

Crop Production



USDA
Washington, D.C.

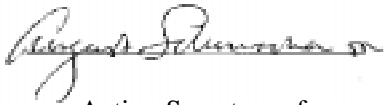
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U.S. Orange Production Down 1 Percent

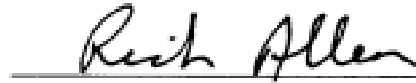
All oranges production forecast for 1998-99 is 10.2 million tons, down 1 percent from last month and down 27 percent from last year's record large crop of 13.9 million tons. Florida's all orange forecast is decreased to 192 million boxes (8.64 million tons), 1 percent lower than the February forecast and 21 percent lower than the record large 244 million boxes produced last season. Early and midseason varieties in Florida are forecast at 114 million boxes (5.13 million tons), down 2 percent from February and down 19 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 1.62 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, up from February's forecast of 1.60 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 a record high 1.59 gallons per box. Valencias are projected to yield 1.68 gallons per box, up from 1.67 gallons last month but below last season's record high of 1.72. Average pound solids are at a record high level for March 1.

This report was approved on March 11, 1999.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
August Schumacher, Jr.



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Rich Allen

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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	39.3	15,535	16,860
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	36.0	30,003	32,139
For Seed						
FL	19.0	21.0	36.9	39.0	701	819
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	58.7	31.8	32.7	1,706	1,918
For Sugar and Seed						
FL	440.0	450.0	36.9	39.3	16,236	17,679
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	951.5	34.7	35.8	31,709	34,057

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>
Jan	3,510	3,740	1,735	2,195	2,875	2,980
Feb	3,505	3,700	1,740	2,135	2,655	2,870

**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
1996-97, 1997-98 and Forecasted March 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	114,000	6,039	6,300	5,130
TX	1,300	1,350	1,300	55	57	55
US	175,900	185,700	134,750	7,609	8,020	5,915
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	192,000	10,179	10,980	8,640
TX	1,420	1,525	1,440	60	64	61
US	292,620	320,525	232,440	12,677	13,857	10,165
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	29,500	1,334	1,301	1,254
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	49,000	2,371	2,106	2,083
TX	5,300	4,800	5,400	212	192	216
US	70,200	64,150	63,100	2,888	2,626	2,590
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	4,650	299	247	221
US	9,450	8,200	6,950	418	360	307
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	2,600	178	128	117
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.

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	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			951.5	
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) 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 1999 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, 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	"	35.8		34,057	
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	2,590
K-Early Citrus (FL)	"	7	2	4
Lemons	"	958	935	806
Oranges	"	12,677	13,857	10,165
Tangelos (FL)	"	178	128	122
Tangerines	"	418	360	307
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			385,060	
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	2.17		2,425,770	
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	80.24		30,895,990	
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	2,349,610
K-Early Citrus (FL)	6,350	1,810	3,630
Lemons	869,080	848,220	731,190
Oranges	11,500,380	12,570,860	9,221,530
Tangelos (FL)	161,480	116,120	110,680
Tangerines	379,200	326,590	278,510
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.

February Weather Summary: The Nation's precipitation patterns were largely governed by the ongoing La Niña, featuring exceptionally wet weather in the Pacific Northwest and dry conditions across much of the South, particularly along the Gulf Coast and across the Southwest. Monthly precipitation exceeded 200 percent of normal in much of Washington, Oregon, and Northern California, but was less than 25 percent of normal in most areas from southern California to Texas, and in western portions of Kansas and Oklahoma. Beneficially drier conditions returned to the Ohio Valley, allowing excess moisture to drain from soft red winter wheat fields and lowland flooding to subside. Near-normal precipitation fell in much of the Corn Belt, including significant late-month snowfall in western areas.

Monthly temperatures ranged from 6 to 12 degrees F above normal on the Plains, and were generally 2 to 6 degrees F above normal in the East and the Southwest. Colder air overspread the Southeast after mid-month, ending a 5-week stretch of unusually warm weather, but beneficially slowing fruit tree bud development and winter grain growth. Sub-freezing temperatures were reported north of a line from central Louisiana to northern Florida on February 14-15 and 22-23. In contrast, the month ended with a seventh consecutive week of above-normal temperatures on the Plains, pushing hard red winter wheat out of dormancy as far north as the central Plains and leaving the crop vulnerable to possible March cold outbreaks. Generally below-normal temperatures prevailed along the West Coast beginning in late January and continuing through February, resulting in 5 consecutive weeks with below-normal temperatures across northern and central California. Monthly temperatures were as much as 5 degrees F below normal in northern California.

General Crop Comments: Temperatures averaged above normal across most of the Nation during February. Only areas along the Pacific Coast and adjacent areas of the Rocky Mountains experienced below normal average temperatures. In the Pacific Northwest and points as far south as central California, storms repeatedly pounded coastal areas causing flooding, erosion, and mud slides. Farther inland, at higher elevations of the Cascade and Sierra Ranges, additional snow accumulations increased the risk of avalanches. Interior areas of the Rocky Mountains also received precipitation, but the area from the High Plains eastward into the northern Corn Belt and Great Lakes Region remained dry. Parts of the Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Great Plains received beneficial precipitation.

The southern Plains experienced near-record temperatures early in the month that spurred small grain development, especially in the Texas High Plains. Growers began planting corn in the Coastal Bend to take advantage of available subsoil moisture supplies. As the month progressed, corn and sorghum planting gained momentum until a cold front temporarily deterred planting near mid-month. After warmer weather returned, winter wheat conditions improved in the southern Plains, but a shortage of soil moisture hindered growth, especially in Texas. During the last half of the month, corn, cotton, and sorghum planting progressed in central, southern, and coastal parts of the State with only brief, isolated rain delays. Strong winds near the end of the month further depleted moisture supplies in already dry soils, but winter wheat fields remained green due to mild temperatures. As the end of the month approached, more winter wheat fields broke dormancy in the central and southern Great Plains, Mississippi Delta, and southern Corn Belt due to continued mild weather. Some early-planted corn and cotton fields emerged in Texas, despite dry soils and the brief mid-month cold spell.

In California, the rain, wet soils, and below-normal temperatures prevailed in northern areas most of the month. Field activities were frequently delayed, but did not hinder growth of small grains, alfalfa, forage crops, and sugarbeets. Where conditions were drier, producers applied herbicides, insecticides, and fertilizers; prepared soils for spring crops; replanted freeze-damaged sugar beet fields; and finished planting wheat. In southern California, citrus growers continued harvest activities. Despite below-normal temperatures, almonds and early peach and nectarine varieties began budding. Cotton planting began in the Imperial Valley near the end of the month.

In Florida, warm, dry weather aided sugarcane harvest and field preparations for spring crops. However, winter grains were stressed by moisture shortages. Near mid-month, a frost accompanied by strong winds caused some minor citrus leaf burn and bloom bud damage. Crews rapidly harvested the early- and mid-season orange crop. Vegetable growth was normal and quality was mostly good. Citrus groves need rain to sustain growth and healthy bloom bud development.

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 1998-99 U.S. grapefruit crop is 2.59 million tons, 1 percent below both last month's and the previous season's utilized production. Florida lowered their March 1 forecast to 49.0 million boxes (2.08 million tons), a 2 percent change from the previous month. The white seedless forecast remained at 19.0 million boxes (808,000 tons), but the colored seedless forecast is decreased to 29.5 million boxes (1.25 million tons).

The objective count surveys on the remaining Florida grapefruit crops were down only slightly from last month's observations. However, the route survey indicated a 1.00 million box reduction. The estimated movement of the white seedless is ahead of last season's pace, whereas movement of colored varieties is lagging.

Florida's seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast is continued at 500,000 boxes (21,000 tons), a record low utilization. The objective count surveys of the remaining crop indicated significantly smaller fruit than last season. Loss from droppage accelerated. All seedy grapefruit are certified in processed form and records are dependent on load tickets.

Grapefruit production in Texas is forecast at 5.40 million boxes (216,000 tons), up 8 percent from February and up 13 percent from the previous season. Growers reported more fruit was available than was previously expected and quality remains good. California and Arizona grapefruit forecasts were carried forward from January 1.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast for March 1 decreased to 2.60 million boxes (117,000 tons), 4 percent less than a month ago and 9 percent less than last season's utilized production. The route survey showed 94 percent of the crop has been harvested and, when compared with estimated certifications, the reduction in the forecast was warranted.

Tangerines: The 1998-99 U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at 307,000 tons, up 1 percent from last month but down 15 percent from the previous year's utilization. Florida's tangerine forecast was raised to 4.65 million boxes (221,000 tons), up 1 percent from the February forecast but down 11 percent from the 1997-98 crop. Final early tangerine certifications were slightly higher than last month's forecast. The Arizona and California tangerine forecasts were carried forward from January 1.

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 estimated certifications to date show about half the crop harvested. Most of the remaining Temple crop will go into processing.

Florida Citrus: Most of February was very mild and dry. During the middle of the month, near freezing temperatures were recorded over most of the citrus belt. No damage or loss was reported. Above normal temperatures during the rest of February helped generate an abundance of new growth and bloom buds of all stages. Young citrus groves had varying quantities of open bloom at the end of the month. Most older groves have very few open bloom flowers. Harvest of early and midseason oranges is slowing as supplies are running low. Picking crews are now harvesting Valencia oranges for both fresh and process utilization. Many processors are now taking packinghouse eliminations and grove run grapefruit. Fresh fruit packers are running grapefruit, Temples, Honey tangerines, and Valencia oranges. Caretakers have been very active cutting cover crops, irrigating, fertilizing, spraying, hedging, and topping.

Texas Citrus: Harvest moved ahead in the Rio Grande Valley during February with little or no delays. The early and midseason orange harvest was winding down and the Valencia orange harvest was underway. Grapefruit harvest continued with good quality still reported. Harvest is nearly two-thirds complete.

California Citrus: Citrus growers in the San Joaquin Valley were picking salvageable fruit from freeze damaged orchards. Some were picked for fresh market, but many went for juice. Citrus in southern California was not damaged by the freeze and picking was very active. During February, harvest of the new crop Valencia oranges began in the desert area.

California Fruits and Nuts: Throughout February, orchard grower activities included pruning, brush shredding, and dormant spraying. Many varieties of almonds, nectarines, apricots, and freestone peaches were blooming. Fungicides were applied to prevent blossom rot in stone fruit orchards. Spraying to control fungi and anthracnose in almond orchards was also active. Growth accelerated on fall planted strawberries.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya production is estimated at 2.87 million pounds for February, 4 percent lower than January but 8 percent higher than last February. Area devoted to papaya production totaled 3,700 acres, 1 percent lower than last month but 6 percent higher than a year ago. Harvested area, totaling 2,135 acres, was 3 percent lower than January but 23 percent higher than February 1998. February weather conditions were a mix of sunshine and heavy rain over major papaya producing areas. Rainfall was especially heavy during the first and third weeks, delaying some farm activities.

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 1998 is estimated at a record high 34.1 million tons, 7 percent above the previous record established in 1997, and 1 percent above the February 1 estimate. Estimated acres for sugar production remained at 892,800, but acres for sugar and seed increased by 2,000, to 951,500 due to an increase in acres for seed. The estimated yield for sugar and seed production is a record 35.8 tons per acre, 1.1 tons above the 1997 yield of 34.7 tons per acre and 0.3 ton per acre above the previous estimate.

The increase in yield and production is due to increases in Florida, where the harvest season is still in progress. Florida's harvest continued with few disruptions during February. However, the milling season will be extended by as much as a month at some mills due to the size of the crop.

Information Contacts

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