



Crop Production

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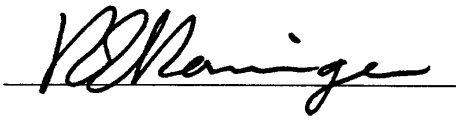
All Cotton Production Up Slightly

All cotton production is forecast at 17.0 million 480-pound bales, up less than 1 percent from last month, and up 22 percent from 1998. Yield is expected to average 608 pounds per harvested acre, down 17 pounds from last year. Texas production was decreased 56,000 bales from December's forecast, while California's production was increased 45,000 bales.


All oranges: The forecast of the 1999-00 U.S. all orange crop is 12.5 million tons, up 2 percent from December and up 26 percent from last season. Florida's all orange forecast is 219 million boxes (9.86 million tons), 2 percent more than the December 1 forecast and 18 percent higher than the 186 million boxes (8.36 million tons) utilized last season. Early and midseason varieties in Florida are forecast at 127 million boxes (5.72 million tons), up 2 percent from December and 13 percent higher than last season. Florida's Valencia forecast of 92.0 million boxes (4.14 million tons) is 2 percent above the December 1 forecast and 25 percent higher than last season's final utilization. California's all orange forecast continues at 67.0 million boxes (2.51 million tons), 76 percent higher than last season's freeze-damaged crop. Texas orange production is forecast at 1.60 million boxes (68,000 tons), unchanged from December and up 12 percent from last season. Arizona's all orange forecast is increased to 1.05 million boxes (40,000 tons), down 9 percent from last season's final utilization.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield for the 1999-00 season is decreased from 1.60 gallons per box to 1.57 gallons at 42.0 degrees Brix. The early and midseason portion is projected at 1.50 gallons per box and Valencias at 1.68. The final all orange yield for last season as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association was a record high 1.63 gallons per box. Last season's early and midseason yield was 1.58 and the Valencia portion was 1.75, also record highs.

This report was approved on January 11, 2000.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Richard E. Rominger



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Frederic A. Vogel

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**Cotton: Area Planted and Harvested by Type, State,
and United States, 1997-99**

Type and State	Area Planted			Area Harvested		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
	<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	535.0	495.0	565.0	442.0	475.0	560.0
AZ	325.0	250.0	265.0	324.0	248.0	264.0
AR	980.0	920.0	970.0	965.0	900.0	960.0
CA	880.0	650.0	610.0	875.0	620.0	605.0
FL	100.0	89.0	107.0	99.0	80.0	106.0
GA	1,440.0	1,370.0	1,470.0	1,425.0	1,280.0	1,300.0
KS	12.0	17.0	33.0	10.0	16.5	28.0
LA	655.0	535.0	615.0	650.0	525.0	610.0
MS	985.0	950.0	1,200.0	970.0	940.0	1,180.0
MO	395.0	370.0	380.0	390.0	357.0	375.0
NM	70.0	66.3	70.0	66.0	60.3	67.0
NC	690.0	710.0	880.0	685.0	705.0	800.0
OK	200.0	160.0	240.0	190.0	120.0	150.0
SC	290.0	290.0	330.0	286.0	286.0	315.0
TN	490.0	450.0	570.0	480.0	445.0	565.0
TX	5,500.0	5,650.0	6,150.0	5,200.0	3,300.0	5,100.0
VA	101.0	92.0	110.0	100.0	91.0	108.0
US	13,648.0	13,064.3	14,565.0	13,157.0	10,448.8	13,093.0
Amer-Pima						
AZ	22.0	15.9	9.5	22.0	15.5	9.5
CA	185.0	200.0	240.0	184.0	180.0	239.0
NM	11.0	7.3	7.5	11.0	7.3	7.5
TX	32.0	105.0	33.0	32.0	32.0	32.0
US	250.0	328.2	290.0	249.0	234.8	288.0
All						
AL	535.0	495.0	565.0	442.0	475.0	560.0
AZ	347.0	265.9	274.5	346.0	263.5	273.5
AR	980.0	920.0	970.0	965.0	900.0	960.0
CA	1,065.0	850.0	850.0	1,059.0	800.0	844.0
FL	100.0	89.0	107.0	99.0	80.0	106.0
GA	1,440.0	1,370.0	1,470.0	1,425.0	1,280.0	1,300.0
KS	12.0	17.0	33.0	10.0	16.5	28.0
LA	655.0	535.0	615.0	650.0	525.0	610.0
MS	985.0	950.0	1,200.0	970.0	940.0	1,180.0
MO	395.0	370.0	380.0	390.0	357.0	375.0
NM	81.0	73.6	77.5	77.0	67.6	74.5
NC	690.0	710.0	880.0	685.0	705.0	800.0
OK	200.0	160.0	240.0	190.0	120.0	150.0
SC	290.0	290.0	330.0	286.0	286.0	315.0
TN	490.0	450.0	570.0	480.0	445.0	565.0
TX	5,532.0	5,755.0	6,183.0	5,232.0	3,332.0	5,132.0
VA	101.0	92.0	110.0	100.0	91.0	108.0
US	13,898.0	13,392.5	14,855.0	13,406.0	10,683.6	13,381.0

**Cotton: Yield and Production by Type, State,
and United States, 1997-99**

Type and State	Yield			Production ¹		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Bales</i> ²	<i>1,000 Bales</i> ²	<i>1,000 Bales</i> ²
Upland						
AL	597	559	549	550.0	553.0	640.0
AZ	1,255	1,177	1,236	847.0	608.0	680.0
AR	837	645	715	1,683.0	1,209.0	1,430.0
CA	1,202	887	1,250	2,191.0	1,146.0	1,575.0
FL	577	489	589	119.1	81.5	130.0
GA	646	578	580	1,919.0	1,542.0	1,570.0
KS	418	404	384	8.7	13.9	22.4
LA	728	586	708	986.0	641.0	900.0
MS	901	737	708	1,821.0	1,444.0	1,740.0
MO	695	471	595	565.0	350.0	465.0
NM	676	640	609	93.0	80.4	85.0
NC	652	699	486	930.0	1,026.0	810.0
OK	462	560	464	183.0	140.0	145.0
SC	688	587	419	410.0	350.0	275.0
TN	662	589	501	662.0	546.0	590.0
TX	474	524	475	5,140.0	3,600.0	5,050.0
VA	659	765	667	137.2	145.1	150.0
US	666	619	596	18,245.0	13,475.9	16,257.4
Amer-Pima						
AZ	912	830	960	41.8	26.8	19.0
CA	1,141	941	1,245	437.2	352.8	620.0
NM	641	658	608	14.7	10.0	9.5
TX	815	791	705	54.3	52.7	47.0
US	1,056	904	1,159	548.0	442.3	695.5
All						
AL	597	559	549	550.0	553.0	640.0
AZ	1,233	1,156	1,227	888.8	634.8	699.0
AR	837	645	715	1,683.0	1,209.0	1,430.0
CA	1,191	899	1,248	2,628.2	1,498.8	2,195.0
FL	577	489	589	119.1	81.5	130.0
GA	646	578	580	1,919.0	1,542.0	1,570.0
KS	418	404	384	8.7	13.9	22.4
LA	728	586	708	986.0	641.0	900.0
MS	901	737	708	1,821.0	1,444.0	1,740.0
MO	695	471	595	565.0	350.0	465.0
NM	671	642	609	107.7	90.4	94.5
NC	652	699	486	930.0	1,026.0	810.0
OK	462	560	464	183.0	140.0	145.0
SC	688	587	419	410.0	350.0	275.0
TN	662	589	501	662.0	546.0	590.0
TX	477	526	477	5,194.3	3,652.7	5,097.0
VA	659	765	667	137.2	145.1	150.0
US	673	625	608	18,793.0	13,918.2	16,952.9

¹ Production ginned and to be ginned.

² 480-lb. net weight bales.

Cottonseed: Production by State and United States, 1997-99

State	Production		
	1997 <i>1,000 Tons</i>	1998 <i>1,000 Tons</i>	1999 ¹ <i>1,000 Tons</i>
AL	196.0	192.0	224.0
AZ	312.0	288.0	273.0
AR	632.0	478.0	553.0
CA	942.0	544.0	797.0
FL	45.0	26.0	45.0
GA	660.0	526.0	529.0
KS	3.1	5.8	8.4
LA	359.0	236.0	336.0
MS	704.0	561.0	676.0
MO	223.0	135.0	182.0
NM	40.5	32.6	34.0
NC	321.0	351.0	279.0
OK	72.0	54.0	58.0
SC	142.0	122.0	95.0
TN	260.0	205.0	227.0
TX	1,983.0	1,558.0	2,056.0
VA	40.0	51.0	50.0
US	6,934.6	5,365.4	6,422.4

¹ Estimates based on a 3-year average lint-seed ratio.

**Potatoes: Area Planted, Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Seasonal Group, State, and United States, 1998-00**

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
	1999	2000	1999	2000					
	<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	8.5	10.0	8.5	10.0	260	300	1,540	2,210	3,000
FL	9.6	8.2	9.3	8.0	200	200	1,440	1,860	1,600
Total	18.1	18.2	17.8	18.0	229	256	2,980	4,070	4,600
Spring ¹									
AL	1.7		1.6		175		221	280	
AZ	10.0		9.6		315		2,268	3,024	
CA	19.0		19.0		400		6,198	7,600	
FL	28.8		28.0		315		7,358	8,820	
Hastings	21.5		21.0		330		5,758	6,930	
Other FL	7.3		7.0		270		1,600	1,890	
NC	17.0		16.5		200		3,325	3,300	
TX	10.3		9.8		235		1,751	2,303	
Total	86.8		84.5		300		21,121	25,327	

¹ 1999 Revised.

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>
Nov	3,785	3,205	2,215	1,585	3,250	3,480
Dec	3,740	3,230	2,185	1,625	3,380	3,345

**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
1997-98, 1998-99 and Forecasted January 1, 2000 ¹**

Crop and State	Utilized Production Boxes			Utilized Production Ton Equivalent		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
	<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	350	550	600	13	21	23
CA	44,000	21,000	40,000	1,650	787	1,500
FL	140,000	112,000	127,000	6,300	5,040	5,715
TX	1,350	1,250	1,300	57	53	55
US	185,700	134,800	168,900	8,020	5,901	7,293
Valencia						
AZ	650	600	450	25	22	17
CA	25,000	17,000	27,000	938	638	1,013
FL	104,000	73,700	92,000	4,680	3,317	4,140
TX	175	180	300	7	8	13
US	129,825	91,480	119,750	5,650	3,985	5,183
All						
AZ	1,000	1,150	1,050	38	43	40
CA	69,000	38,000	67,000	2,588	1,425	2,513
FL	244,000	185,700	219,000	10,980	8,357	9,855
TX	1,525	1,430	1,600	64	61	68
US	315,525	226,280	288,650	13,670	9,886	12,476
Temples						
FL	2,250	1,800	2,100	101	81	95
Grapefruit						
White Seedless						
FL ⁴	18,300	17,800	18,500	777	757	786
Colored Seedless						
FL ⁵	30,600	28,700	27,000	1,301	1,220	1,148
Other						
FL	650	550	500	28	23	21
All						
AZ	800	750	800	27	25	27
CA	8,000	7,500	8,000	268	251	268
FL ^{4,5}	49,550	47,050	46,000	2,106	2,000	1,955
TX	4,800	6,100	5,500	192	244	220
US	63,150	61,400	60,300	2,593	2,520	2,470
Tangerines						
AZ ⁶	600	950	1,100	23	36	41
CA ⁶	2,400	1,500	2,300	90	56	86
FL	5,200	4,950	6,600	247	235	314
US	8,200	7,400	10,000	360	327	441
Lemons						
AZ	2,600	3,450	3,100	99	131	118
CA	21,000	16,200	21,000	798	616	798
US	23,600	19,650	24,100	897	747	916
Tangelos						
FL	2,850	2,550	2,800	128	115	126
K-Early Citrus						
FL	40	80	90	2	4	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 Excludes White Seedless economic abandonment of 5,000,000 boxes in 1997-98. ⁵ Excludes Colored Seedless economic abandonment of 1,000,000 boxes in 1997-98. ⁶ Includes tangelos and tangors.

**Hay: Stocks on Farms by State and United States,
December 1 and May 1, 1997-99**

State	Dec 1			May 1	
	1997	1998 ¹	1999	1998	1999 ¹
	<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	1,646	1,213	1,472	191	141
AZ	171	177	184	34	28
AR	2,075	1,900	1,850	272	260
CA	1,598	3,246	2,285	420	428
CO	2,133	2,807	2,900	616	966
CT	69	77	47	16	13
DE	7	18	15	5	8
FL	436	357	550	65	27
GA	1,045	1,000	1,245	203	209
ID	2,743	3,329	2,617	520	777
IL	1,327	2,100	1,600	474	543
IN	1,213	1,775	1,316	327	350
IA	3,374	4,500	4,700	623	1,050
KS	5,609	6,500	5,800	889	1,525
KY	3,615	4,922	4,006	603	913
LA	668	290	502	103	58
ME	152	196	138	25	56
MD	381	333	300	55	76
MA	92	101	84	17	40
MI	1,993	2,093	2,110	414	556
MN	3,647	5,261	5,286	640	1,493
MS	1,530	1,500	1,350	198	200
MO	6,239	6,933	5,997	881	1,387
MT	5,042	4,568	4,448	1,151	1,104
NE	4,549	5,170	4,900	1,222	1,306
NV	708	857	867	151	233
NH	49	72	65	9	17
NJ	138	121	109	20	15
NM	479	450	595	165	170
NY	1,998	1,990	1,900	344	435
NC	1,162	1,189	1,090	152	163
ND	4,069	4,064	5,291	744	545
OH	2,387	2,558	1,830	616	581
OK	4,444	3,042	4,200	919	507
OR	1,600	2,159	2,245	621	135
PA	2,299	2,800	1,700	452	730
RI	9	12	8	1	2
SC	410	415	410	82	96
SD	7,888	9,500	9,500	2,031	2,000
TN	3,184	3,175	2,655	555	635
TX	8,764	5,496	6,568	2,191	1,450
UT	1,658	1,695	1,540	435	485
VT	261	328	229	73	116
VA	1,591	1,693	1,883	250	417
WA	1,295	1,663	1,377	308	410
WV	848	949	524	110	150
WI	4,320	5,100	5,900	1,271	1,400
WY	2,129	2,372	2,480	363	611
US	103,044	111,839	108,668	21,827	24,795

¹ Revised.

December Weather Summary

The continuation of warm, dry weather further reduced soil moisture and increased irrigation requirements across the South, especially in California, the Southwest, the southern half of Texas, and the Southeast. In addition, the South's warmth and dryness stressed dryland crops, including pastures, vegetative winter grains, and cold-season vegetables. Although winter wheat remained dormant farther north, unfavorably dry conditions persisted in the western Corn Belt and on the Plains as far south as western Kansas. In contrast, beneficial precipitation, including locally heavy snow, fell across the southeastern Plains and in the Texas northern panhandle. Widespread, early- to mid-month precipitation boosted soil moisture from the middle Mississippi and lower Ohio Valleys southward to the central Gulf Coast. Storminess abated after mid-month in the Pacific Northwest, ending a 2-month spell of very wet weather. The remainder of the West received little precipitation, raising concerns about possibly inadequate spring runoff due to meager snow packs.

Near- to above-normal monthly temperatures prevailed nationwide, except at a few locations in the Southwest. December readings averaged 7 to 15 degrees F above normal on the northern Plains, where the month ended with a 10th consecutive week of warmer-than-normal weather. Temperatures averaged as much as 6 degrees F above normal from the Corn Belt to New England. Generally mild conditions in the Midwest and East were briefly interrupted after mid-month by a cold snap that dropped temperatures below 0 degrees F as far south as northern portions of Missouri and Illinois. Across the South, meanwhile, occasional cool outbreaks aided pest control but burned back pastures and winter grains. Temperatures remained above freezing in southernmost Texas and central and southern Florida.

General Crop Comments: Rain and snow boosted soil moisture supplies in eastern Kansas and northern and eastern Oklahoma early in the month improving wheat conditions, while also reducing insect populations. In Texas and western Oklahoma, insect populations remained active until the warm, dry weather pattern was replaced by precipitation and cooler weather near mid-month. In other areas of the Great Plains and California, dry soils hampered wheat development early in the month. Shortly after mid-month, a blast of cold air descended on the Corn Belt, bringing a light and patchy layer of protective snow cover, that melted when warmer temperatures returned near Christmas. As the month ended, the wheat crop lacked snow cover across much of the Corn Belt and Great Plains, but freeze damage was minimal due to mild temperatures. The late-month warm, dry weather increased insect activity in the central and southern Great Plains. In Texas, seeding and re-seeding of wheat and oats continued where rain or snowfall supplied some moisture.

In Florida, activities included harvesting fruits and vegetables, as well as cutting and grinding old crop and planting new crop sugarcane. Vegetable harvest in Florida was active for the holiday market, although rain briefly delayed some activity during the holiday weekend and allowed citrus caretakers to temporarily discontinue irrigation. In California, field activities progressed normally, however rain was badly needed in most areas. Seeding of irrigated small grains, alfalfa, and forage crops continued, but growers postponed planting of dryland small grains. Many seeded wheat fields required irrigation to germinate and emerge, but warm weather stimulated growth where moisture was available. Orchards, vineyards, and vegetable growers continued with normal winter activities. Other activities included harvesting sugar beets, cotton, and grain sorghum. In the Pacific Northwest, a persistent rainy pattern limited field activities along the coast from northern California to the Canada border.

Cotton: Upland cotton planted acreage is estimated at 14.6 million acres, up 2 percent from the August estimate, and up 11 percent from last year. Harvested acreage at 13.1 million acres, is 25 percent above last year. The increases in planted acreage are attributable to the favorableness of cotton as an

alternative crop during times of low prices. Harvested acreage increased due to more traditional abandonment levels than in 1998, when high abandonment occurred due to extremely dry conditions. Producers planted 290,000 acres of American-Pima cotton in 1999, down 12 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 288,000 acres, an increase of 23 percent from 1998.

Harvest of Texas upland cotton progressed normally during the season as conditions were generally dry and open. However, there were brief harvest delays on the High Plains during early harvest due to cool temperatures and widely scattered showers. Delays were also experienced late in the harvest season due to blowing, wet snow. Some farmers sprayed to aid in harvest rather than waiting for the first hard freeze, which did not occur until late November. Abandonment, at 1.05 million acres, is higher than average, but much less than last year's drought affected crop. Hail and wind damage in June resulted in some cotton acreage being replanted to alternative crops. Crop development began slowly, but was on pace with average by the first of August. Heavy rains during early September raised some concerns about regrowth. Cotton objective yield data indicate Texas' crop has the seventh lowest boll weight in the last 10 years.

The Delta States (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee) planted 3.74 million acres. This is 16 percent more than in 1998. Harvested area totaled 3.69 million acres. Warm, dry weather accelerated development of this year's crop, but resulted in deterioration of the condition and quality of the cotton. The dry weather also allowed harvest to progress well ahead of average. On October 31, Arkansas was 15 points ahead of average at 94 percent harvested. Louisiana reported 99 percent harvested, 7 points ahead of the 5-year average. Mississippi, at 97 percent harvested, was 10 percentage points ahead of average. Missouri and Tennessee both reported 96 percent of their cotton acreage harvested on October 31, twenty-one and 20 points ahead of the 5-year average. Data from objective yield surveys show boll weights in Arkansas and Mississippi were the lowest in the last ten years, while Louisiana's weight was ranked as the ninth lowest out of the last ten years.

Arizona increased the acreage they planted to Upland cotton in 1999, while California decreased their planted acres. Arizona planted 265,000 acres, a 6 percent increase from last year, while California planted 610,000 acres, 6 percent less than in 1998. Unseasonably cool weather hampered planting activities, resulting in a late developing crop. Despite the slow development, condition ratings remained high throughout the season. Warm, dry weather allowed great harvest progress during October and November, with California being virtually complete by the end of November. January 1 cotton objective yield counts show boll weights in California are the lowest in the last ten years.

In the Southeastern States (Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina), plantings were delayed, except in Alabama and North Carolina, due to extremely dry conditions. Alabama and North Carolina were able to progress at a normal pace during the planting season, but were required to do some replanting because of the dry conditions. The extremely dry conditions persisted for Georgia and Alabama during August and September, leading to deterioration of the cotton crop. North Carolina and South Carolina were dry during most of August. Hurricane Dennis improved soil moisture in some areas during late August, but some fields were too mature to benefit from the moisture. During September, the Carolina's were adversely affected by torrential rainfall from Hurricane Floyd. North Carolina abandoned 80,000 acres during 1999, mostly the result of wind and rain damage from the hurricane. The excessively wet, muddy fields also delayed harvest in North Carolina. As of October 31, North Carolina reported only 24 percent of their cotton acreage harvested. This compared to 55 percent for the 5-year average. Harvest activities progressed ahead of average in Alabama and remained on pace for both Georgia and South Carolina.

American-Pima production is forecast at 695,500 bales, up 57 percent from 1998's output, and up 16,500 bales from the December forecast. This is the largest crop on record. The U.S. yield is forecast at 1,159 pounds per harvested acre, 103 pounds above the previous record high yield set in 1997. California producers increased planted acres 20 percent from 1998, to 240,000 acres. Arizona

and Texas decreased acres planted to Pima from last year while New Mexico increased their acreage. Planting in the San Joaquin Valley began in late March, but made very little progress until mid-April. The delay in progress was due to the persistent cool, damp weather which kept soil temperatures below the optimal level for planting. Cool temperatures during August resulted in the crop developing slowly. However, weather conditions were ideal for virtually the entire harvest season. The harvest was nearly complete by mid-December and some growers picked a third time in order to get the last few late-opening bolls.

Ginnings totaled 15,898,850 running bales prior to January 1, compared with 13,159,700 running bales ginned prior to the same date last year and 17,613,350 running bales in 1997.

Winter Potatoes: Production of winter potatoes in 2000 is forecast at 4.60 million cwt. This is up 13 percent from 1999 and 54 percent above 1998. Area for harvest is estimated at 18,000 acres, up 1 percent from a year ago and 20 percent above two years ago. The average yield is projected at 256 cwt per acre, 27 cwt above last year.

The growing season for California's winter crop was relatively good with minimal damage from weather or disease. In Florida, the planting season has been a good one. Potatoes are currently in good condition with robust development and growth.

Spring Potatoes: Revisions of spring potatoes place production at 25.3 million cwt in 1999, up 20 percent from a year earlier and 14 percent above 1997. Final data was up 9 percent from the May 1 forecast. Harvested area totaled 84,500 acres, down 7 percent from 1998, while the average yield of 300 cwt per acre gained 67 cwt from last year.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya production for December is estimated at 3.35 million pounds, 1 percent less than a year earlier and 4 percent below the November total. Area devoted to papaya production totaled 3,230 acres, 14 percent less than a year ago. Harvested area totaled 1,625 acres, 26 percent less than last December. Moderate to heavy rain fell on major production areas during December. Seasonally cooler temperatures slowed crop progress.

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 1999-00 grapefruit crop for the United States is 2.47 million tons, up less than 1 percent from the December 1 forecast. The forecast is down 2 percent from last season. The Florida grapefruit forecast continues at 46.0 million boxes (1.96 million tons). The white seedless forecast, at 18.5 million boxes (786,000 tons), is unchanged but up 4 percent from last year. The colored seedless utilization is forecast at 27.0 million boxes (1.15 million tons), also unchanged, but 6 percent less than the 1998-99 season. The seedy grapefruit crop is expected to total 500,000 boxes (21,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast.

California's grapefruit forecast is 8.00 million boxes (268,000 tons), unchanged from the initial forecast and up 7 percent from the previous season. Fruit set is good, but size is small and growth has been sluggish due to below normal precipitation. The Texas grapefruit forecast remains at 5.50 million boxes (220,000 tons) and is down 10 percent from last season. Arizona growers expect to harvest 800,000 boxes (27,000 tons), up 23 percent from the initial forecast and up 7 percent from the previous season.

Lemons: The 1999-00 lemon forecast for United States is 916,000 tons, down 1 percent from the initial forecast and up 23 percent from last season. California production is forecast at 21.0 million boxes (798,000 tons), 2 percent more than the last forecast and 30 percent more than the previous season. Desert area pick volume is strong and quality is good. In the south coastal growing region, volume harvested is low. Quality is mostly good. Quality in the Central Valley is fair to excellent with slight decay in some lots. The Arizona lemon crop is forecast at 3.10 million boxes (118,000 tons), down 10 percent from the previous season.

Tangelos: The 1999-00 tangelo forecast from Florida is increased to 2.80 million boxes (126,000 tons), 8 percent higher than last month. The route survey (Row Count) conducted in late December indicated that less than one-third of the rows had been harvested. There are some rows of tangelos that are used as pollinators in other hybrids. It is assumed that the remaining crop (other than the pollinators) will be harvested.

Tangerines: The 1999-00 U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at a record large 441,000 tons, up 6 percent from the December 1 forecast and up 35 percent from the freeze-damaged crop last season. Florida's tangerine forecast is increased to 6.60 million boxes (314,000 tons), 3 percent more than last month and 33 percent larger than last season. Harvest of the Robinson and Fallglo varieties is complete, while the Dancy tangerine harvest has just started. Picking of the major early variety, Sunburst, is well underway but with considerable volume yet to go. Late variety Honey tangerines are just beginning to be harvested. As of January 1, the drop rate for Honeys has been the lowest on record. The average fruit size is close to the smallest on record. There is a heavy fruit set on most trees this year but also considerable later than normal bloom. This combination indicates an increase in the forecast.

California's 1999-00 tangerine forecast continues at 2.30 million boxes (86,000 tons), a 53 percent increase from a year ago. Fruit condition is good. Color and eating quality have been excellent. The 1999-00 tangerine forecast for Arizona is raised to 1.10 million boxes (41,000 tons) and is up 16 percent from the previous season.

Temples: Florida's 1999-00 Temple forecast remains at 2.10 million boxes (94,500 tons), 17 percent higher than the 1.80 million boxes recorded last season. The crop appears to be lagging in maturity. Loss from droppage is expected to remain below the mean, while the average fruit size continues well below the seasonal average. Harvest has just started.

K-Early Citrus: The K-Early Citrus Fruit forecast for 1999-00 remains at 90,000 boxes (4,050 tons), 10,000 boxes more than the final utilization last season. Harvest is nearing completion.

Florida Citrus: Most of December was mild and dry with fall like weather. There were a few days early in the month and near Christmas when temperatures were in the mid 30's. The last week of 1999 was warm and dry. Rain is needed in all areas of Florida's citrus belt. Growers and caretakers are utilizing all types of irrigation equipment to maintain good tree and fruit condition. Some trees on the high sand hill groves are showing afternoon leaf curl due to the current dry conditions. Most of the early and midseason fruit have good on-tree color break. Harvesting crews were very active throughout the month moving fruit to the fresh fruit packinghouses and processing plants. There was the normal

seasonal slowdown during the winter holidays. Caretakers in all areas have been busy cutting cover crops prior to the harvesting operations. Some sprays for fresh fruit and a few winter fertilizations have been applied in most areas.

Texas Citrus: Texas is looking forward to a good crop this year. Grapefruit and early orange quality is very good. Movement to date is well ahead of last year's pace. No adverse weather has affected the Rio Grande Valle.

California Citrus: Precipitation has been well below normal in the citrus growing areas, adversely affecting fruit size. Harvest of the navel orange crop progressed during December with approximately one-fifth of the crop picked by January 1. Quality is good, but the small size of the individual fruit concerns growers. The new Valencia orange crop is maturing well with a good set. Picking should begin in the desert area in late February. Grapefruit harvest was active in the desert area with small sizes reported. Picking of lemons was active in the desert, central valley, and south coast areas. Overall quality is good, but there are indications of windscar, tip injuries, and coarse texture. In the Central Valley, harvest of Satsuma tangerines was progressing well. In the desert growing region, Fairchild tangerines look very good. Fruit condition has been good. Color and eating quality have been excellent. Defects include wind scar and sunburn.

California Non-Citrus Fruits and Nuts: Growers were busy with normal winter cultural activities during December such as weed control, fertilizing, and pruning. Growers also had to irrigate their orchards due to the lack of precipitation. Preparation for tree replanting was active. Harvest of pecans, kiwifruit, and persimmons continued. Picking of table grapes and apples was completed. Strawberry growers were weeding fields.

Hay Stocks on Farm: Stocks of all hay on farms December 1, 1999 totaled 109 million tons, 3 percent below the stocks on farms December 1, 1998. Stock decreases occurred in 29 of the forty-eight contiguous States. Dry weather conditions in the Mid-Atlantic and Midwestern States played a major role in stock decreases. California, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee had stocks down by 15 percent or more. Oklahoma and Texas had the largest stock increases, up 38 and 20 percent respectively, from last December.

Information Contacts

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