

# Crop Production



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## California Freeze Lowers U.S. Orange Production 8 Percent

**All oranges** production forecast for 1998-99 is 10.1 million tons, down 8 percent from last month's forecast and down 27 percent from last year's record large crop of 13.9 million tons. Due to the December freeze in the San Joaquin Valley, California's all orange production forecast is 38.0 million boxes (1.43 million tons), down 39 percent from the October forecast and down 49 percent from the 1997-98 utilization.

The freeze during the nights of December 20 - 23, 1998 caused considerable losses to both the Navel and Valencia crops. California's Navel forecast, at 19.0 million boxes (712,500 tons), is down 44 percent from the previous forecast. Close to 90 percent of the Navel acreage is in the San Joaquin Valley and only 15 percent of the crop had been harvested before the freeze. Approximately 60 percent of California's Valencia acreage is in the San Joaquin Valley and the State forecast of 19.0 million boxes (712,500 tons) is down 32 percent from October.

Florida's all orange forecast remains at 190 million boxes (8.55 million tons), 22 percent less than the record large 244 million boxes (11.0 million boxes) utilized last season. Early and midseason varieties in Florida are forecast at 112 million boxes (5.04 million tons), 20 percent lower than last season. Florida's Valencia forecast of 78.0 million boxes (3.51 million tons) is 25 percent lower than last season's utilization.

**Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ)** yield for the 1998-99 season is forecast at 1.57 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, unchanged from December. The forecast projects the final yield as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association. The final 1997-98 yield for all fruit used in FCOJ was 1.58 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix. Projected average yield for 1998-99 early and midseason varieties is 1.52 gallons per box, higher than last season's 1.49 and near the 1992-93 record high. Valencias are projected to yield 1.67 gallons per box, below last season's record high of 1.72.

**All cotton** production is forecast at 13.8 million bales, up 3 percent from last month, but down 27 percent from 1997. Yield is expected to average 618 pounds per harvested acre, down 55 pounds from last year. Texas production was increased 200,000 bales from December's forecast and the yield, at 509 pounds, ties their record yield set in 1996. Georgia's production is up 150,000 bales from last month, as the open fall weather benefitted crop development.

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This report was approved on January 11, 1999.

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**Cotton: Area Planted and Harvested by Type, State,  
and United States, 1996-98**

Type and State	Area Planted			Area Harvested		
	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
Upland						
AL	520.0	535.0	495.0	516.0	442.0	475.0
AZ	315.0	325.0	250.0	314.0	324.0	248.0
AR	1,000.0	980.0	920.0	990.0	965.0	900.0
CA	1,000.0	880.0	650.0	995.0	875.0	620.0
FL	99.0	100.0	89.0	98.2	99.0	80.0
GA	1,340.0	1,440.0	1,400.0	1,336.0	1,425.0	1,320.0
KS	4.5	12.0	17.0	4.0	10.0	16.0
LA	890.0	655.0	535.0	885.0	650.0	525.0
MS	1,120.0	985.0	950.0	1,100.0	970.0	940.0
MO	390.0	395.0	370.0	385.0	390.0	357.0
NM	59.0	70.0	60.0	55.0	66.0	58.0
NC	740.0	690.0	710.0	730.0	685.0	705.0
OK	290.0	200.0	160.0	210.0	190.0	120.0
SC	284.0	290.0	290.0	282.0	286.0	286.0
TN	540.0	490.0	450.0	530.0	480.0	445.0
TX	5,700.0	5,500.0	5,650.0	4,100.0	5,200.0	3,300.0
VA	103.0	101.0	92.0	102.0	100.0	91.0
US	14,394.5	13,648.0	13,088.0	12,632.2	13,157.0	10,486.0
Amer-Pima						
AZ	42.0	22.0	15.9	41.9	22.0	15.5
CA	165.0	185.0	200.0	164.0	184.0	180.0
NM	14.0	11.0	9.0	14.0	11.0	9.0
TX	37.0	32.0	105.0	36.0	32.0	32.0
US	258.0	250.0	329.9	255.9	249.0	236.5
All						
AL	520.0	535.0	495.0	516.0	442.0	475.0
AZ	357.0	347.0	265.9	355.9	346.0	263.5
AR	1,000.0	980.0	920.0	990.0	965.0	900.0
CA	1,165.0	1,065.0	850.0	1,159.0	1,059.0	800.0
FL	99.0	100.0	89.0	98.2	99.0	80.0
GA	1,340.0	1,440.0	1,400.0	1,336.0	1,425.0	1,320.0
KS	4.5	12.0	17.0	4.0	10.0	16.0
LA	890.0	655.0	535.0	885.0	650.0	525.0
MS	1,120.0	985.0	950.0	1,100.0	970.0	940.0
MO	390.0	395.0	370.0	385.0	390.0	357.0
NM	73.0	81.0	69.0	69.0	77.0	67.0
NC	740.0	690.0	710.0	730.0	685.0	705.0
OK	290.0	200.0	160.0	210.0	190.0	120.0
SC	284.0	290.0	290.0	282.0	286.0	286.0
TN	540.0	490.0	450.0	530.0	480.0	445.0
TX	5,737.0	5,532.0	5,755.0	4,136.0	5,232.0	3,332.0
VA	103.0	101.0	92.0	102.0	100.0	91.0
US	14,652.5	13,898.0	13,417.9	12,888.1	13,406.0	10,722.5

**Cotton: Yield and Production by Type, State,  
and United States, 1996-98**

Type and State	Yield			Production <sup>1</sup>		
	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Bales</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>1,000 Bales</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>1,000 Bales</i> <sup>2</sup>
Upland						
AL	734	597	576	789.0	550.0	570.0
AZ	1,189	1,255	1,123	778.0	847.0	580.0
AR	793	837	651	1,636.0	1,683.0	1,220.0
CA	1,153	1,202	890	2,390.0	2,191.0	1,150.0
FL	637	577	408	130.4	119.1	68.0
GA	747	646	564	2,079.0	1,919.0	1,550.0
KS	492	418	402	4.1	8.7	13.4
LA	697	728	590	1,286.0	986.0	645.0
MS	819	901	740	1,876.0	1,821.0	1,450.0
MO	737	695	471	591.0	565.0	350.0
NM	733	676	745	84.0	93.0	90.0
NC	659	652	684	1,002.0	930.0	1,005.0
OK	306	462	560	134.0	183.0	140.0
SC	774	688	587	455.0	410.0	350.0
TN	611	662	588	675.0	662.0	545.0
TX	509	474	509	4,345.0	5,140.0	3,500.0
VA	748	659	737	159.0	137.2	139.8
US	700	666	612	18,413.5	18,245.0	13,366.2
Amer-Pima						
AZ	852	912	743	74.4	41.8	24.0
CA	1,098	1,141	920	375.0	437.2	345.0
NM	651	641	587	19.0	14.7	11.0
TX	801	815	750	60.1	54.3	50.0
US	991	1,056	873	528.5	548.0	430.0
All						
AL	734	597	576	789.0	550.0	570.0
AZ	1,150	1,233	1,100	852.4	888.8	604.0
AR	793	837	651	1,636.0	1,683.0	1,220.0
CA	1,145	1,191	897	2,765.0	2,628.2	1,495.0
FL	637	577	408	130.4	119.1	68.0
GA	747	646	564	2,079.0	1,919.0	1,550.0
KS	492	418	402	4.1	8.7	13.4
LA	697	728	590	1,286.0	986.0	645.0
MS	819	901	740	1,876.0	1,821.0	1,450.0
MO	737	695	471	591.0	565.0	350.0
NM	717	671	724	103.0	107.7	101.0
NC	659	652	684	1,002.0	930.0	1,005.0
OK	306	462	560	134.0	183.0	140.0
SC	774	688	587	455.0	410.0	350.0
TN	611	662	588	675.0	662.0	545.0
TX	511	477	511	4,405.1	5,194.3	3,550.0
VA	748	659	737	159.0	137.2	139.8
US	705	673	618	18,942.0	18,793.0	13,796.2

<sup>1</sup> Production ginned and to be ginned.

<sup>2</sup> 480-lb. net weight bales.

**Cottonseed: Production by State and United States, 1996-98**

State	Production		
	1996	1997	1998 <sup>1</sup>
	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
AL	273.0	196.0	196.0
AZ	324.0	312.0	225.0
AR	635.0	632.0	471.0
CA	1,020.0	942.0	547.0
FL	46.0	45.0	25.0
GA	681.0	660.0	526.0
KS	1.4	3.1	4.6
LA	499.0	359.0	240.0
MS	735.0	704.0	567.0
MO	234.0	223.0	142.0
NM	38.1	40.5	37.0
NC	343.0	321.0	349.0
OK	56.0	72.0	59.0
SC	155.0	142.0	121.0
TN	262.0	260.0	215.0
TX	1,784.0	1,983.0	1,410.0
VA	57.0	40.0	47.0
US	7,143.5	6,934.6	5,181.6

<sup>1</sup> Estimates based on a 3-year average lint-seed ratio.

**Potatoes: Area Planted, Harvested, Yield, and Production  
by Seasonal Group, State, and United States, 1997-99**

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
	1998	1999	1998	1999					
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
Winter									
CA	7.0	7.8	7.0	7.8	220	190	1,551	1,540	1,482
FL	8.5	9.2	8.0	8.9	180	180	1,880	1,440	1,602
Total	15.5	17.0	15.0	16.7	199	185	3,431	2,980	3,084
Spring <sup>1</sup>									
AL	1.8		1.7		130		272	221	
AZ	8.1		8.1		282		1,820	2,284	
CA	18.5		18.5		335		8,073	6,198	
FL	35.8		34.5		213		7,150	7,358	
Hastings	25.5		24.5		235		5,258	5,758	
Other FL	10.3		10.0		160		1,892	1,600	
NC	18.0		17.5		190		3,287	3,325	
TX	10.8		10.3		170		1,697	1,751	
Total	93.0		90.6		233		22,299	21,137	

<sup>1</sup> 1998 Revised.

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

Month	Area				Fresh Production	
	Total in Crop		Harvested		1997	1998
	1997	1998	1997	1998		
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Nov	3,105	3,785	1,920	2,235	3,030	3,070
Dec	3,515	3,735	1,715	2,185	3,145	3,235

**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,  
1996-97, 1997-98 and Forecasted January 1, 1999 <sup>1</sup>**

Crop and State	Utilized Production Boxes			Utilized Production Ton Equivalent		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
	<i>1,000 Boxes<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>1,000 Boxes<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>1,000 Boxes<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel <sup>3</sup>						
AZ	400	350	450	15	13	17
CA	40,000	44,000	19,000	1,500	1,650	713
FL	134,200	140,000	112,000	6,039	6,300	5,040
TX	1,300	1,350	1,300	55	57	55
US	175,900	185,700	132,750	7,609	8,020	5,825
Valencia						
AZ	600	650	550	23	25	21
CA	24,000	30,000	19,000	900	1,125	713
FL	92,000	104,000	78,000	4,140	4,680	3,510
TX	120	175	140	5	7	6
US	116,720	134,825	97,690	5,068	5,837	4,250
All						
AZ	1,000	1,000	1,000	38	38	38
CA	64,000	74,000	38,000	2,400	2,775	1,426
FL	226,200	244,000	190,000	10,179	10,980	8,550
TX	1,420	1,525	1,440	60	64	61
US	292,620	320,525	230,440	12,677	13,857	10,075
Temples						
FL	2,400	2,250	2,000	108	101	90
Grapefruit						
White Seedless						
FL <sup>4</sup>	23,500	18,300	18,000	999	777	765
Colored Seedless						
FL <sup>5</sup>	31,400	30,600	31,500	1,334	1,301	1,339
Other						
FL	900	650	500	38	28	21
All						
AZ	900	800	700	30	27	23
CA	8,200	9,000	8,000	275	301	268
FL <sup>4,5</sup>	55,800	49,550	50,000	2,371	2,106	2,125
TX	5,300	4,800	5,000	212	192	200
US	70,200	64,150	63,700	2,888	2,626	2,616
Tangerines						
AZ <sup>6</sup>	550	600	700	21	23	26
CA <sup>6</sup>	2,600	2,400	1,600	98	90	60
FL	6,300	5,200	4,500	299	247	214
US	9,450	8,200	6,800	418	360	300
Lemons						
AZ	2,600	2,600	3,200	99	99	122
CA	22,600	22,000	18,000	859	836	684
US	25,200	24,600	21,200	958	935	806
Tangelos						
FL	3,950	2,850	2,500	178	128	113
K-Early Citrus						
FL	150	40	60	7	2	3

<sup>1</sup> The crop year begins with the bloom of the first year shown and ends with the completion of harvest the following year. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Navel and miscellaneous varieties in AZ and CA. Early (including Navel) and midseason varieties in FL and TX. Small quantities of tangerines in TX. <sup>4</sup> Excludes White Seedless economic abandonment of 3,000,000 boxes in 1996-97 and 5,000,000 boxes in 1997-98. <sup>5</sup> Excludes Colored Seedless economic abandonment of 3,000,000 boxes in 1996-97 and 1,000,000 boxes in 1997-98. <sup>6</sup> Includes tangelos and tangors.



**Hay: Stocks on Farms by State and United States,  
December 1 and May 1, 1996-98**

State	Dec 1			May 1	
	1996	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
AL	1,489	1,646	1,213	193	191
AZ	82	171	177	28	34
AR	1,888	2,075	1,900	236	272
CA	2,594	1,598	3,246	160	420
CO	2,006	2,133	2,807	209	616
CT	97	69	77	13	16
DE	11	7	18	6	5
FL	437	436	357	31	65
GA	924	1,045	1,000	302	203
ID	2,285	2,743	3,329	286	520
IL	1,258	1,327	2,100	286	474
IN	1,131	1,213	1,775	162	327
IA	3,500	3,374	4,500	715	623
KS	5,600	5,609	6,500	841	889
KY	4,334	3,615	4,695	627	603
LA	502	668	290	126	103
ME	202	152	196	57	25
MD	433	381	333	84	55
MA	108	92	101	31	17
MI	2,514	1,993	2,093	460	414
MN	4,018	3,647	5,261	540	640
MS	1,620	1,530	1,500	160	198
MO	6,470	6,239	6,933	872	881
MT	4,674	5,042	4,568	492	1,151
NE	5,063	4,549	5,170	968	1,222
NV	758	708	857	61	151
NH	70	49	72	12	9
NJ	92	138	121	27	20
NM	546	479	450	74	165
NY	2,254	1,998	1,990	555	344
NC	1,160	1,162	1,189	137	152
ND	4,777	4,069	4,064	675	744
OH	2,074	2,387	2,558	173	616
OK	4,397	4,444	3,042	790	919
OR	2,108	1,600	2,159	97	621
PA	2,613	2,299	2,800	600	452
RI	6	9	12	1	1
SC	308	410	415	101	82
SD	8,530	7,888	9,500	1,570	2,031
TN	3,049	3,184	3,175	419	555
TX	6,252	8,764	5,496	1,400	2,191
UT	1,327	1,658	1,695	302	435
VT	330	261	328	86	73
VA	2,666	1,591	1,693	622	250
WA	1,162	1,295	1,663	283	308
WV	895	848	949	117	110
WI	4,600	4,320	5,100	1,150	1,271
WY	1,965	2,129	2,372	287	363
US	105,179	103,044	111,839	17,424	21,827

**December Weather Summary:** Arctic air enveloped much of the Nation following early- to mid-month record warmth, severely damaging citrus in California's San Joaquin Valley (December 21-25) and threatening soft white winter wheat in the Northwest (December 20-24). In the Plains and Ohio Valley, however, winter wheat escaped with only some burning back of top-growth, as snow cover insulated the potentially vulnerable portion of the crop. During the coldest period (December 19-26), only a few areas, including coastal southern California, the lower Colorado Valley, extreme southern Texas, and Peninsular Florida, escaped sub-freezing temperatures. Lowest temperatures ranged from -10 to -30 degrees F across the northern and central Plains as far south as eastern Colorado and west-central Kansas. A reinforcing Arctic blast arrived at year's end (December 29-31), primarily affecting the northern Plains and Midwest.

Despite the late-month chill, December temperatures averaged 4 to 10 degrees F above normal across the Midwest. Similar departures (+2 to +8 degrees F) were noted in the East. During the first 8 days of the month, nearly 500 daily-record highs were set or tied, while more than 50 locations reported December-record highs. A second warm spell, beginning on December 12, produced more than 100 additional daily-record highs before an Arctic cold front swept off the East Coast on December 22. In California, the cold wave helped to hold monthly temperatures as much as 4 degrees F below normal.

Heavy precipitation continued across the Pacific Northwest for a second consecutive month, contributing to late-month flooding west of the Cascades. Some of the moisture spread across the Cascades into the northern Rockies, but most areas in a broad swath from California to the Northeast, including the Great Lakes region, received below-normal precipitation. Meanwhile, a series of low-pressure systems crossed the South, producing monthly precipitation greater than 4 inches in areas from eastern Texas and southeastern Oklahoma to North Carolina and southern Virginia. A pair of storms during the second week of December provided this region with heavy rainfall, but a December 22-24 ice storm caused power outages and transportation disruptions. Although the Southeast's precipitation provided significant relief from long-term dryness, many locations both north and south of the primary storm track saw moisture deficits mount. Drought stretched through a sixth month in portions of the northern Mid-Atlantic region.

**General Crop Comments:** Winter wheat development in parts of the central and southern Plains, Corn Belt, Southeast, and lower Mississippi Delta was stimulated early in the month by warm weather. Many record high temperatures were recorded east of the Rocky Mountains. Wheat areas in the northern Rocky Mountains, Pacific Northwest, and southern High Plains received beneficial rains. Dry conditions assisted late-season harvest efforts and fall tillage operations in most of the Corn Belt, Southeast, and middle Atlantic Coastal Plains. Warm, dry weather relieved muddy field conditions and allowed harvest activities to resume in parts of the northern Plains and upper Mississippi Valley. Heavy rains temporarily halted fieldwork in parts of the southern and central Great Plains, from eastern Texas to eastern Kansas and coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest, from northern California to the Canadian border.

As mid-month approached, temperatures fell to more seasonal levels, ending winter wheat growth in the central and northern Great Plains and Corn Belt. Seeding of small grains and winter forages continued in California, but were hampered by wet soils in many areas. Cool, cloudy weather slowed growth of emerging crops in the San Joaquin Valley, while wheat fields in the Sacramento Valley were growing well with additional moisture. Poor drying conditions hampered cotton harvesting in the Central Valley, and the lint quality declined in unharvested fields. Vegetable harvest activity was slowed by frost, but fruit and nut harvest was active. In Texas, small grain growth was slowed in the Plains by freezing temperatures and snow. Cotton growth ended following a hard freeze and final harvest, temporarily halted by snow, resumed late in the week. Grain sorghum and peanut harvests were nearly complete by the end of the week in the Plains. In South Central Texas, the final peanut harvest was hampered by wet fields. Hot, dry weather continued to delay small grain emergence in the Southeast, where soil moisture was becoming increasingly short. However, the dry weather allowed vegetable planting and harvesting activities to proceed on schedule in Florida. Picking quality and color were good and growth of recently planted vegetable crops was normal.

Shortly after mid-month, an arctic airmass brought frigid temperatures to the Northwest and northern Rocky Mountains, and the coldest temperatures of the winter to the Great Plains, and the western Corn Belt. Most

winter wheat fields in the northern Plains had some snow cover, providing minimal protection from the sudden cold, windy conditions. In the southern Plains, daytime temperatures remained warm enough to promote growth of small grains. Scattered fertilizing and tillage activities continued unhindered by the cold weather in the Great Plains, Corn Belt, Mississippi Delta, and Southeast. In South Dakota, soils were firm enough to allow farmers to harvest most of the remaining corn and sorghum crops. Dry weather also aided harvest efforts in the southern Plains, where a few isolated cotton and sorghum fields remained unharvested. Northern Florida experienced below-freezing readings, but vegetable and fruit crops in central and southern areas of the state were not affected. In California, growers harvested vegetables in the Imperial and Coastal Valleys, pruned orchards in the Sacramento Valley, and planted winter wheat and oats in the San Joaquin Valley. Mild temperatures aided winter wheat development in the Sacramento Valley and vegetable crops were developing well in the San Joaquin valley.

As the end of the month approached, another bitter cold airmass pushed southward out of western Canada into the western and central United States. Several nights of sub-freezing temperatures damaged citrus crops in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, but southern California citrus escaped major damage. The lemon crop was especially hard hit. Freeze damage to California's vegetable crops was not as severe, but the cold weather halted winter vegetable harvest activities. A stormy pattern resumed along the Pacific Northwest coast. Snow, followed by mild and rainy weather, raised streams to their banks in some areas. In Texas, mild temperatures aided winter wheat growth and most fields provided good forage for grazing. Dry conditions continued to assist harvest efforts as cotton, sorghum, peanuts, and soybeans were virtually complete. Precipitation in the Southeast provided beneficial moisture for winter crops, but freezing rain downed power lines from the central Mississippi Delta to the middle Atlantic States. In Florida, rains eased dryness in the Panhandle, but the remainder of the State remained dry. Vegetable and citrus growers increased irrigation and harvesting continued until late week when many took a break to observe the holiday. Most citrus groves were in good condition, but some were stressed by excessive dryness.

**Cotton:** Upland cotton planted acreage is estimated at 13.1 million acres, up 4 percent from the August estimate, but down 4 percent from 1997. Harvested acreage at 10.5 million acres, was 20 percent less than last year, mainly due to the large abandonment in Texas. Producers planted 329,900 acres of American-Pima cotton in 1998, up 32 percent from 1997. However, harvested acreage was down 5 percent, at 236,500 acres, also because of the large abandonment in Texas.

Texas' harvest exceeded the 5-year average during the season, and in late November, harvest was 8 points ahead of the average pace of 87 percent. Texas' irrigated fields showed good progress this season, but drought and high temperatures resulted in 2.35 million acres being abandoned. At the end of August, approximately one-half of the acreage was rated in poor or very poor condition, 17 percent was rated good, and 3 percent was rated excellent. In late August, boll set was complete. Torrential rains in the south during October replenished topsoil moisture, but harvest was interrupted and regrowth became a problem in some fields. Objective yield survey data indicated the third lowest boll weights since 1988. Planted acres in Texas is estimated at 5.65 million, up 3 percent from 1997, and up 450,000 acres from the August estimate. Harvested acreage is down 37 percent from last year, at 3.30 million acres.

The Delta States' (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee) planted and harvested 8 percent less acreage than in 1997. Plantings totaled 3.23 million acres and harvested area totaled 3.17 million acres. Planting was behind the 5-year average due to wet soils until mid-May, when a dry period allowed most States to exceed the average. During the first week of May, producers in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi planted about 30 percent of their acreage. The percent of the Arkansas crop rated in good to excellent condition on July 19, dropped 13 points from late June to 55 percent. Louisiana's rating dropped 12 points during this same time period to 38 percent, while Mississippi showed a only a 5 point drop to 70 percent in good to excellent condition. Hot and dry weather pushed the crop's development ahead of 5-year averages. Missouri's acreage received heavy rains during early August and then dry conditions began with mild temperatures, which lowered yield potential. During September, Louisiana and Mississippi were affected by two tropical storms and Hurricane Georges. The first storm, Frances, had high amounts of

rainfall and also moved into southern Arkansas. Tropical storm Hermine made landfall in Louisiana, but had much less rain than the previous storm. In early November, harvest was 8 points behind the 5-year average pace in Missouri, at 70 percent, but the other States were ahead of the average pace. At this same time, Louisiana had 97 percent of the crop harvested, 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. Mississippi and Arkansas producers were 14 points above average with 98 percent and 91 percent of the acreage harvested, respectively, in early November. Tennessee's progress was 17 points ahead of the 5-year average at 92 percent, and excellent harvest conditions allowed growers to proceed with second pickings. Cotton objective yield data show Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi had the lowest boll weights compared to the past 10 years.

Arizona's planted and harvested acres decreased by 23 percent from 1997, and California producers decreased planted and harvested acreage by 26 percent and 29 percent, respectively. Eighty-three percent of Arizona's crop was harvested in late November, 7 points behind the normal pace. California's seeding pace was well behind average most of the season as wet, cool weather prevailed which resulted in development remaining behind average. Only one percent of the California crop was harvested on October 4, 8 points behind average, and one month later producers were 47 points behind the average pace, with only 15 percent harvested. Boll opening was three-fourths complete compared to the 5-year average of 99 percent, on this same date, and the crop's condition was rated as 45 percent good and 45 percent in fair condition. During December, harvest made little progress in the central valley, due to the poor drying conditions, and some unharvested cotton fields were plowed under because of deteriorating lint quality and unopened bolls. A few fields were second picked, and plowdown for pink bollworm control was ongoing on sandier soils. The plowdown deadline for the southern San Joaquin Valley was extended fifteen days, due to the extremely late harvest season. California's boll weights ranked seventh since 1988.

In the Southeastern States (Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina), cotton planted acreage was 2 percent less than in 1997, at 2.90 million acres, and harvested acreage was also down 2 percent, at 2.79 million acres. Plantings were behind average for most of the season except in Alabama, where producers exceeded the average planting pace. The weather remained hot and dry after plantings were completed. Hurricane Bonnie entered into North Carolina on August 26, with extreme winds and torrential rainfall, and covered approximately one-half of the cotton acreage in the State. The two largest producing counties were on the western edge of the storm weren't heavily affected. Hurricane Georges crossed southern Alabama and into Georgia during the September, with the heaviest rainfall in Alabama. Additionally, Tropical Storm Earl also affected these States cotton crop in early September with heavy rain. However, open weather during the fall resulted in larger production than earlier anticipated.

American-Pima production is forecast at 430,000 bales, down 22 percent from 1997's output, and down 2,500 bales from the December forecast. Yield is indicated at 873 pounds per harvested acre, down 183 pounds from last year's record high yield. California producers increased their seedings 8 percent from the previous year, to 200,000 acres, but Arizona's acreage decreased 28 percent from 1997 to 15,900 acres. Plantings in the San Joaquin Valley began with unseasonably cool, wet conditions, which kept progress to a minimum until the last of April. June temperatures in California were below normal and crop development was behind average throughout the season. Harvest progressed rapidly during the first half of November, although overall progress remained well behind normal. Light to moderate rains beginning in mid-month, delayed harvest and deteriorated lint quality. Harvest in the San Joaquin Valley was 80 percent complete in late November. In Texas a large amount of acreage seeded in non-traditional producing areas, was subject to substantial abandonment. Texas seeded acreage totaled 105,000 acres in 1998, but producers only harvested 32,000 acres. New Mexico producers reduced their planted and harvested acreage by 18 percent.

All cotton ginnings totaled 13,067,150 running bales prior to January 1, compared with 17,613,350 running bales ginned to the same date last year and 17,680,900 running bales in 1996.

**Winter Potatoes:** Production of winter potatoes in 1999 is forecast at 3.08 million cwt. This is up 3 percent from 1998 but 10 percent below 1997. Area for harvest is estimated at 16,700 acres, up 11 percent from a year ago and 4 percent above two years ago. The average yield is projected at 185 cwt per acre, 14 cwt below last year.

Florida planting is virtually completed, with acreage up 8 percent. Early growth is good. California's acreage is up 11 percent, but yields are expected to be below last year. High temperatures at planting caused poor stands and low yields. Harvest of 1999 California winter potatoes began in mid December.

**Spring Potatoes:** Production estimates of spring potatoes totaled 21.1 million cwt in 1998, down 5 percent from a year earlier and 6 percent below 1996. Harvested area totaled 90,600 acres, up 4 percent from 1997, while the average yield of 233 cwt per acre was down 22 cwt from last year.

**Papayas:** Hawaii fresh papaya output is estimated at 3.24 million pounds for December, 5 percent more than November and 3 percent more than December 1997. Area devoted to papaya production totaled 3,735 acres, 1 percent lower than November but 6 percent higher than a year ago. Harvested area, totaling 2,185 acres, was 2 percent lower than the previous month but 27 percent higher than last year. Cloudy and rainy conditions were frequent throughout the month of December. Cool temperatures and shorter daylight hours slowed fruit development.

**Grapefruit:** The January 1 forecast of the 1998-99 U.S. grapefruit crop is 2.62 million tons, down slightly from the December forecast and slightly below last season. The January 1 Florida grapefruit crop is forecast at 50.0 million boxes (2.13 million tons), the same as last month and up 1 percent from a year ago. The white seedless and colored seedless forecasts continued at 18.0 million boxes (765,000 tons) and 31.5 million boxes (1.34 million tons), respectively. White seedless fruit size was average with slightly below average droppage. The colored seedless fruit size was below average with slightly above average droppage. The forecast of seedy grapefruit is unchanged at 500,000 boxes (21,000 tons), the smallest amount of this variety ever recorded.

California's January 1 forecast of grapefruit production is 8.00 million boxes (268,000 tons), down 5 percent from the October 1 forecast and down 11 percent from last year's utilization. Most of California's grapefruit was not affected by the late December freeze that hit the San Joaquin Valley. The cooler weather has produced less soft fruit. Defects include windscar and sunburn. Color and quality are fair. Grapefruit production in Texas is forecast at 5.00 million boxes (200,000 tons), unchanged from December 1 and up 4 percent from the previous season. Weather has not been a problem. Arizona's grapefruit forecast continues at 700,000 boxes (23,000 tons), down 13 percent from a year ago. No freeze damage was reported.

**Lemons:** The 1998-99 U.S. lemon crop is forecast at 806,000 tons, down 11 percent from the initial forecast in October and down 14 percent from the 1997-98 crop. California's forecast is reduced to 18.0 million boxes (684,000 tons), 14 percent less than in October and 18 percent less than a year ago. Less than 20 percent of the lemons in California are normally grown in the freeze damaged areas. Nearly all fruit not harvested before the freeze in those areas will most likely be lost. In the south coast and desert areas lemons look good. Typical defects include windscar, flatsides, tip injuries, and botrytis bumps. The Arizona lemon forecast is raised to 3.20 million boxes (122,000 tons), up 18 percent from the October forecast and up 23 percent from a year ago.

**Tangelos:** Florida's tangelo forecast for January 1 remains at 2.50 million boxes (113,000 tons), 12 percent less than last season's utilized production and 37 percent less than 2 seasons ago.

**Tangerines:** The 1998-99 U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at 300,000 tons, down 6 percent from last month and down 17 percent from the previous year's utilization. Florida's tangerine crop is forecast at 4.50 million boxes (214,000 tons), a 7 percent increase from the December 1 forecast. If realized, the crop will be 13 percent less than last year. California's January 1 tangerine forecast is 1.60 million boxes (60,000 tons), down 36 percent from October and down 33 percent from last season. Approximately half of California's tangerine acreage was adversely affected by the December freeze. Tangerines not already harvested are expected to be totally lost. In southern California, minimal freeze damage was reported for tangerines. Color is good and eating quality is very good. Defects include windscar, picking injury, and puff. Arizona's tangerine forecast on January 1 is 700,000 boxes (26,000 tons), up 8 percent from October and up 17 percent from a year ago.

**Temples:** Florida's 1998-99 Temple forecast is 2.00 million boxes (90,000 tons), unchanged from December 1, but 11 percent less than what was utilized last season. If realized, it will be the smallest non-freeze season utilization since the series began in 1954-55. Average fruit size is well below average and loss from droppage is the lowest in the eight-season series. The crop is lagging in maturity and harvest is just getting underway.

**K-Early Citrus:** The K-Early Citrus Fruit forecast for 1998-99 remains at 60,000 boxes (3,000 tons), the same as December 1 but 20,000 boxes more than the record low use last season. Estimated utilization through the end of December is 52,000 boxes. Small amounts are still available for processing.

**Florida citrus:** December was a very mild and dry month. Most areas of the citrus belt received below average rainfall which necessitated the use of irrigation. The current crop of early and midseason fruit is showing very good on-tree color. Some packing houses have been packing fruit directly after washing which adds shelf life to the fruit. Processing plants have been running long hours attempting to move large quantities of low acid early and midseason oranges. Processors are utilizing the excellent color from the early tangerines and tangelos that were rejected by the packing houses due to exterior blemishes. Caretakers were irrigating, spot spraying, and pushing dead trees throughout the month.

**Texas Citrus:** Harvest moved ahead without much delay during December. No severely low temperatures have been reported from the Rio Grande Valley. Quality of fruit is good, but down from last year.

**California Citrus:** The San Joaquin Valley had temperatures in the low 20's toward the end of December causing extensive freeze damage on citrus fruit. As of January 1, growers were still evaluating how much fruit was salvageable. Many growers are optimistic that some of the fruit may be useable, but the quality may only be good enough for juice. The freeze destroyed virtually all the unharvested lemons in the San Joaquin Valley, which normally accounts for less than 20 percent of the State's lemon acreage. Approximately 90 percent of the navel oranges grown in California are in the San Joaquin Valley. The navel crop was severely damaged by the freeze because only 15 percent of the crop had been picked due to the slow maturity of this crop. Normally a fourth of the crop has been picked by the end of the year. The Valencia crop in the San Joaquin Valley, where 60 percent of California's Valencia acres are located, suffered considerably because the crop was green and immature. Picking of any available fruit will not begin until late spring or early summer. Grapefruit, a heartier fruit, did not suffer as much damage. Temperatures in southern California dipped below freezing the same week, but temperatures did not stay there long enough to cause damage. More than 80 percent of the lemons and grapefruit are in southern California and good quality fruit was reported there.

**California Fruits and Nuts:** Growers were busy with normal winter activities during December such as weed control, fertilizing, pruning, and replanting trees. Pecan, kiwifruit, and persimmon harvests continued. Picking of fresh grapes and apples was completed.

**Hay Stocks on Farm:** Stocks of all hay on farms December 1, 1998 totaled 112 million tons, 9 percent above the stocks on farms December 1, 1997. Stock increases occurred in 33 of the 48 contiguous States. The mild winter conditions across the United States prolonged pasturing and reduced the feeding of hay. California had a 103 percent increase in December hay stocks from a year ago. The drought conditions in the southern states, from New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma to Georgia and Florida, played a major role in their stock decreases from a year ago. Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma had the largest stocks decreases, down 57, 37, and 32 percent, respectively, from last December.

## Information Contacts

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