

Crop Production



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U.S. Orange Production Up 2 Percent

All oranges production forecast for 1998-99 is 10.3 million tons, up 2 percent from last month but down 26 percent from last year's record large crop of 13.9 million tons. Florida's all orange forecast is increased to 194 million boxes (8.73 million tons), 2 percent higher than the January 1 forecast but 20 percent lower than the record large 244 million boxes produced last season. Early and midseason varieties in Florida are forecast at 116 million boxes (5.22 million tons), up 4 percent from January but down 17 percent from a year ago. Florida's Valencia forecast remains unchanged at 78.0 million boxes (3.51 million tons), 25 percent below last season's 104.0 million boxes. California's all orange production forecast of 38.0 million boxes (1.43 million tons) is carried forward from January and is 49 percent less than last season. The Navel orange forecast is 19.0 million boxes (712,500 tons), down 57 percent from last year and the Valencia forecast is 19.0 million boxes (712,500 tons), 37 percent less than a year ago.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield for the 1998-99 season is forecast at a record high 1.60 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, up from January's forecast of 1.57 gallons per box. The forecast projects the final yield as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association. Projected average yield for early and midseason varieties is increased to 1.56 gallons per box, also a record high. Valencias are projected to yield 1.67 gallons per box, unchanged from January and below last season's record high of 1.72. Average pound solids of midseason samples remaining to be harvested are at record levels. Recovery rates at processing plants are also very high.

This report was approved on February 10, 1999.



Secretary of
Agriculture
Dan Glickman



Agricultural Statistics Board
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**Sugarcane: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Use, State, and United States, 1997-98**

Use and State	Area Harvested		Yield ¹		Production ¹	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
For Sugar						
FL	421.0	429.0	36.9	38.7	15,535	16,602
HI ²	32.0	31.8	91.4	85.5	2,925	2,719
LA ²	380.0	400.0	28.2	29.0	10,716	11,600
TX ²	27.3	32.0	30.3	30.0	827	960
US	860.3	892.8	34.9	35.7	30,003	31,881
For Seed						
FL	19.0	19.0	36.9	38.8	701	737
HI ²	2.2	2.2	38.2	31.4	84	69
LA ²	30.0	35.0	28.2	29.0	846	1,015
TX ²	2.5	0.5	30.0	30.0	75	15
US	53.7	56.7	31.8	32.4	1,706	1,836
For Sugar and Seed						
FL	440.0	448.0	36.9	38.7	16,236	17,339
HI ²	34.2	34.0	88.0	82.0	3,009	2,788
LA ²	410.0	435.0	28.2	29.0	11,562	12,615
TX ²	29.8	32.5	30.3	30.0	902	975
US	914.0	949.5	34.7	35.5	31,709	33,717

¹ Net tons.

² Current estimates carried forward from earlier forecast.

Papayas: Area and Fresh Production, by Month, Hawaii, 1998-99

Month	Area				Fresh Production	
	Total in Crop		Harvested		1998	1999
	1998	1999	1998	1999		
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Dec	3,735		2,185		3,235	
Jan	3,510	3,740	1,735	2,195	2,875	2,980

**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
1996-97, 1997-98 and Forecasted February 1, 1999 ¹**

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 ²</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes ²</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes ²</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel ³						
AZ ⁴	400	350	450	15	13	17
CA ⁴	40,000	44,000	19,000	1,500	1,650	713
FL	134,200	140,000	116,000	6,039	6,300	5,220
TX	1,300	1,350	1,300	55	57	55
US	175,900	185,700	136,750	7,609	8,020	6,005
Valencia						
AZ ⁴	600	650	550	23	25	21
CA ⁴	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 ⁴	1,000	1,000	1,000	38	38	38
CA ⁴	64,000	74,000	38,000	2,400	2,775	1,426
FL	226,200	244,000	194,000	10,179	10,980	8,730
TX	1,420	1,525	1,440	60	64	61
US	292,620	320,525	234,440	12,677	13,857	10,255
Temples						
FL	2,400	2,250	2,000	108	101	90
Grapefruit						
White Seedless						
FL ⁵	23,500	18,300	19,000	999	777	808
Colored Seedless						
FL ⁶	31,400	30,600	30,500	1,334	1,301	1,296
Other						
FL	900	650	500	38	28	21
All						
AZ ⁴	900	800	700	30	27	23
CA ⁴	8,200	9,000	8,000	275	301	268
FL ^{5,6}	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 ^{4,7}	550	600	700	21	23	26
CA ^{4,7}	2,600	2,400	1,600	98	90	60
FL	6,300	5,200	4,600	299	247	219
US	9,450	8,200	6,900	418	360	305
Lemons ⁴						
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	2,700	178	128	122
K-Early Citrus						
FL	150	40	80	7	2	4

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 White Seedless economic abandonment of 3,000,000 boxes in 1996-97 and 5,000,000 boxes in 1997-98. ⁶ Excludes Colored Seedless economic abandonment of 3,000,000 boxes in 1996-97 and 1,000,000 boxes in 1997-98. ⁷ Includes tangelos and tangors.

**California Nut Crops: Bearing Acreage, Yield, Production,
Price, and Value by Crop, 1996-97 and Revised 1998**

Crop	Bearing Acreage			Yield per Acre ¹		
	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Tons ²</i>	<i>Tons ²</i>	<i>Tons ²</i>
Walnuts (English)	192,000	193,000	193,000	1.08	1.39	1.18
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Pounds ³</i>	<i>Pounds ³</i>	<i>Pounds ³</i>
Pistachios	64,300	65,400	65,900	1,630	2,750	2,850
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Pounds ³</i>	<i>Pounds ³</i>	<i>Pounds ³</i>
Almonds	428,000	442,000	454,000	1,190	1,720	1,150
	Production			Price per Unit		
	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
	<i>Tons ²</i>	<i>Tons ²</i>	<i>Tons ²</i>	<i>Dollars per Ton</i>	<i>Dollars per Ton</i>	<i>Dollars per Ton</i>
Walnuts (English) ⁴	208,000	269,000	227,000	1,580	1,430	
	<i>1,000 Pounds ²</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds ²</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds ²</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>
Pistachios	105,000	180,000	188,000	1.16	1.13	0.99
	<i>1,000 Pounds ³</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds ³</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds ³</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>
Almonds ⁵	510,000	759,000	520,000	2.08	1.56	1.80
	Value of Utilized Production					
	1996		1997		1998	
	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>		<i>1,000 Dollars</i>		<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	
Walnuts (English) ⁴	328,640		384,670			
Pistachios	121,800		203,400		186,120	
Almonds ⁵	1,018,368		1,160,640		898,200	

¹ Yield based on utilized production.

² In-shell basis.

³ Shelled basis.

⁴ Price and value estimates for 1998 will be published on July 7, 1999.

⁵ Price and value estimates are based on the edible portion of the crop only. Included in production are inedible quantities of no value as follows: 1996 - 20.4 million pounds, 1997 - 15.0 million pounds, 1998 - 21.0 million pounds.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 1998-99
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	6,340.0		5,867.0	
Corn for Grain ²	80,187.0		72,604.0	
Corn for Silage			5,919.0	
Hay, All			60,016.0	
Alfalfa			23,642.0	
All Other			36,374.0	
Oats	4,902.0		2,765.0	
Rice	3,345.0		3,317.0	
Rye	1,571.0	1,590.0	418.0	
Sorghum for Grain ²	9,626.0		7,723.0	
Sorghum for Silage			305.0	
Wheat, All	65,871.0		59,002.0	
Winter	46,449.0	43,354.0	40,126.0	
Durum	3,805.0		3,728.0	
Other Spring	15,617.0		15,148.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,127.0		1,092.0	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	336.0		329.0	
Mustard Seed	98.9		95.6	
Peanuts ³	1,511.0		1,465.5	
Rapeseed	4.8		4.7	
Safflower	303.0		285.0	
Soybeans for Beans	72,375.0		70,811.0	
Sunflower	3,553.0		3,476.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	13,417.9		10,722.5	
Upland	13,088.0		10,486.0	
Amer-Pima	329.9		236.5	
Sugarbeets	1,497.9		1,451.6	
Sugarcane			949.5	
Tobacco			726.9	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	9.0		7.4	
Dry Edible Beans	2,010.1		1,913.9	
Dry Edible Peas	323.4		309.1	
Lentils	162.0		158.5	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			6.1	
Ginger Root (HI)			0.4	
Hops			36.6	
Peppermint Oil			124.0	
Potatoes, All	1,423.4		1,394.4	
Winter	15.5	17.0	15.0	16.7
Spring	93.0		90.6	
Summer	73.7		68.8	
Fall	1,241.2		1,220.0	
Spearmint Oil			27.4	
Sweet Potatoes	86.8		83.8	
Taro (HI) ⁴			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 1999 crop year. ² Area planted for all purposes. ³ 1998 area planted revised. ⁴ Acreage is total acres in crop, not harvested acreage.

Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 1998-99
(Domestic Units)¹

Crop	Unit	Yield		Production	
		1998	1999	1998	1999
				<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Grains & Hay					
Barley	Bu	60.1		352,445	
Corn for Grain	"	134.4		9,761,085	
Corn for Silage	Ton	16.0		94,525	
Hay, All	"	2.52		151,338	
Alfalfa	"	3.47		82,010	
All Other	"	1.91		69,328	
Oats	Bu	60.4		167,122	
Rice ²	Cwt	5,669		188,051	
Rye	Bu	28.2		11,795	
Sorghum for Grain	"	67.3		519,933	
Sorghum for Silage	Ton	11.4		3,487	
Wheat, All	Bu	43.2		2,550,383	
Winter	"	46.9		1,880,605	
Durum	"	37.8		141,069	
Other Spring	"	34.9		528,709	
Oilseeds					
Canola	Lb	1,455		1,588,620	
Cottonseed	Ton			5,182	
Flaxseed	Bu	20.4		6,708	
Mustard Seed	Lb	855		81,750	
Peanuts	"	2,683		3,931,275	
Rapeseed	"	1,353		6,360	
Safflower	"	1,446		412,085	
Soybeans for Beans	Bu	38.9		2,756,794	
Sunflower	Lb	1,509		5,246,701	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops					
Cotton, All ²	Bale	618		13,796.2	
Upland ²	"	612		13,366.2	
Amer-Pima ²	"	873		430.0	
Sugarbeets	Ton	22.5		32,660	
Sugarcane	"	35.5		33,717	
Tobacco	Lb	2,104		1,529,647	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils					
Austrian Winter Peas ²	Cwt	1,405		104	
Dry Edible Beans ²	"	1,611		30,828	
Dry Edible Peas ²	"	1,920		5,934	
Lentils ²	"	1,223		1,938	
Wrinkled Seed Peas	"			674	
Potatoes & Misc.					
Coffee (HI)	Lb	1,480		9,000	
Ginger Root (HI)	"	50,000		18,000	
Hops	"	1,625		59,548	
Peppermint Oil	"	78		9,727	
Potatoes, All	Cwt	343		477,754	
Winter	"	199	185	2,980	3,084
Spring	"	233		21,137	
Summer	"	280		19,269	
Fall	"	356		434,368	
Spearmint Oil	Lb	109		2,987	
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt	142		11,887	
Taro (HI) ³	Lb			6,000	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 1999 crop year. ² Yield in pounds. ³ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 1997-99
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Unit	Production		
		1997	1998	1999
		<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Citrus ²				
Grapefruit	Ton	2,888	2,626	2,616
K-Early Citrus (FL)	"	7	2	4
Lemons	"	958	935	806
Oranges	"	12,677	13,857	10,255
Tangelos (FL)	"	178	128	122
Tangerines	"	418	360	305
Temples (FL)	"	108	101	90
Non-Citrus				
Apples	1,000 Lbs	10,323.8	10,943.6	
Apricots	Ton	139.2	118.3	
Bananas (HI)	Lb	13,700.0	20,000.0	
Grapes	Ton	7,290.9	5,595.6	
Olives (CA)	"	104.0	90.0	
Papayas (HI)	Lb	38,800.0	39,000.0	
Peaches	1,000 Lbs	2,624.6	2,425.8	
Pears	Ton	1,042.5	926.2	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	"	214.0	108.0	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	"	25.5	25.6	
Nuts & Misc.				
Almonds (CA)	Lb	759,000	520,000	
Hazelnuts	Ton	47.0	15.5	
Pecans	Lb	335,000	155,050	
Pistachios (CA)	"	180,000	188,000	
Walnuts (CA)	Ton	269.0	227.0	
Maple Syrup	Gal	1,298	1,159	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 1999 crop year.

² Production years are 1996-97, 1997-98, and 1998-99.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 1998-99
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	2,565,730		2,374,320	
Corn for Grain ²	32,450,880		29,382,110	
Corn for Silage			2,395,360	
Hay, All ³			24,287,880	
Alfalfa			9,567,680	
All Other			14,720,190	
Oats	1,983,790		1,118,970	
Rice	1,353,690		1,342,360	
Rye	635,770	643,460	169,160	
Sorghum for Grain ²	3,895,550		3,125,420	
Sorghum for Silage			123,430	
Wheat, All ³	26,657,330		23,877,520	
Winter	18,797,450	17,544,930	16,238,590	
Durum	1,539,850		1,508,680	
Other Spring	6,320,040		6,130,240	
Oilseeds				
Canola	456,090		441,920	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	135,980		133,140	
Mustard Seed	40,020		38,690	
Peanuts				
Rapeseed	1,940		1,900	
Safflower	122,620		115,340	
Soybeans for Beans	29,289,440		28,656,500	
Sunflower	1,437,860		1,406,700	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ³	5,430,090		4,339,290	
Upland	5,296,580		4,243,580	
Amer-Pima	133,510		95,710	
Sugarbeets	606,190		587,450	
Sugarcane			384,250	
Tobacco			294,170	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	3,640		2,990	
Dry Edible Beans	813,470		774,540	
Dry Edible Peas	130,880		125,090	
Lentils	65,560		64,140	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			2,470	
Ginger Root (HI)			150	
Hops			14,830	
Peppermint Oil			50,180	
Potatoes, All ³	576,040		564,300	
Winter	6,270	6,880	6,070	6,760
Spring	37,640		36,660	
Summer	29,830		27,840	
Fall	502,300		493,720	
Spearmint Oil			11,090	
Sweet Potatoes	35,130		33,910	
Taro (HI) ⁴			200	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 1999 crop year. ² Area planted for all purposes. ³ Total may not add due to rounding. ⁴ Area is total hectares in crop, not harvested hectares.

Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 1998-99
(Metric Units)¹

Crop	Yield		Production	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	3.23		7,673,580	
Corn for Grain	8.44		247,942,980	
Corn for Silage	35.80		85,751,640	
Hay, All ²	5.65		137,291,520	
Alfalfa	7.78		74,398,220	
All Other	4.27		62,893,300	
Oats	2.12		801,180	
Rice	6.35		8,529,850	
Rye	1.77		299,610	
Sorghum for Grain	4.23		13,206,910	
Sorghum for Silage	25.63		3,163,350	
Wheat, All ²	2.91		69,410,050	
Winter	3.15		51,181,680	
Durum	2.54		3,839,270	
Other Spring	2.35		14,389,100	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.63		720,590	
Cottonseed			4,700,670	
Flaxseed	1.28		170,390	
Mustard Seed	0.96		37,080	
Peanuts	3.01		1,783,200	
Rapeseed	1.52		2,880	
Safflower	1.62		186,920	
Soybeans for Beans	2.62		75,027,640	
Sunflower	1.69		2,379,860	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ²	0.69		3,003,770	
Upland	0.69		2,910,150	
Amer-Pima	0.98		93,620	
Sugarbeets	50.44		29,628,650	
Sugarcane	79.60		30,587,550	
Tobacco	2.36		693,840	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	1.58		4,720	
Dry Edible Beans	1.81		1,398,330	
Dry Edible Peas	2.15		269,160	
Lentils	1.37		87,910	
Wrinkled Seed Peas			30,570	
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)	1.65		4,080	
Ginger Root (HI)	56.04		8,160	
Hops	1.82		27,010	
Peppermint Oil	0.09		4,410	
Potatoes, All ²	38.40		21,670,560	
Winter	22.27	20.70	135,170	139,890
Spring	26.15		958,760	
Summer	31.39		874,030	
Fall	39.91		19,702,600	
Spearmint Oil	0.12		1,350	
Sweet Potatoes	15.90		539,190	
Taro (HI) ³			2,720	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 1999 crop year. ² Production may not add due to rounding. ³ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 1997-99
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Production		
	1997	1998	1999
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>
Citrus ²			
Grapefruit	2,619,950	2,382,270	2,373,200
K-Early Citrus (FL)	6,350	1,810	3,630
Lemons	869,080	848,220	731,190
Oranges	11,500,380	12,570,860	9,303,180
Tangelos (FL)	161,480	116,120	110,680
Tangerines	379,200	326,590	276,690
Temples (FL)	97,980	91,630	81,650
Non-Citrus			
Apples	4,682,800	4,963,930	
Apricots	126,310	107,320	
Bananas (HI)	6,210	9,070	
Grapes	6,614,190	5,076,200	
Olives (CA)	94,350	81,650	
Papayas (HI)	17,600	17,690	
Peaches	1,190,500	1,100,320	
Pears	945,740	840,270	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	194,140	97,980	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	23,130	23,220	
Nuts & Misc.			
Almonds (CA)	344,280	235,870	
Hazelnuts	42,640	14,060	
Pecans	151,950	70,330	
Pistachios (CA)	81,650	85,280	
Walnuts (CA)	244,030	205,930	
Maple Syrup	6,490	5,790	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 1999 crop year.

² Production years are 1996-97, 1997-98, and 1998-99.

January Weather Summary

A very cold pattern east of the Rockies yielded to coast-to-coast warmth. Cold air clung most stubbornly across the Upper Midwestern and Great Lakes States, where snowfall from an early-month blizzard and subsequent storms helped to suppress temperatures. Most of the eastern Corn Belt's snow melted after mid-month under an assault of warmth and heavy rain, causing lowland flooding and leaving soft red winter wheat fields wet and susceptible to heaving soils. Farther east, numerous storms delivered soaking rains to the Mid- and Southern Atlantic States, improving topsoil moisture and significantly easing long-term drought. Late-month rain in Peninsular Florida reduced irrigation requirements for winter vegetables and citrus groves. Locally excessive rainfall occurred, however, from the Ohio Valley southward to the Delta, resulting in muddy fields and flooding along creeks and rivers. Meanwhile on the Plains, snow cover melted in northern areas but was replenished by month's end. Topsoils became very dry across portions of the central Plains, especially in Nebraska and northeastern Colorado, increasing the risk of wind erosion. From Kansas into Texas, however, a late-month storm produced widespread precipitation (rain, freezing rain, sleet, and snow), benefiting hard red winter wheat but stressing livestock and disrupting transportation. In the West, a brief southward shift in the storm track provided much-needed valley rains and mountain snows to California and the Southwest, and allowed beneficially dry weather to reach areas west of the Cascades.

Monthly temperatures averaged near normal in California and the upper Midwest, but were above normal elsewhere. Departures reached +10 degrees F in the Rocky Mountain region and +8 degrees F in the Southeast. January precipitation topped 4 inches in and west of the Cascades and Sierra Nevada, and in most areas east of a line from eastern Texas to Lake Michigan. From the lower Ohio Valley southward to the central Gulf Coast States, extremely wet conditions (more than 8 inches of rain) were accompanied by several severe thunderstorm outbreaks. Monthly precipitation was significantly below normal only in the Southwest, southern Texas, and a small area centered on Nebraska.

General Crop Comments: The month began with frigid temperatures across most of the eastern half of the United States. Blizzard conditions developed as the cold air pushed through the central Corn Belt and Great Lakes Region. Most wheat fields in the northern Plains and eastern Corn Belt were protected from the sub-zero temperatures and wind chills by snow. Below-normal temperatures extended to the Gulf Coast, with sub-freezing temperature readings in Texas and as far south as central Florida. Peach orchards in the Southeast, in need of additional chill hours, welcomed the cold weather, but tomatoes suffered minor leaf burn in Florida. In lowland citrus groves, some fruit was partially frozen and some new foliage was frost bitten, but damage statewide was minimal. Sugarcane and orange harvest continued unhindered. In Texas, the cold weather temporarily halted growth of small grains.

As the month progressed, seasonally mild weather remained entrenched over the Rocky Mountains and extended eastward into the Great Plains, Corn Belt, and Southeast. Despite the beneficial warm weather, growth of small grains was limited in the southern Plains due to excessive dryness. In Florida, warm weather promoted development of citrus bloom buds and open bloom flowers and aided vegetable growth. Dry weather forced citrus growers in sandy and well-drained areas to irrigate groves to maintain tree conditions.

During the month, a series of storms formed along the western Gulf Coast and delivered a mixture of rain, sleet, and freezing rain to the lower Mississippi Valley, Southeast, Ohio Valley, and Atlantic Coast States. Icing caused power outages in parts of the Southeast and middle Atlantic Coast States, and tornados ripped through parts of the lower Mississippi Valley. Later, rain and melting snow caused isolated flooding in parts of the middle and northern Atlantic Coast States. Despite the severe weather, most areas welcomed the precipitation as soil moisture levels improved.

In the Western United States, temperatures averaged above normal in most areas and well above normal through most of the Rocky Mountains. The snow pack continued to accumulate in the northern Rocky Mountains, but heavy rains and mild temperatures melted snow in the Pacific Northwest. The combination of heavy rain and snow melt caused flooding in low-lying areas along streams. High pressure temporarily forced storms to the north of the Pacific Northwest coastal areas, allowing soils to dry and streams to recede from their banks, but the system weakened and the rainy pattern resumed.

Below-normal temperatures persisted in California's valleys, hindering growth of small grains, winter forages, vegetable crops, and emerging sugar beets. Excessive dryness during the first half of the month and excessive dampness during the second half also hindered growth. A brief early-month warm spell allowed citrus growers in the San Joaquin Valley to salvage some fruit from their orchards, but most of the navel orange crop that remained unharvested as the month began was damaged or destroyed. Picking of mature fruit continued in southern California. In vineyards and non-citrus fruit orchards, growers kept busy with pruning, weeding, and fertilizing chores until late-month rains hindered their efforts.

Sugarcane: Production for sugar and seed in 1998 is estimated at a record high 33.7 million tons, 6 percent above the previous record established in 1997 but unchanged from the previous estimate. Estimated acres for sugar production remained at 892,800 and acres for sugar and seed remained at 949,500. The estimated yield for sugar and seed production is unchanged at a record 35.5 tons per acre, 0.8 ton above the 1997 yield of 34.7 tons per acre.

Drought hindered vegetative development in the western Gulf Coast sugarcane producing states during the summer months. Growth accelerated when late summer rains ended the drought and continued as warm weather extended the growing season. The late season growth spurt, combined with expanded use of higher yielding varieties and utilization of better harvesting equipment, resulted in records for both yield and production in Louisiana. The yield and production were also both record high in Florida. Damage due to Tropical Storm Mitch was minimal, but harvest was delayed and mills were forced to shut down operations for several days. Warm, dry weather aided harvest efforts during the month; however, mills expect to be open until early April due to earlier delays.

Temples: Florida's Temple forecast of 2.00 million boxes (90,000 tons) is unchanged from the previous forecast. If realized, it will be the smallest non-freeze utilization since the 1954-55 season. The route survey indicated only 21 percent of rows harvested due to lagging maturity. Average fruit size is close to the smallest in the eight-season series. Loss from droppage has been a record low through late January.

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 1998-99 U.S. grapefruit crop remained unchanged at 2.63 million tons, slightly above last season but down 9 percent from the 1996-97 season. The February 1 Florida grapefruit crop is forecast at 50.0 million boxes (2.13 million tons), the same as the January 1 forecast but up 1 percent from a year ago. The white seedless forecast is increased to 19.0 million boxes (808,000 tons) and the colored seedless forecast is decreased to 30.5 million boxes (1.30 million tons).

Economic conditions favoring additional use of white seedless grapefruit have improved this season, more than anticipated at the beginning of the season. Average fruit size of the unharvested colored varieties is less than originally projected, possibly a result of more selective spot picking than in recent seasons. Loss from droppage is more than originally projected.

Florida's seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast is continued at 500,000 boxes (21,000 tons), a record low utilization. Average fruit sizes are smaller, but loss from droppage is less than originally projected. All seedy grapefruit are certified in processed form and records are dependent on load tickets.

Grapefruit production in Texas is forecast at 5.00 million boxes (200,000 tons), unchanged from January 1 but up 4 percent from the previous season. Quality remains good. California and Arizona grapefruit forecasts were carried forward from January 1.

Tangerines: The 1998-99 U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at 305,000 tons, up 2 percent from last month, but down 15 percent from the previous year's utilization. Florida's tangerine forecast is raised to 4.60 million boxes (219,000 tons), up 2 percent from the January 1 forecast but down 12 percent from the 1997-98 crop. Lagging maturity has limited the amount picked compared to the previous two seasons. Average fruit size is above the eight-season mean, but is smaller than last season. Loss from droppage is higher than last season. The Arizona and California tangerine forecasts were carried forward from January 1.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast for February 1 increased to 2.70 million boxes (122,000 tons), 8 percent more than a month ago, but 5 percent less than last season's utilized production. Maturity levels are allowing later volume harvest.

Florida citrus: Temperatures during January were above normal in all areas of Florida's citrus belt. There were some days when the upper 80's were recorded. Rainfall was near average across the citrus producing areas, but some citrus counties received above normal moisture for January. During one mid-January tropical storm, Palm Beach County recorded more than 5 inches of precipitation. Due to the dry conditions that prevailed at the time, most of the abundant moisture was absorbed by the soil. The warm tropical weather caused the citrus trees to push out pin-head bloom buds which are very vulnerable to frost or freezing weather. There is very little open bloom showing at this time. Harvesting crews have been very active during the month, moving all types of early and midseason fruit to both the processors and the fresh fruit packing houses.

Texas Citrus: Harvest moved ahead during January with early and midseason oranges more than three fourths complete and grapefruit surpassing the halfway mark. Demand remained high for oranges. The quality of oranges and grapefruit remained good. Hardly any rainfall fell in the citrus growing areas and producers continued to irrigate.

California Citrus: After the late December freeze in the San Joaquin Valley, citrus growers in early January adopted a "wait and see" attitude for their crop prospects. By the end of the month, some navel oranges were picked for fresh use but many had to go to juice. Lemons in the freeze area were virtually all lost, but the grapefruit survived. Valencia oranges are still green with picking not scheduled until spring. Citrus growers in southern California did not suffer freeze damage and were active picking their fruit.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya output is estimated at 2.98 million pounds for January, 8 percent lower than December but 4 percent higher than January 1998. Area devoted to papaya production totaled 3,740 acres in January, relatively unchanged from December but 7 percent higher than a year ago. Harvested area, totaling 2,195 acres, was slightly higher than last month and 27 percent higher than last January.

January weather conditions were a mix of rain, gusty winds, and sunshine. Spraying for disease control was slowed at times due to the wet and windy conditions. Seasonally cool temperatures slowed fruit maturation.

California Fruits and Nuts: During January, growers were busy with normal winter cultural activities such as weed control, fertilizing, dormant spraying, pruning, and shredding brush. By the end of the month, fruit buds in almond trees were swelling as bloom neared.

Walnuts: The 1998 California walnut production estimate has been revised to 227,000 tons (in-shell basis). This is up 3 percent from the January estimate but down 16 percent from the 1997 crop. Estimates for the 1998 price and value will be published July 7, 1999.

Almonds: California almond production is unchanged from the January estimate of 520 million meat pounds. Production is down 31 percent from the record 1997 crop. The average price, at \$1.80 per pound (shelled basis), is a 24 cent improvement over the 1997 average. Value of utilized production came to 898 million dollars, 23 percent below the 1997 total.

Pistachios: The California pistachio crop set a record for the second consecutive year. The 1998 production of 188 million pounds(in-shell basis) was unchanged from the January estimate but 4 percent larger than 1997. The average in-shell price fell to 99 cents per pound, compared to \$1.13 for 1997. Total value of utilized production amounted to 186 million dollars, down 8 percent from the year earlier.

Information Contacts

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