



Crop Production

Released March 10, 2000, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Crop Production" call (202) 720-2127, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

U.S. Orange Production Up 3 Percent

All oranges production forecast for 1999-00 is 12.8 million tons, up 3 percent from last month's forecast and up 29 percent from last season's freeze-damaged crop. Florida's all orange forecast is 226 million boxes (10.2 million tons), 3 percent higher than the February 1 forecast and 22 percent higher than the 186 million boxes (8.36 million tons) utilized last season. Early and midseason varieties in Florida are forecast at 134 million boxes (6.03 million tons), 6 percent higher than a month ago and 20 percent higher than last season. Maturity is lagging and the rows remaining for harvest are the highest in the current 9-season series. Florida's Valencia forecast of 92.0 million boxes (4.14 million tons) remains unchanged and is 25 percent higher than last season's final utilization. Droppage remains well below average while the size is above average. However, the growth rate has leveled off as the fruit approaches maturity.

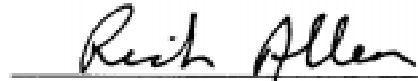
Texas orange production is forecast at 1.70 million boxes (73,000 tons), up 6 percent from last month and up 19 percent from last season. If realized, it will be the largest orange crop since the 1988-89 season when 1.85 million boxes were utilized. California's all orange production forecast of 67.0 million boxes (2.51 million tons) is carried forward from January and is 76 percent higher than last season's freeze-damaged crop. The Arizona orange forecast, also carried forward from January, is 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 1.54 gallons per box of 42.0 degree Brix concentrate, unchanged from February's projected yield. This projected yield is down from last season's record high 1.63 gallons per box. The early and midseason portion is projected at 1.48 gallons per box, while the late type (Valencia) orange yield is projected at 1.64 gallons per box, both unchanged from a month ago.

This report was approved on March 10, 2000.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Richard E. Rominger



Agricultural Statistics Board
Acting Chairperson
Rich Allen

Contents

	Page
Citrus	5
Crop Comments	12
Information Contacts	15
Papayas	4
Sugarcane	4
Weather Summary	12

**Sugarcane: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Use, State, and United States, 1998-99**

Use and State	Area Harvested		Yield ¹		Production ¹	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<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	426.0	444.0	40.1	35.0	17,083	15,540
HI ²	30.3	32.7	90.0	87.6	2,727	2,865
LA ²	400.0	435.0	29.7	33.0	11,880	14,355
TX ²	32.0	28.7	32.9	34.0	1,053	976
US	888.3	940.4	36.9	35.9	32,743	33,736
For Seed						
FL	21.0	16.0	40.1	42.5	842	680
HI ²	2.2	2.3	32.4	32.9	71	76
LA ²	35.0	30.0	29.7	33.0	1,040	990
TX ²	0.6	2.5	18.3	27.6	11	69
US	58.8	50.8	33.4	35.7	1,964	1,815
For Sugar and Seed						
FL	447.0	460.0	40.1	35.3	17,925	16,220
HI ²	32.5	35.0	86.1	84.0	2,798	2,941
LA ²	435.0	465.0	29.7	33.0	12,920	15,345
TX ²	32.6	31.2	32.6	33.5	1,064	1,045
US	947.1	991.2	36.6	35.9	34,707	35,551

¹ Net tons.

² Current estimates carried forward from earlier forecast.

Papayas: Area and Fresh Production, by Month, Hawaii, 1999-00

Month	Area				Fresh Production	
	Total in Crop		Harvested		1999	2000
	1999	2000	1999	2000		
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Jan	3,740	3,285	2,190	1,670	2,975	3,345
Feb	3,700	3,225	2,135	1,600	2,985	3,650

**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
1997-98, 1998-99 and Forecasted March 1, 2000¹**

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 Boxes²</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes²</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes²</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel ³						
AZ ⁴	350	550	600	13	21	23
CA ⁴	44,000	21,000	40,000	1,650	787	1,500
FL	140,000	112,000	134,000	6,300	5,040	6,030
TX	1,350	1,250	1,400	57	53	60
US	185,700	134,800	176,000	8,020	5,901	7,613
Valencia						
AZ ⁴	650	600	450	25	22	17
CA ⁴	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 ⁴	1,000	1,150	1,050	38	43	40
CA ⁴	69,000	38,000	67,000	2,588	1,425	2,513
FL	244,000	185,700	226,000	10,980	8,357	10,170
TX	1,525	1,430	1,700	64	61	73
US	315,525	226,280	295,750	13,670	9,886	12,796
Temples						
FL	2,250	1,800	2,100	101	81	95
Grapefruit						
White Seedless						
FL ⁵	18,300	17,800	18,500	777	757	786
Colored Seedless						
FL ⁶	30,600	28,700	27,000	1,301	1,220	1,148
Other						
FL	650	550	500	28	23	21
All						
AZ ⁴	800	750	800	27	25	27
CA ⁴	8,000	7,500	8,000	268	251	268
FL ^{5,6}	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 ^{4,7}	600	950	1,100	23	36	41
CA ^{4,7}	2,400	1,500	2,300	90	56	86
FL	5,200	4,950	6,800	247	235	323
US	8,200	7,400	10,200	360	327	450
Lemons ⁴						
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	2,500	128	115	113
K-Early Citrus						
FL	40	80	110	2	4	5

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

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 1999-00
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1999	2000	1999	2000
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	5,223.0		4,758.0	
Corn for Grain ²	77,431.0		70,537.0	
Corn for Silage			6,062.0	
Hay, All			63,160.0	
Alfalfa			23,985.0	
All Other			39,175.0	
Oats	4,670.0		2,453.0	
Proso Millet	600.0		540.0	
Rice	3,581.0		3,562.0	
Rye	1,582.0		383.0	
Sorghum for Grain ²	9,288.0		8,544.0	
Sorghum for Silage			320.0	
Wheat, All	62,814.0		53,909.0	
Winter	43,431.0	42,916.0	35,572.0	
Durum	4,035.0		3,569.0	
Other Spring	15,348.0		14,768.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,076.0		1,044.0	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	387.0		382.0	
Mustard Seed	60.8		58.8	
Peanuts	1,533.0		1,427.5	
Rapeseed	4.6		4.4	
Safflower	275.0		262.0	
Soybeans for Beans	73,780.0		72,476.0	
Sunflower	3,553.0		3,441.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	14,855.0		13,381.0	
Upland	14,565.0		13,093.0	
Amer-Pima	290.0		288.0	
Sugarbeets	1,562.7		1,527.1	
Sugarcane			991.2	
Tobacco			644.3	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	6.1		4.4	
Dry Edible Beans	2,023.0		1,877.0	
Dry Edible Peas	281.6		263.6	
Lentils	182.0		174.5	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			6.4	
Ginger Root (HI)			0.4	
Hops			34.3	
Peppermint Oil			106.3	
Potatoes, All	1,377.0		1,332.6	
Winter	18.1	18.2	17.8	18.0
Spring	86.8		84.5	
Summer	69.1		64.2	
Fall	1,203.0		1,166.1	
Spearmint Oil			24.4	
Sweet Potatoes	93.3		82.9	
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 2000 crop year. ² Area planted for all purposes. ³ Area is total acres in crop, not harvested acreage.

Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 1999-00
(Domestic Units)¹

Crop	Unit	Yield		Production	
		1999	2000	1999	2000
				<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Grains & Hay					
Barley	Bu	59.2		281,853	
Corn for Grain	"	133.8		9,437,337	
Corn for Silage	Ton	15.9		96,169	
Hay, All	"	2.52		159,077	
Alfalfa	"	3.50		83,924	
All Other	"	1.92		75,153	
Oats	Bu	59.6		146,218	
Proso Millet	"	33.2		17,910	
Rice ²	Cwt	5,908		210,458	
Rye	Bu	28.7		10,993	
Sorghum for Grain	"	69.7		595,166	
Sorghum for Silage	Ton	11.6		3,716	
Wheat, All	Bu	42.7		2,302,443	
Winter	"	47.8		1,699,989	
Durum	"	27.8		99,322	
Other Spring	"	34.1		503,132	
Oilseeds					
Canola	Lb	1,306		1,363,680	
Cottonseed ³	Ton			6,422	
Flaxseed	Bu	20.6		7,880	
Mustard Seed	Lb	816		48,010	
Peanuts	"	2,711		3,870,200	
Rapeseed	"	1,155		5,080	
Safflower	"	1,545		404,715	
Soybeans for Beans	Bu	36.5		2,642,908	
Sunflower	Lb	1,262		4,341,862	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops					
Cotton, All ²	Bale	608		16,952.9	
Upland ²	"	596		16,257.4	
Amer-Pima ²	"	1,159		695.5	
Sugarbeets	Ton	21.8		33,319	
Sugarcane	"	35.9		35,551	
Tobacco	Lb	1,980		1,275,438	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils					
Austrian Winter Peas ²	Cwt	1,364		60	
Dry Edible Beans ²	"	1,770		33,230	
Dry Edible Peas ²	"	1,908		5,030	
Lentils ²	"	1,368		2,387	
Wrinkled Seed Peas	"			658	
Potatoes & Misc.					
Coffee (HI)	Lb	1,640		10,500	
Ginger Root (HI)	"	46,000		16,100	
Hops	"	1,881		64,456	
Peppermint Oil	"	71		7,537	
Potatoes, All	Cwt	359		478,398	
Winter	"	229	256	4,070	4,600
Spring	"	300		25,327	
Summer	"	298		19,154	
Fall	"	369		429,847	
Spearmint Oil	Lb	101		2,454	
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt	145		11,980	
Taro (HI) ³	Lb			6,800	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2000 crop year. ² Yield in pounds. ³ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 1998-00
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Unit	Production		
		1998	1999	2000
		<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Citrus ²				
Grapefruit	Ton	2,593	2,520	2,470
K-Early Citrus (FL)	"	2	4	5
Lemons	"	897	747	916
Oranges	"	13,670	9,886	12,796
Tangelos (FL)	"	128	115	113
Tangerines	"	360	327	450
Temples (FL)	"	101	81	95
Non-Citrus				
Apples	1,000 Lbs	11,648.4	10,741.3	
Apricots	Ton	118.5	90.8	
Bananas (HI)	Lb	21,000.0	25,000.0	
Grapes	Ton	5,820.0	6,169.4	
Olives (CA)	"	90.0	145.0	
Papayas (HI)	Lb	39,900.0	42,000.0	
Peaches	1,000 Lbs	2,401.3	2,521.4	
Pears	Ton	955.1	981.6	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	"	108.0	178.0	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	"	25.6	22.9	
Nuts & Misc.				
Almonds (CA)	Lb	520,000	830,000	
Hazelnuts	Ton	15.5	38.0	
Pecans	Lb	146,400	341,700	
Pistachios (CA)	"	188,000	123,000	
Walnuts (CA)	Ton	227.0	283.0	
Maple Syrup	Gal	1,159	1,180	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2000 crop year.

² Production years are 1997-98, 1998-99, and 1999-00.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 1999-00
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1999	2000	1999	2000
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	2,113,700		1,925,520	
Corn for Grain ²	31,335,550		28,545,620	
Corn for Silage			2,453,230	
Hay, All ³			25,560,220	
Alfalfa			9,706,490	
All Other			15,853,730	
Oats	1,889,900		992,700	
Proso Millet	242,810		218,530	
Rice	1,449,190		1,441,510	
Rye	640,220		155,000	
Sorghum for Grain ²	3,758,760		3,457,670	
Sorghum for Silage			129,500	
Wheat, All ³	25,420,200		21,816,430	
Winter	17,576,090	17,367,680	14,395,630	
Durum	1,632,920		1,444,340	
Other Spring	6,211,180		5,976,460	
Oilseeds				
Canola	435,450		422,500	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	156,620		154,590	
Mustard Seed	24,610		23,800	
Peanuts	620,390		577,690	
Rapeseed	1,860		1,780	
Safflower	111,290		106,030	
Soybeans for Beans	29,858,030		29,330,310	
Sunflower	1,437,860		1,392,540	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ³	6,011,670		5,415,160	
Upland	5,894,310		5,298,610	
Amer-Pima	117,360		116,550	
Sugarbeets	632,410		618,000	
Sugarcane			401,130	
Tobacco			260,720	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	2,470		1,780	
Dry Edible Beans	818,690		759,600	
Dry Edible Peas	113,960		106,680	
Lentils	73,650		70,620	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			2,590	
Ginger Root (HI)			140	
Hops			13,860	
Peppermint Oil			43,020	
Potatoes, All ³	557,260		539,290	
Winter	7,320	7,370	7,200	7,280
Spring	35,130		34,200	
Summer	27,960		25,980	
Fall	486,840		471,910	
Spearmint Oil			9,870	
Sweet Potatoes	37,760		33,550	
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 2000 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, 1999-00
(Metric Units)¹

Crop	Yield		Production	
	1999	2000	1999	2000
	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	3.19		6,136,620	
Corn for Grain	8.40		239,719,400	
Corn for Silage	35.56		87,243,050	
Hay, All ²	5.65		144,312,230	
Alfalfa	7.84		76,134,570	
All Other	4.30		68,177,650	
Oats	2.14		2,122,350	
Proso Millet	1.86		406,190	
Rice	6.62		9,546,210	
Rye	1.80		279,240	
Sorghum for Grain	4.37		15,117,910	
Sorghum for Silage	26.03		3,371,100	
Wheat, All ²	2.87		62,662,230	
Winter	3.21		46,266,120	
Durum	1.87		2,703,100	
Other Spring	2.29		13,693,010	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.46		618,550	
Cottonseed ³			5,826,300	
Flaxseed	1.29		200,160	
Mustard Seed	0.92		21,780	
Peanuts	3.04		1,755,490	
Rapeseed	1.29		2,300	
Safflower	1.73		183,580	
Soybeans for Beans	2.45		71,928,170	
Sunflower	1.41		1,969,440	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ²	0.68		3,691,060	
Upland	0.67		3,539,630	
Amer-Pima	1.30		151,430	
Sugarbeets	48.91		30,226,490	
Sugarcane	80.40		32,251,320	
Tobacco	2.22		578,530	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	1.53		2,720	
Dry Edible Beans	1.98		1,507,290	
Dry Edible Peas	2.14		228,160	
Lentils	1.53		108,270	
Wrinkled Seed Peas			29,850	
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)	1.84		4,760	
Ginger Root (HI)	51.56		7,300	
Hops	2.11		29,240	
Peppermint Oil	0.08		3,420	
Potatoes, All ²	40.24		21,699,770	
Winter	25.63	28.64	184,610	208,650
Spring	33.59		1,148,810	
Summer	33.44		868,810	
Fall	41.32		19,497,530	
Spearmint Oil	0.11		1,110	
Sweet Potatoes	16.20		543,400	
Taro (HI) ³			3,080	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2000 crop year. ² Production may not add due to rounding. ³ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 1998-00
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Production		
	1998	1999	2000
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>
Citrus ²			
Grapefruit	2,352,330	2,286,110	2,240,750
K-Early Citrus (FL)	1,810	3,630	4,540
Lemons	813,740	677,670	830,980
Oranges	12,401,220	8,968,430	11,608,340
Tangelos (FL)	116,120	104,330	102,510
Tangerines	326,590	296,650	408,230
Temples (FL)	91,630	73,480	86,180
Non-Citrus			
Apples	5,283,630	4,872,170	
Apricots	107,500	82,370	
Bananas (HI)	9,530	11,340	
Grapes	5,279,770	5,596,810	
Olives (CA)	81,650	131,540	
Papayas (HI)	18,100	19,050	
Peaches	1,089,210	1,143,690	
Pears	866,490	890,450	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	97,980	161,480	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	23,220	20,770	
Nuts & Misc.			
Almonds (CA)	235,870	376,480	
Hazelnuts	14,060	34,470	
Pecans	66,410	154,990	
Pistachios (CA)	85,280	55,790	
Walnuts (CA)	205,930	256,730	
Maple Syrup	5,790	5,900	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2000 crop year.

² Production years are 1997-98, 1998-99, and 1999-00.

February Weather Summary

A very active and persistent storm track provided drought relief to many areas, including the western Corn Belt and Ohio Valley, but failed to deliver significant moisture into the South. As a result, dryness--exacerbated by persistent warmth--intensified in areas from southern Arizona to the southern Atlantic Coast, including the southern High Plains. Although the South's warm, dry weather favored pre-planting fieldwork and early summer-crop planting, pastures and dryland winter grains remained drought-stressed. In addition, the continuing dryness increased irrigation requirements and heightened the risk of wildfires, especially across Florida and southern Georgia. Meanwhile, frequent late-month precipitation on the central and southeastern Plains improved soil moisture for winter wheat, which broke dormancy and began to develop due to unusually warm conditions. Continuing a trend that developed in mid-January, unsettled, showery conditions prevailed in most of the West, further improving soil moisture reserves, high-elevation snow packs, and spring runoff prospects. Some of the heaviest precipitation fell in California, where spring fieldwork was delayed by cool, wet weather.

Cold weather eased across the South and East early in the month, then made a brief mid-month appearance on the northern Plains. Otherwise, unusually mild weather prevailed nearly nationwide, capped by a spell of warmth that produced about two dozen monthly record high temperatures from February 22-29. Monthly temperatures averaged at least 4 degrees F above normal in nearly all areas from the Intermountain West to the East Coast. Departures peaked around +12 degrees F in the upper Midwest and across southern Texas. Exceptions to the warm pattern included California and northern New England, where temperatures averaged within 3 degrees F of normal.

General Crop Comments: Dry weather prevailed in the Great Plains early in the month, with near-drought conditions developing in many areas from Texas to North Dakota. Light, scattered precipitation eased moisture shortages in parts of the central and southern Great Plains, but most of the northern and southern Great Plains received little or no precipitation until the second half of the month. A narrow band of heavy precipitation eased drought conditions in eastern Texas late in the month. However, in the Texas High Plains, wheat conditions steadily deteriorated and fieldwork slowed due to dry weather and wind erosion. In the central and northern Great Plains, above-normal temperatures and late-month rains reduced, and in many areas eliminated, protective snow cover. However, damage to winter wheat due to cold weather was minimal and the late-month rains improved soil moisture supplies. Rain and warm weather stimulated winter wheat growth in Oklahoma and Kansas late in the month, as most wheat fields broke dormancy. In the soft red winter wheat areas of the eastern Corn Belt and Ohio River Valley, near-normal and below-normal temperatures prevailed at the beginning of the month. However, adequate snow cover, especially near the Great Lakes, protected wheat fields from the cold weather. Above-normal temperatures prevailed the remainder of the month and, shortly after mid-month, a band of rain that centered over the Ohio River Valley boosted soil moisture supplies in the eastern and southern Corn Belt.

Rainfall was significantly below normal in the lower Mississippi Valley, Southeast, and along the Coastal Plains, even though winter storms delivered a mixture of rain and freezing precipitation to most areas during the month. Below-normal temperatures during the first half of the month provided beneficial chill hours for fruit trees in the Southeast. In Florida, over-night lows briefly dipped below freezing in northern areas of the State and some citrus groves experienced frost, but tree and fruit damage was minimal. However, dry weather forced citrus growers to irrigate groves most of the month to maintain good tree health. By the end of the month, most well cared for trees were putting on new growth and developing bloom buds. Field activities continued with few delays along the Gulf Coast from Texas to Florida. Corn planting began in southeastern Texas early in the month, and cotton planting began in the Coastal Bend near the end of the month.

A stormy pattern prevailed along the Pacific Coast. In northern California, small grains, winter forages, new alfalfa, and emerging sugarbeets improved due to early-month rainfall. Also, dryland grain and oat fields germinated and emerged. Above-normal temperatures and improved moisture supplies stimulated growth of emerged crops. However, some low-lying wheat fields were temporarily flooded due to heavy rainfall. Rain periodically delayed field and orchard work in central and northern California and eased dry conditions along the southern coast, but inland areas of the Southwest remained excessively dry and fieldwork was mostly uninterrupted. In the southern San Joaquin Valley, growers planted corn for grain and silage and prepared

cotton, safflower, and sunflower fields for spring planting. The grapefruit and lemon harvests remained active in southern California, and navel orange picking continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Almonds and stone fruits began blooming.

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 1999-00 grapefruit crop for the United States remains unchanged at 2.47 million tons, representing a 2 percent decline 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 from last month but up 4 percent from last year. The colored seedless utilization is expected at 27.0 million boxes (1.15 million tons), also unchanged, but 6 percent less than the 1998-99 season. White seedless fruit size continued to increase slightly, but the colored showed a slight decrease. Both varieties are below the nine-season average. Loss from droppage is slightly below average for whites and slightly above on the colored. Lagging maturity has delayed the harvest and spot picking has been more prevalent than in recent seasons. The seedy grapefruit forecast remains at 500,000 boxes (21,000 tons), 9 percent below last season. Seedy fruit size is average, but loss from droppage continues well below average. Final utilization is dependent on load tickets at the processing plant since this variety is only recorded as processed use.

The March 1 forecast of Texas grapefruit is 5.50 million boxes (220,000 tons), unchanged from last month and down 10 percent from last season. The California and Arizona forecasts are carried forward from earlier forecasts.

Tangelos: The 1999-00 tangelo forecast from Florida is decreased to 2.50 million boxes (113,000 tons), 4 percent lower than last month and 2 percent lower than last season's final utilization. The reduction is based on the Row Count Survey which indicated that 13 percent of the rows remain to be harvested. It will require complete harvest to make this forecast.

Tangerines: The 1999-00 U.S. tangerine crop forecast is increased to a record large 450,000 tons, up 38 percent from the freeze-damaged crop last season. Florida's tangerine forecast is a record large 6.80 million boxes (323,000 tons), 37 percent larger than last season. The early tangerine varieties harvest of Robinson, Fallglo, and Dancy is complete. The harvest of the Sunburst tangerine, also an early variety, is still underway. The late season Honey tangerine harvest is gaining momentum. Fruit size is average, but loss from droppage is the lowest in the nine-year series. The California and Arizona tangerine forecasts are carried forward from earlier forecasts.

Temples: Florida's 1999-00 Temple forecast of 2.10 million boxes (94,500 tons) is continued and is 17 percent higher than the 1.80 million boxes recorded last season. The crop is lagging in maturity. Average fruit size remains below average. Loss from droppage is near the lowest of the previous nine seasons.

K-Early Citrus: The K-Early Citrus Fruit forecast is increased to 110,000 boxes (5,000 tons), 10,000 more boxes than last month. This level will be more than each of the preceding two seasons, but less than in 1996-97.

Florida Citrus: February was a very dry month in Florida's citrus belt. Many growers have been irrigating constantly to maintain good tree condition for the upcoming bloom period. By the end of the month, most groves in the southern part of the state had new growth and pin head bloom buds. Well-cared-for orange groves in the south are in bloom. Fruit loss from droppage on this season's crops continues below average in all areas. Fruit sizes are progressing well with the help of irrigation. Harvest of early and midseason oranges

was very active during February with average weekly movement exceeding eight million boxes per week. Movement of all grapefruit was also very active with several processors receiving grove run fruit. Honey tangerines and Temples were picked for both fresh and processed utilization. Caretakers were operating their irrigation equipment and cutting cover crops for fire protection. Hedging and topping were reported in all areas. Very few burn permits were being issued due to the extreme dry conditions.

Texas Citrus: The grapefruit and orange harvests continued in February with the grapefruit about three-fourths complete. The early and midseason orange harvest is nearly complete. The Valencia orange harvest is well underway. February has been dry, but enough water is available to get through the end of the season. However, rain is needed to replenish the depleted supplies.

California Citrus: Navel orange picking was hampered by occasional rain showers throughout February. Close to one-half of the crop was picked by March 1. The rain improved the size and sugar acid ratio, but growers were concerned about puff and crease. Valencia orange picking began in the desert area by late February. Picking of grapefruit, lemons and tangerines was active.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: Cultural activities of fruit and nut growers were slowed in February due to wet weather. When possible, growers were pruning and planting trees and vines. Almonds were in full bloom by March 1. Bee colonies were placed in almond orchards for pollination, but wet, cool weather hampered the bees' activity. Peaches, nectarines, and plums also began blooming. Fungicides were sprayed on fruit and nut trees for fungus and brown rot. Strawberry nursery plant digging was active.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya production is estimated at 3.65 million pounds for February, 9 percent more than January and 22 percent more than February 1999. Area in crop totaled 3,225 acres, 2 percent lower than last month and 13 percent lower than a year ago. Harvested area, totaling 1,600 acres, was 4 percent lower than January and 25 percent lower than last February. Weather conditions were mostly sunny during February. The drier condition has minimized disease damage. Seasonally cool temperatures, however, have slowed fruit maturity.

Sugarcane: Production for the 1999 crop year is estimated at a record high 35.6 million tons, 2 percent above the previous record of 34.7 million tons set last year. Harvested acres is estimated at a record high 991,200 acres for sugar and seed, 5 percent more than the 1998 final harvested acres. The record high acreage is due to a 30,000 acre expansion in Louisiana and a 13,000 acre increase in Florida. Yield is estimated at 35.9 tons per acre, 0.7 tons below the 1998 yield of 36.6 tons. Louisiana's estimated yield, at 33.0 tons per acre is a record high, 3.3 tons above the previous record high set in 1998. In Florida, grinding was active and sugarcane harvest neared completion, as dry weather aided progress throughout the month.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information.

C. Ray Halley, Chief (202) 720-2127

Field Crops Section

Brad Parks, Head (202) 720-2127
Rhonda Brandt - Corn, Proso Millet (202) 720-9526
Herman Ellison - Peanuts, Rice (202) 720-7688
Lance Honig - Wheat, Rye (202) 720-8068
Jay V. Johnson - Cotton, Cotton Ginnings (202) 720-5944
Roy Karkosh - Hay, Sorghum, Barley (202) 690-3234
Mark E. Miller - Oats, Sugar Crops, Weekly Crop Weather (202) 720-7621
Jerry Ramirez - Soybeans, Minor Oilseeds (202) 720-7369

Fruit, Vegetable & Special Crops Section

Jim Smith, Head (202) 720-2127
Arvin Budge - Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes (202) 720-4285
Dave DeWalt - Citrus, Tropical Fruits (202) 720-5412
Debbie Flippin - Fresh and Processing Vegetables (202) 720-3250
Steve Gunn - Apples, Cherries, Cranberries, Prunes, Plums (202) 720-4488
Jeffrey Kissel - Noncitrus Fruits, Mint, Dry Beans & Peas,
Mushrooms (202) 690-0270
Keith Lacy - Berries, Grapes, Maple Syrup, Tobacco (202) 720-7235
Kim Ritchie - Hops (360) 902-1940
Dave Ranek - Nuts, Floriculture (202) 720-4215
Biz Wallingsford - Fresh and Processing Vegetables, Onions,
Strawberries (202) 720-2157

The next "Crop Production" report will be released at 8:30 a.m. ET on April 11, 2000.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ACCESS TO REPORTS!!

For your convenience, there are several ways to obtain NASS reports, data products, and services:

INTERNET ACCESS

All NASS reports are available free of charge on the worldwide Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and go to the NASS Home Page at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. Select "Today's Reports" or Publications and then Reports by Calendar or Publications and then Search, by Title or Subject.

E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION

There are two options for subscribing via e-mail. All NASS reports are available by subscription free of charge direct to your e-mail address. 1) Starting with the NASS Home Page at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>, click on **Publications**, then click on the **Subscribe by E-mail** button which takes you to the page describing e-mail delivery of reports. Finally, click on **Go to the Subscription Page** and follow the instructions. 2) If you do NOT have Internet access, send an e-mail message to: usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu. In the body of the message type the word: **list**.

AUTOFAX ACCESS

NASSFax service is available for some reports from your fax machine. Please call 202-720-2000, using the handset attached to your fax. Respond to the voice prompts. Document 0411 is a list of available reports.

PRINTED REPORTS OR DATA PRODUCTS

CALL OUR TOLL-FREE ORDER DESK: 800-999-6779 (U.S. and Canada)
Other areas, please call 703-834-0125 FAX: 703-834-0110
(Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order acceptable for payment.)

ASSISTANCE

For **assistance** with general agricultural statistics or further information about NASS or its products or services, contact the **Agricultural Statistics Hotline** at **800-727-9540**, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.