HI) 3/			180	

1/ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 1998 crop year.

2/ Area planted for all purposes.

3/ Acreage is total acres in crop, not harvested acreage.

Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 1997-98
(Metric Units) 1/

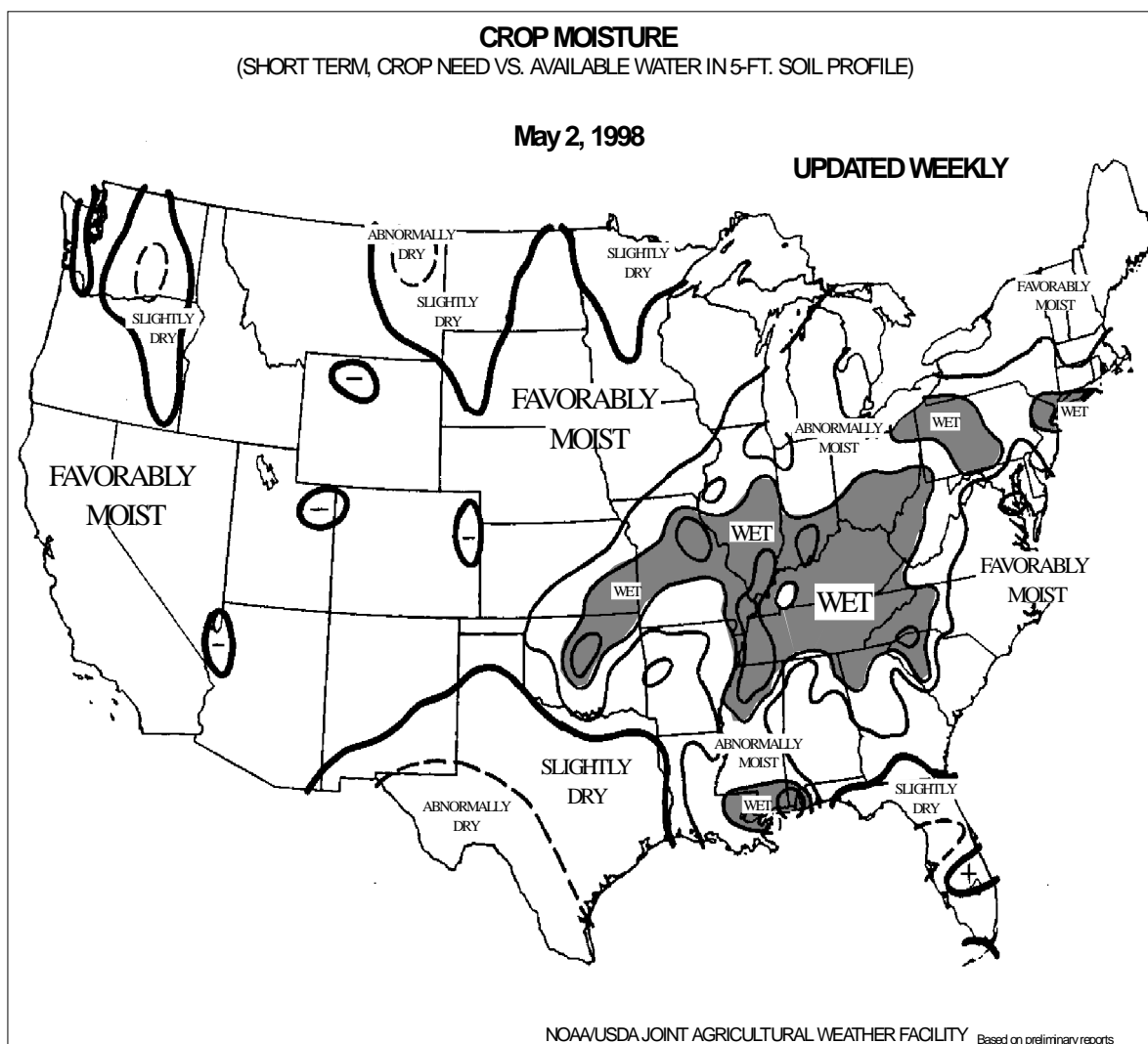
Crop	Yield		Production	
	1997	1998	1997	1998
	Metric Tons			
Grains & Hay				
Barley	3.14		8,153,300	
Corn for Grain	7.97		237,896,540	
Corn for Silage	35.78		83,373,000	
Hay, All	5.61		138,000,940	
Alfalfa	7.50		71,887,130	
All Other	4.40		66,113,810	
Oats	2.17		2,556,140	
Rice	6.61		8,114,590	
Rye	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	2.82	51,236,220	46,423,830
Durum	1.87		2,345,790	
Other Spring	2.01		15,179,470	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.47		414,760	
Cottonseed			6,290,960	
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	0.76		4,091,690	
Upland	0.75		3,972,380	
Amer-Pima	1.18		119,310	
Sugarbeets	46.90		27,101,240	
Sugarcane	77.29		28,633,470	
Tobacco	2.47		810,150	
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	24.28	986,520	882,460
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) 2/	13.83		2,490	

- 1/ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 1998 crop year.
- 2/ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 1996-98
(Metric Units) 1/

Crop	Production		
	1996	1997	1998
	Metric tons		
Citrus 2/			
Grapefruit	2,465,730	2,619,950	2,355,050
K-Early Citrus (FL)	6,350	6,350	1,810
Lemons	899,930	779,270	848,220
Oranges	10,366,400	11,500,380	12,736,870
Tangelos (FL)	99,790	161,480	116,120
Tangerines	316,610	379,200	324,770
Temples (FL)	88,000	97,980	91,630
Non-Citrus			
Apples	4,710	4,640	
Apricots	71,940	125,190	
Bananas (HI)	5,900	6,210	
Grapes	5,038,780	6,201,880	
Olives (CA)	150,590	94,350	
Papayas (HI)	18,960	17,600	
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	343,370	249,480
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/ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 1998 crop year.
- 2/ Production years are 1995-96, 1996-97, and 1997-98.

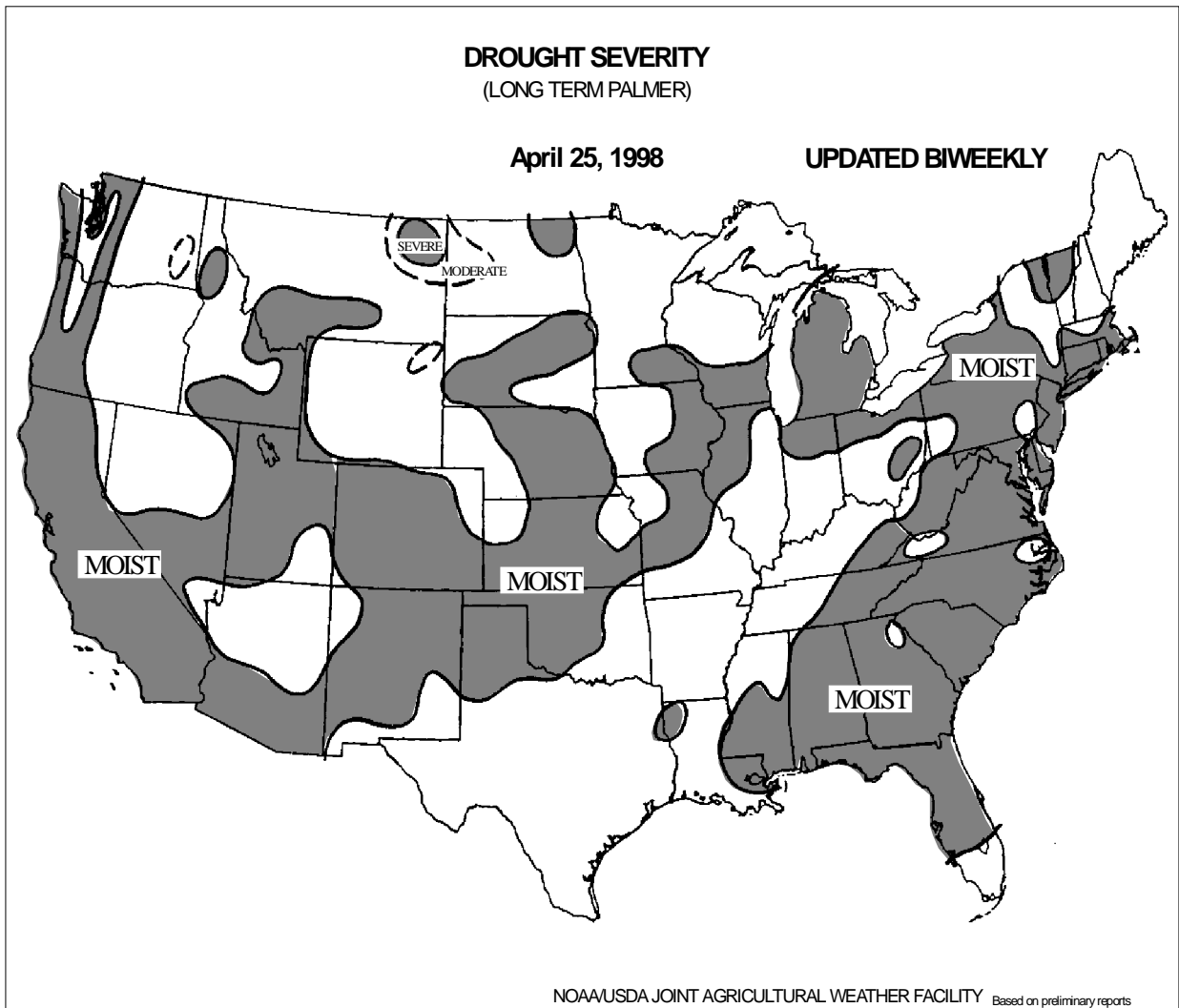


Crop Moisture

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

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

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



Drought Severity

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

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

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

April Weather Summary: Under the influence of a very strong southern branch of a split jet stream, below-normal temperatures prevailed from California into the Southeast. Monthly departures ranged from -2 to -5 degrees F from California to the central and southern Plains. Meanwhile, readings averaged 2 to 7 degrees F above normal across the Nation's northern tier. Because of the unusual warmth, some fruit trees across the Great Lakes and Northeastern States were already in bloom when more typical weather--resulting in several freezes--returned toward month's end.

The jet stream's active southern branch produced unsettled weather across California and the Southwest. Farther east, several April rainfall records were broken across the Ohio Valley and into the Southeast. At month's end, many rivers--including the middle Mississippi and lower Ohio Rivers--remained very high. In contrast, the procession of storms failed to dampen the South-Central United States. The dry spell, which stretched to 6 weeks by the end of April, also affected the immediate Gulf Coast and most of Florida, although a late-month storm boosted topsoil moisture from eastern Texas to Florida.

Monthly rainfall topped 15 inches at a few locations in eastern Tennessee, including a 16.51-inch total at Big Ridge (Union County). Some of the heaviest rain fell on April 16-17, when 24-hour rainfall topped 5 inches in a few spots. At least five locations in the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys reported a record-wet April:

Location	Total (Inches)	Former Record/Year
Knoxville, TN	11.07	7.90 in 1994
Cincinnati, OH	9.77	8.62 in 1947
Asheville, NC	8.70	7.26 in 1979
Youngstown, OH	7.29	6.43 in 1957
Bristol, TN	7.03	5.85 in 1970

In contrast, little or no rain fell in parts of Texas. Record-low April rainfall occurred in Midland and San Antonio, and several other cities had their driest April in at least 14 years:

Location	Total (Inches)	Former Record/Year
San Antonio, TX	0.05	0.11 in 1984
Midland, TX	trace	trace in 1947, 1964

Location	Total (Inches)	Driest April Since...
San Angelo, TX	trace	0.00 in 1920
Del Rio, TX	0.01	0.01 in 1955
Corpus Christi, TX	0.03	trace in 1984
Abilene, TX	0.35	0.20 in 1984

All of Abilene's rain fell on April 26, the same day that the month's first rain (0.59 inches) fell in Albuquerque, NM and 2.77 inches (83 percent of the monthly total) soaked Oklahoma City, OK. The same storm responsible for those totals delivered 4.32 inches to New Orleans, LA from April 27-30, ending a 26-day spell during which only 0.07 inches fell. In southern Florida, the month's first rain (1.01 inches) dampened Key West on April 30. But in Tampa, FL, only 0.41 inches (36 percent of normal) occurred during April, ending a 9-month streak (July 1997 - March 1998) with above-normal monthly rainfall.

During the first half of the month, several storms dumped significant snow from the Southwest to the central High Plains. By the 18th, monthly snowfall reached 16.3 inches in Flagstaff, AZ, 10.1 inches in Cheyenne, WY, and 9.5 inches in Colorado Springs, CO. Flagstaff's monthly average temperature of 37.2 degrees F (5.1 degrees below normal) was their third lowest on record. Tucson, AZ (61.4 degrees F, 4.4 degrees below normal) observed their coldest April since 1983. In the Northeast, however, no snow fell in Rochester, NY for the first time in April since 1952. But when colder air arrived toward month's end,

minima of 28 degrees F (on the 27th) in Binghamton, NY and 30 degrees F (on the 28th) in Lynchburg, VA were the lowest of the month. In Michigan, Lansing registered 25 degrees F on April 27. Meanwhile, record warmth developed across the Northwest. The last day of the month featured an April-record high of 90 degrees F in Portland, OR.

Drought continued throughout most of Hawaii, although significant improvement occurred in some windward (east-facing) areas. Of the State's 73 official rain gauges, 62 received below-normal April rainfall. Kamuela (14.26 inches; 207 percent of normal), on the Big Island, and Hanapepe, Kauai (2.84 inches; 129 percent), were among the locations netting above-normal rainfall. However, 6-month (November-April) rainfall at the major reporting stations ranged from only 17 percent of normal (2.83 inches) in Honolulu to 54 percent (14.85 inches) in Lihue. In Hilo, where November-April precipitation averages more than 75 inches, the 6-month rainfall deficit topped 40 inches.

General Crop Comments: A rainy weather pattern persisted throughout the month in the eastern half of the United States, limiting fieldwork and delaying planting, especially in the Southeast. Cotton growers barely had time between storms to prepare and plant fields, keeping progress well behind normal as the month ended. The wet weather also delayed the normal beginning of the corn planting season in the Corn Belt. But as the end of the month neared, the western Corn Belt dried and farmers were able to make excellent planting progress. However, the eastern Corn Belt remained wet and planting remained behind normal in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. By month's end, planting was ahead of normal Nationally, and on a record pace in Minnesota.

Above normal temperatures and dry weather from the Great lakes westward through the northern Plains and Pacific Northwest allowed farmers to make rapid progress seeding small grains. By the end of the month, most of the Nation's spring wheat, barley, and oats crops were planted. However, dry weather was slowing germination and crop growth, especially in the central and northern High Plains.

The mild, early spring temperatures also coaxed winter wheat out of dormancy earlier than normal and provided good growing conditions for most of the month. A cold front that brought below freezing temperatures as far south as northern Texas around mid-month did little damage to the crop. But by the end of the month, dry weather was beginning to stress the crop in the High Plains from Texas to the Canada border. In the eastern Corn Belt, wet weather was responsible for the decline in the crop condition. Despite the late-month deterioration, winter wheat was in better condition at month's end than in recent years.

Fieldwork and planting were frequently delayed by rain in the Southwest and California. In addition, below normal temperatures persisted for most of the month, keeping soils unfavorably cool until late-month, causing cotton growers to delay planting. A late-month warm up allowed Southwest farmers to make good progress, but planting remained behind the 5-year average as the month ended. In the Southeast, cool, wet weather persisted through the end of the month, causing cotton and peanut planting to fall farther behind. Rice growers had well over half of their crop seeded, despite the rainy weather.

Winter Wheat: The 1998 wheat harvested area is forecast at 40.7 million acres, down 3 percent from 1997. Hard Red Winter (HRW) and White acreage totals are down about 3 and 4 percent, respectively. Soft Red Winter (SRW) grain area is up slightly.

Early April condition ratings were quite high and at par with 1993. Since then, the ratings have dipped; as of May 3, the percent good or better was 70 - higher

than any of the last five years except 1993. Comments from some of the Delta states indicate the March freeze will result in more acres cut for hay than normal. Another freeze hit parts of eastern Colorado and western Kansas the morning of April 17; the effect, if any, has not been assessed.

The Nation's HRW crop suffered few overwintering problems though moisture is needed in several areas to reach full yield potential. Forecasted head counts from Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas Objective Yield surveys are collectively a little higher than that forecast last May 1; the Texas numbers are at record levels. Not surprisingly, initial SRW yield forecasts in most of the southeast are down from last year's high numbers. Ample to excessive moisture in much of SRW country has fostered concern over the potential for disease problems. Prospects for good crops are evident once again in the Pacific Northwest though Washington and eastern Oregon growers want more rain.

Durum Wheat: Production of Durum wheat in Arizona and California is forecast at 27.4 million bushels in total. This is up 26 percent from the 1997 production year. Acreage increases in both States are the main reason for the increase as forecasted yields are unchanged from last year's final.

Condition ratings are good to excellent in both States. Nearly all of Arizona's wheat is headed. Average yields have been reported so far in California's Imperial Valley where harvest began in late April. San Joaquin Valley fields were heading by May 1. Some low lying fields suffered from flood damage. Harvest should start there in early June.

Hay Stocks on Farms: Stocks of all hay on farms totaled 21.7 million tons on May 1, 1998, up 25 percent from May 1 of the previous year. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 1997 - May 1, 1998, totaled 80.9 million tons, 7.5 percent lower than the 1996 crop disappearance of 87.5 million tons for the same period.

Stocks of hay on May 1, 1998 were higher or unchanged compared to last year in 31 of the 48 estimating states. Mild winter conditions and adequate spring rains across the United States revitalized pasturelands and allowed livestock producers to reduce feeding of hay.

Almonds: The first forecast of 1998 California almond production is 550 million pounds, shelled basis. This is down 27 percent from the record 1997 crop of 757 million pounds. Bearing acreage totaled 425,000 acres, up 15,000 from 1997's revised 410,000 acres. Statewide bloom reports range from fair to good with cool spring temperatures and intermittent rains throughout the State. Growers indicate a large variation in set with virtually no nuts on some trees but large numbers reported on others. Yields are expected to be well below last year's record high yields. The crop's development is one to two weeks behind normal.

Avocados: Florida avocado production for the 1997-98 season totaled 24,000 tons, up 2 percent from last season. Bearing acreage, at 5,700 acres, was unchanged from the 1996-97 level. The value of Florida avocados for the 1997-98 season totaled \$14.0 million, up 13 percent from the previous season and the highest value since the 1985-86 season. The value increased primarily due to very good quality fruit and excellent prices.

The 1997-98 Hawaii avocado crop totaled 250 tons, up 25 percent from last season but unchanged from the 1995-96 season. Higher production resulted from a 22 percent increase in acreage and slightly better yields. Growing conditions were an improvement from a year ago in the major producing area of Hawaii

Island. The value of Hawaii avocados for the 1997-98 season totaled \$265,000, up 24 percent from last season.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya production is estimated at 3.02 million pounds for April, 9 percent higher than March and 11 percent higher than April 1997. Area devoted to papaya production totaled 3,200 acres, unchanged from last month but 26 percent lower than a year ago. Harvested area, totaling 2,140 acres, was 1 percent higher than March and 1 percent higher than last April.

April weather conditions were variable for papaya production. Showers replenished soil moisture in many nonirrigated areas and allowed farmers to plant fields. Warmer temperatures and the added moisture in dry areas aided fruit development.

Hawaii's utilized production of papayas during 1997 totaled 38.8 million pounds, 7 percent lower than the previous year. Fresh sales of 35.7 million pounds were 6 percent lower than in 1996. Processed sales, totaling 3.10 million pounds, were 23 percent lower than last year. The average area harvested each month was 1,985 acres, 8 percent higher than in 1996. Gusty winds and rains in early 1997 were unfavorable for orchard and fruit development. Sunshine mixed with rainfall made for more typical growing conditions through the remainder of the year.

Bananas: Hawaii banana production for 1997 is estimated at 13.7 million pounds, 5 percent above 1996. Weather for the year was mixed. Strong winds early in the year temporarily set back orchards on Hawaii Island. New acreage and maturing orchards increased production. Banana Bunchy Top Virus was found on Kauai in September 1997, and control efforts are ongoing. The virus was already present on Oahu and the Big Island.

Taro: Hawaii taro production for 1997 was estimated at 5.50 million pounds, down 4 percent from 1996. Area in crop is estimated at 450 acres, a reduction of 15 percent from the previous year. The decline in acreage occurred in the dryland or Chinese variety, which is grown for fresh sales and chips. Yields of poi taro were aided by better-than-normal weather during the final quarter of 1997. The usual cloudy, wet, and windy weather associated with winter was virtually nonexistent in late 1997, resulting in improved corm growth. A new disease, Taro Pocket Rot, continued to hamper yields, but its incidence was reduced during the final quarter.

Grapefruit: The May 1 forecast of the 1997-98 U.S. grapefruit crop is reduced to 2.60 million tons, down 2 percent from the April 1 forecast and down 10 percent from last year's final utilization.

Florida's all grapefruit forecast, at 49.0 million boxes (2.08 million tons), is down 2 percent from last month and is down 12 percent from the previous year's record utilization. The white seedless variety is forecast at 18.4 million boxes, down 12 percent from the April 1 forecast and 22 percent less than last season. The export market has not provided the fresh use level of recent years. Processing use is lagging over 4.50 million boxes behind the past two seasons to date. The colored seedless variety is forecast at 30.0 million boxes, up 5 percent from a month ago but 4 percent less than the 1996-97 season. The increase is based on the indication of row harvest from the route survey. Estimated utilization by May 1 is 28.0 million boxes. Weekly utilization, while declining, is still above 500,000 boxes. Based on utilization, the seedy

(Duncan) grapefruit forecast is increased to 600,000 boxes, up 20 percent from the April 1 forecast but down 33 percent from a year ago.

The Texas grapefruit forecast, at 4.60 million boxes (184,000 tons), is unchanged from the April 1 forecast but is down 13 percent from last season. The California grapefruit forecast of 9.00 million boxes (302,000 tons), is carried forward from the April 1 forecast. Arizona's grapefruit forecast, also carried forward from April 1, is 800,000 boxes (27,000 tons).

Tangerines: The 1997-98 U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at 358,000 tons, up 2 percent from the April 1 forecast but down 14 percent from the previous season's utilized production. Florida's utilization is 5.25 million boxes (249,000 tons), up 3 percent from last month's forecast but down 17 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. There continued to be weekly certifications, and the route survey indicated some rows with fruit left to pick. California and Arizona tangerine forecasts were carried forward from April at 2.40 million boxes (90,000 tons) and 500,000 boxes (19,000 tons), respectively.

Tangelos: Florida's 1997-98 forecast of tangelos is final at 2.85 million boxes (128,000 tons), unchanged from the April 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 reduced to 2.25 million boxes (101,000 tons), down 2 percent from last month and down 6 percent from a year ago. Only 6,000 boxes were moved in the past month. Utilization during the past seven seasons has averaged 2.39 million boxes, ranging from 2.15 to 2.55 million boxes.

Florida Citrus: April was generally a very dry and windy month with only a few days of scattered rains. Growers and caretakers of well cared for groves irrigated throughout the month to maintain good tree condition, cut cover crops, applied herbicides, and did post bloom spraying. Bloom lingered through the first two weeks of April in most areas and was complete by April 20. New growth slowed as the dry conditions persisted in many counties. Some growers reported abnormal post bloom fruit drop caused by the wetter than normal winter. Most of the accelerated droppage was in Navels and Valencias, with other types affected to a lesser degree. Harvest of Valencia oranges was very active during April, with most of the fruit going to processors. Movement of all seedless grapefruit averaged just below two million boxes per week until the last week of the month when utilization slipped to an estimated 1.3 million boxes.

Texas Citrus: Harvest of all citrus was completed in many groves during April. Some very late fruit may not be harvested due to poor juice markets. The set for the 1998-99 crop looks very good, but the shortage of irrigation water is still a major factor for next year's crop.

California Citrus: The navel orange harvest was near completion by the end of April, with over 90 percent of the crop picked. Valencia

orange picking gathered momentum during the month with most of the fruit going to export. Around 10 percent has been picked. Quality has been reported as very good. The lemon harvest was active in the San Joaquin Valley and the South Coast area. Quality and volume were both reported to be good. Grapefruit picking was still active in the desert area but slowing down. Quality was reported as very good. Tangerine picking was nearly complete.

California Fruit and Nut: Growers were active in orchards and vineyards throughout April with normal cultural activities, including herbicide and fungicide applications. By late April, growers were thinning apples, apricots, plums, nectarines, and peaches. The warmer, drier weather helped speed the maturity of stone fruit crops. Vineyards were treated for powdery mildew.

Spring Potatoes: Spring potato production is forecast at 19.5 million cwt, down 11 percent from last year and 5 percent below a month ago. Area for harvest is estimated at 89,800 acres, up 4 percent from a year ago but less than 1 percent below two years ago. The average yield, projected at 217 cwt per acre, is down 35 cwt from last year and 17 cwt below the April 1 forecast.

Acreage is higher than last year in 5 of the 6 Spring States. The exception is California with a 9 percent decline in acres for harvest. Wet winter weather slowed planting and damaged early planted fields in most States. Yields are expected to be below last year in all Spring States.

The start of harvest was late in most States and early yields were poor. Harvest in California is delayed 3 to 4 weeks from normal. Digging is under way in Arizona and Hastings, Florida. Harvest in the other areas of Florida is nearly finished, with yields lower than anticipated earlier. Soils are drying in Alabama, making harvest easier to accomplish. Texas growers report good conditions, with harvest just starting. The North Carolina harvest season is delayed by late planting and wet fields during much of April.

Tobacco, 1997 Final: U.S. tobacco production totaled 1.79 billion pounds in 1997, up 18 percent from 1996. Tobacco producers harvested 811,480 acres, up 11 percent from the previous year. Yield per acre averaged 2,201 pounds, compared to 2,071 pounds in 1996. All tobacco classes except Fire-cured and Dark Air-cured showed increases in acreage and yield from 1996.

Flue-cured production totaled 1.05 billion pounds in 1997, up 15 percent from the 1996 production. Growers harvested 454,300 acres, up 8 percent from the previous year. Flue-cured tobacco represented 56 percent of 1997's all tobacco acreage. Yield per acre averaged 2,306 pounds, 155 pounds above the 1996 average yield.

Burley production totaled 649 million pounds in 1997, 25 percent above the previous year. Growers harvested 315,300 acres, 18 percent above 1996. The U.S. average yield for burley tobacco was 2,059 pounds, 119 pounds above the previous year, but North Carolina and Tennessee reported lower yields than last year due to dry weather conditions. Kentucky, with 73 percent of the 1997 burley production, was 29 percent above 1996. Burley yield for Kentucky, at 2,140 pounds, was 160 pounds above the previous year.

Cotton, 1997 Final: All cotton production in the United States totaled 18.8 million bales in 1997, 1 percent less than 1996's

production. The 1997 output was the fifth largest crop on record. Upland cotton production, at 18.2 million bales, was 1 percent less than the previous year, while American-Pima production totaled 548,000 bales, up 4 percent from 1996.

The area planted to all cotton totaled 13.8 million acres, down 6 percent from 1996, but harvested area, at 13.3 million acres, was up 3 percent from the previous year, as a result of the 28 percent abandonment in the 1996 Texas crop. Abandonment totaled 4 percent in 1997, compared to 12 percent the previous year. Yields for the U.S. averaged 680 pounds per harvested acre, the sixth highest yield on record.

The Delta States' (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee) plantings lagged behind average due to wet soils and because other row crops were being planted, but seedings were completed in early June. Precipitation was above normal and cooler than normal temperatures prevailed during the early season, slowing crop development. October's beneficial temperatures and open weather allowed the bolls to finish opening, and yields were higher than had been expected earlier in the season. Harvest exceeded the 5-year average pace in Louisiana and Mississippi, and in early November Louisiana had 98 percent of the crop harvested, 6 points ahead of the 5-year average. Mississippi producers were 85 percent complete, 1 point above average. Harvest in the other States in this region was about three-fourths finished, slightly behind their normal pace. Boll weights ranked eighth in Arkansas, ninth in Louisiana, and seventh in Mississippi compared to the previous 10 years. Planted and harvested acreages in this region were down 13 percent from 1996, at 3.44 million acres and 3.39 million acres, respectively. The region's production was 6 percent less than in 1996, at 5.72 million bales. Yields in the region averaged 809 pounds, up 61 pounds from one year earlier, and Mississippi had a record high yield of 901 pounds per acre.

In the Southeastern States (Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina), cotton planted acreage was 2 percent more than in 1996, at 2.94 million acres. The planting pace was behind average early in the season, but a dry period in mid-May allowed producers to exceed the average pace. Early June storms in Georgia and Alabama replenished soil moisture and improved crop condition. Many fields in Georgia and Alabama were replanted due to seedling disease, cool temperatures causing poor stands, and soil crusting from the heavy rains. Alabama was subject to unusual heavy rainfall during the season, as well as cool temperatures. In addition, Hurricane Danny entered into the southwestern portion of the State in late July with torrential rains. Georgia also incurred heavy rains that began in late September and continually hampered harvest activity. All of these States were behind the average harvest progress during the season. Production totaled 3.81 million bales for this region in 1997, a 12 percent decrease from the previous year. The average yield for the region was 649 pounds, down 81 pounds from 1996.

Arizona's planted and harvested acres increased by 3 percent from 1996, but California producers decreased planted and harvested acreage by 12 percent. Early planting approval was again granted in Arizona to lessen effects of whitefly. California's seeding pace was well ahead of average most of the season as warm, dry weather prevailed. Eighty-nine percent of Arizona's crop was in good to excellent condition and 90 percent of bolls were opening in early September, which equalled the 5-year average. Cotton development in California remained ahead of average, with 80 percent of the crop showing open bolls compared to an average of 59 percent, in early September. Harvest was slightly behind the 5-year average in Arizona, but slightly ahead of the normal pace for California producers. California's boll weights were second highest since 1988. The three western States produced 3.13 million bales in 1997, 4 percent less than last year, and yields averaged 1,188 pounds per harvested acre, up 44 pounds from 1996.

Texas' harvest lagged behind the 5-year average until early November however, by late that month harvest was 7 points ahead of the average pace of 77 percent. Texas' irrigated fields showed good progress this season and unusually high amounts of rainfall in May caused the dryland acreage to develop ahead of the average pace. In the Plains, heavy rain and hail during June damaged fields and forced producers to replant or plant alternative crops. Heavy rains slowed harvest in the Upper Coast, and the later crop showed quality damage from this rainfall. Objective yield survey data indicated the fourth highest boll weights since 1988. Planted acres in Texas was 5.50 million, down 4 percent from 1996, but harvested acreage was up 26 percent, at 5.15 million acres. Production in this region totaled 5.32 million bales, up 19 percent from the previous year. Texas' yield was 479 pounds per harvested acre, down 30 pounds from the record 1996 yield.

Ginnings totaled 18,787,600 equivalent 480-pound net weight bales during the 1996 season. This compares with 18,928,550 equivalent 480-pound bales ginned in 1996.

Cottonseed: Cottonseed production in 1997 totaled 6.93 million tons, down 3 percent from 1996.

Reliability of May 1 Winter Wheat Production Forecast

Survey Procedures: Objective yield and farm operator surveys were conducted between April 25 and May 4 to gather information on expected yield as of May 1. The objective yield survey was conducted in three States (Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas) where winter wheat is normally mature enough to make meaningful counts. Farm operators were interviewed to update previously reported acreage data and seek permission to randomly locate two sample plots in selected winter wheat fields. The counts made within each sample plot depended upon the crop's maturity. In early fields, counts such as number of stalks, heads in late boot, and number of emerged heads were made to predict the number of heads that would be harvested. A 5-year historical average head weight is used until the crop matures to the point that heads can be clipped, threshed, and weighed. The number of heads times the weight of the heads in a sample plot can then be combined to an estimate of yield per acre. The 5-year average harvesting loss is subtracted to obtain a net yield. The plots are revisited each month until the crop reaches maturity and are harvested on the final visit.

The farm operator survey included a sample of approximately 12,000 winter wheat producers representing all major production areas. These producers were selected from an earlier acreage survey and were asked about the probable winter wheat acres for harvest and yield on their operation. These growers will be surveyed throughout the growing season to provide indications of average yields as the season progresses.

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

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

Reliability: To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the May 1 winter wheat production forecast, the "**Root Mean Square Error**", a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. This is done by expressing the deviation between the May 1 production forecast and the final estimate as a percentage of the final estimate, and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1978-1997 20-year period; the square root of the average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error". Probability statements can be made concerning expected differences in the current forecast relative to the final end-of-season estimate, assuming that factors affecting this year's forecast are not different from those influencing recent years.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the May 1 winter wheat production forecast is 6.8 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current production forecast of 1.71 billion bushels will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 6.8 percent or approximately 116 million bushels. Chances are 9 out of 10 (**90 percent confidence level**) that the difference will not exceed

11.8 percent or approximately 201 million bushels. Differences between the May 1 winter wheat production forecast and the final estimate during the past 10 years have averaged 87 million bushels, ranging from 4 million to 322 million bushels. The May 1 forecast has been below the final estimate 4 times and above 6 times. This does not imply that the May 1 winter wheat forecast this year is likely to understate or overstate final production.

Report Features

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