



Crop Production

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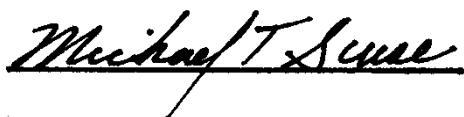
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Orange Production Unchanged from January Forecast

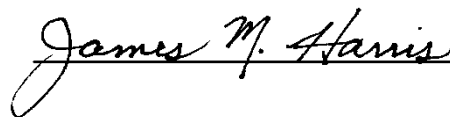
The United States all orange forecast for the 2013-2014 season is 7.39 million tons, unchanged from the previous forecast but down 11 percent from the 2012-2013 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 115 million boxes (5.18 million tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but down 14 percent from last season's final utilization. Early, midseason, and Navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 54.0 million boxes (2.43 million tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but down 20 percent from last season. The Row Count Survey conducted on January 28-29, 2014, showed about 75 percent of the Early-Midseason rows and 87 percent of the Navel rows had been harvested. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 61.0 million boxes (2.75 million tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but down 8 percent from last season's final utilization. California and Texas forecasts are carried forward from January.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield forecast for the 2013-2014 season is 1.61 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, unchanged from the January forecast but up 1 percent from last season's final yield of 1.59 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion is projected at 1.53 gallons per box, up 1 percent from last season's yield of 1.51 gallons per box. The Valencia portion is projected at 1.69 gallons per box, unchanged from last year's final yield. All projections of yield assume the processing relationships this season will be similar to those of the past several seasons.

This report was approved on February 10, 2014.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Michael T. Scuse



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
James M. Harris

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Sugarcane Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by Use – States and United States: 2012 and 2013

Use and State	Area harvested		Yield per acre ¹		Production ¹	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(tons)	(tons)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
For sugar						
Florida	396.0	397.0	36.6	36.6	14,494	14,530
Hawaii ²	15.9	16.0	79.4	85.5	1,262	1,368
Louisiana ²	400.0	410.0	33.0	32.0	13,200	13,120
Texas ²	43.0	34.1	35.9	42.4	1,544	1,446
United States	854.9	857.1	35.7	35.5	30,500	30,464
For seed						
Florida	17.0	16.0	42.7	43.3	726	693
Hawaii ²	1.5	1.5	30.0	30.0	45	45
Louisiana ²	28.0	30.0	33.0	32.0	924	960
Texas ²	1.0	1.0	32.0	37.0	32	37
United States	47.5	48.5	36.4	35.8	1,727	1,735
For sugar and seed						
Florida	413.0	413.0	36.9	36.9	15,220	15,223
Hawaii ²	17.4	17.5	75.1	80.7	1,307	1,413
Louisiana ²	428.0	440.0	33.0	32.0	14,124	14,080
Texas ²	44.0	35.1	35.8	42.3	1,576	1,483
United States	902.4	905.6	35.7	35.6	32,227	32,199

¹ Net tons.

² Estimates are carried forward from the *Crop Production 2013 Summary* released January 2014.

Utilized Production of Citrus Fruits by Crop – States and United States: 2012-2013 and Forecasted February 1, 2014

[The crop year begins with the bloom of the first year shown and ends with the completion of harvest the following year]

Crop and State	Utilized production boxes ¹		Utilized production ton equivalent	
	2012-2013	2013-2014	2012-2013	2013-2014
	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
Oranges				
Early, mid, and Navel ²				
California ³	44,000	42,000	1,760	1,680
Florida	67,100	54,000	3,020	2,430
Texas ³	1,499	1,455	64	62
United States	112,599	97,455	4,844	4,172
Valencia				
California ³	12,500	11,500	500	460
Florida	66,500	61,000	2,993	2,745
Texas ³	289	370	12	16
United States	79,289	72,870	3,505	3,221
All				
California ³	56,500	53,500	2,260	2,140
Florida	133,600	115,000	6,013	5,175
Texas ³	1,788	1,825	76	78
United States	191,888	170,325	8,349	7,393
Grapefruit				
White				
Florida	5,250	4,500	223	191
Colored				
Florida	13,100	12,500	557	531
All				
California ³	4,000	4,000	160	160
Florida	18,350	17,000	780	722
Texas ³	6,100	5,370	244	215
United States	28,450	26,370	1,184	1,097
Tangerines and mandarins				
Arizona ^{3 4}	200	200	8	8
California ^{3 4}	13,000	13,200	520	528
Florida	3,280	3,500	156	166
United States	16,480	16,900	684	702
Lemons ³				
Arizona	1,800	1,785	72	71
California	21,000	20,000	840	800
United States	22,800	21,785	912	871
Tangelos				
Florida	1,000	800	45	36

¹ Net pounds per box: oranges in California-80, Florida-90, Texas-85; grapefruit in California-80, Florida-85, Texas-80; tangerines and mandarins in Arizona and California-80, Florida-95; lemons-80; tangelos-90.

² Navel and miscellaneous varieties in California. Early (including Navel) and midseason varieties in Florida and Texas. Small quantities of tangerines in Texas and Temples in Florida.

³ Estimates for current year carried forward from previous forecast.

⁴ Includes tangelos and tangors.

Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2013 and 2014

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2014 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)
Grains and hay				
Barley	3,480		3,000	
Corn for grain ¹	95,365		87,668	
Corn for silage	(NA)		6,256	
Hay, all	(NA)		58,257	
Alfalfa	(NA)		17,763	
All other	(NA)		40,494	
Oats	3,010		1,030	
Proso millet	720		638	
Rice	2,489		2,468	
Rye	1,446		278	
Sorghum for grain ¹	8,061		6,530	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		380	
Wheat, all	56,156		45,157	
Winter	43,090	41,892	32,402	
Durum	1,470		1,421	
Other spring	11,596		11,334	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,348.0		1,264.5	
Cottonseed	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed	181		172	
Mustard seed	45.0		43.4	
Peanuts	1,067.0		1,042.0	
Rapeseed	1.7		1.7	
Safflower	175.5		170.0	
Soybeans for beans	76,533		75,869	
Sunflower	1,575.5		1,474.6	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all	10,407.0		7,664.4	
Upland	10,206.0		7,465.0	
American Pima	201.0		199.4	
Sugarbeets	1,198.1		1,154.2	
Sugarcane	(NA)		905.6	
Tobacco	(NA)		355.7	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	18.0		14.1	
Dry edible beans	1,354.7		1,311.3	
Dry edible peas	860.0		797.0	
Lentils	362.0		347.0	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	(NA)		7.3	
Hops	(NA)		35.2	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		68.8	
Potatoes, all	1,066.5		1,052.0	
Spring	75.9		72.9	
Summer	48.7		47.5	
Fall	941.9		931.6	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		24.5	
Sweet potatoes	115.7		113.2	
Taro (Hawaii) ²	(NA)		0.4	

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Domestic Units – United States:
2013 and 2014 (continued)**

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2014 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per acre		Production	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
			(1,000)	(1,000)
Grains and hay				
Barley	bushels	71.7	215,078	
Corn for grain	bushels	158.8	13,925,147	
Corn for silage	tons	18.8	117,851	
Hay, all	tons	2.33	135,946	
Alfalfa	tons	3.24	57,581	
All other	tons	1.94	78,365	
Oats	bushels	64.0	65,879	
Proso millet	bushels	28.9	18,436	
Rice ³	cwt	7,694	189,886	
Rye	bushels	27.6	7,669	
Sorghum for grain	bushels	59.6	389,046	
Sorghum for silage	tons	14.3	5,420	
Wheat, all	bushels	47.2	2,129,695	
Winter	bushels	47.4	1,534,253	
Durum	bushels	43.6	61,913	
Other spring	bushels	47.1	533,529	
Oilseeds				
Canola	pounds	1,748	2,210,505	
Cottonseed	tons	(X)	4,406.0	
Flaxseed	bushels	19.5	3,356	
Mustard seed	pounds	846	36,727	
Peanuts	pounds	4,006	4,174,180	
Rapeseed	pounds	1,141	1,940	
Safflower	pounds	1,232	209,461	
Soybeans for beans	bushels	43.3	3,288,833	
Sunflower	pounds	1,378	2,032,725	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ³	bales	826	13,186.7	
Upland ³	bales	807	12,551.0	
American Pima ³	bales	1,530	635.7	
Sugarbeets	tons	28.5	32,837	
Sugarcane	tons	35.6	32,199	
Tobacco	pounds	2,036	724,108	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas ³	cwt	1,617	228	
Dry edible beans ³	cwt	1,867	24,486	
Dry edible peas ³	cwt	1,960	15,620	
Lentils ³	cwt	1,446	5,019	
Wrinkled seed peas	cwt	(NA)	275	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	pounds	960	7,000	
Hops	pounds	1,969	69,343.9	
Peppermint oil	pounds	89	6,132	
Potatoes, all	cwt	416	437,483	
Spring	cwt	304	22,137	
Summer	cwt	363	17,240	
Fall	cwt	427	398,106	
Spearmint oil	pounds	119	2,926	
Sweet potatoes	cwt	219	24,785	
Taro (Hawaii)	pounds	(NA)	3,100	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Area planted for all purposes.

² Area is total acres in crop, not harvested acres.

³ Yield in pounds.

Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Metric Units – United States: 2013 and 2014

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2014 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)
Grains and hay				
Barley	1,408,320		1,214,070	
Corn for grain ¹	38,593,260		35,478,360	
Corn for silage	(NA)		2,531,740	
Hay, all ²	(NA)		23,576,030	
Alfalfa	(NA)		7,188,510	
All other	(NA)		16,387,520	
Oats	1,218,120		416,830	
Proso millet	291,380		258,190	
Rice	1,007,270		998,770	
Rye	585,180		112,500	
Sorghum for grain ¹	3,262,210		2,642,630	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		153,780	
Wheat, all ²	22,725,770		18,274,590	
Winter	17,438,090	16,953,270	13,112,770	
Durum	594,890		575,060	
Other spring	4,692,790		4,586,760	
Oilseeds				
Canola	545,520		511,730	
Cottonseed	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed	73,250		69,610	
Mustard seed	18,210		17,560	
Peanuts	431,800		421,690	
Rapeseed	690		690	
Safflower	71,020		68,800	
Soybeans for beans	30,972,140		30,703,430	
Sunflower	637,590		596,760	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ²	4,211,610		3,101,710	
Upland	4,130,270		3,021,010	
American Pima	81,340		80,700	
Sugarbeets	484,860		467,090	
Sugarcane	(NA)		366,490	
Tobacco	(NA)		143,940	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	7,280		5,710	
Dry edible beans	548,230		530,670	
Dry edible peas	348,030		322,540	
Lentils	146,500		140,430	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	(NA)		2,950	
Hops	(NA)		14,250	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		27,840	
Potatoes, all ²	431,600		425,730	
Spring	30,720		29,500	
Summer	19,710		19,220	
Fall	381,180		377,010	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		9,910	
Sweet potatoes	46,820		45,810	
Taro (Hawaii) ³	(NA)		160	

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Metric Units – United States:
2013 and 2014 (continued)**

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2014 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per hectare		Production	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)
Grains and hay				
Barley	3.86		4,682,770	
Corn for grain	9.97		353,715,030	
Corn for silage	42.23		106,912,630	
Hay, all ²	5.23		123,328,140	
Alfalfa	7.27		52,236,600	
All other	4.34		71,091,530	
Oats	2.29		956,230	
Proso millet	1.62		418,120	
Rice	8.62		8,613,080	
Rye	1.73		194,800	
Sorghum for grain	3.74		9,882,220	
Sorghum for silage	31.97		4,916,940	
Wheat, all ²	3.17		57,960,800	
Winter	3.18		41,755,520	
Durum	2.93		1,685,000	
Other spring	3.17		14,520,280	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.96		1,002,670	
Cottonseed	(X)		3,997,060	
Flaxseed	1.22		85,250	
Mustard seed	0.95		16,660	
Peanuts	4.49		1,893,380	
Rapeseed	1.28		880	
Safflower	1.38		95,010	
Soybeans for beans	2.92		89,507,370	
Sunflower	1.55		922,030	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ²	0.93		2,871,070	
Upland	0.90		2,732,660	
American Pima	1.72		138,410	
Sugarbeets	63.78		29,789,230	
Sugarcane	79.70		29,210,440	
Tobacco	2.28		328,450	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	1.81		10,340	
Dry edible beans	2.09		1,110,670	
Dry edible peas	2.20		708,510	
Lentils	1.62		227,660	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		12,470	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	1.07		3,180	
Hops	2.21		31,450	
Peppermint oil	0.10		2,780	
Potatoes, all ²	46.61		19,843,900	
Spring	34.04		1,004,120	
Summer	40.68		781,990	
Fall	47.90		18,057,790	
Spearmint oil	0.13		1,330	
Sweet potatoes	24.54		1,124,230	
Taro (Hawaii)	(NA)		1,410	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Area planted for all purposes.

² Total may not add due to rounding.

³ Area is total hectares in crop, not harvested hectares.

Fruits and Nuts Production – United States: 2013 and 2014 (Domestic Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2014 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2013-2014 season. Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2013 (1,000)	2014 (1,000)
Citrus ¹		
Grapefruit	1,184	1,097
Lemons	912	871
Oranges	8,349	7,393
Tangelos (Florida)	45	36
Tangerines and mandarins	684	702
Noncitrus		
Apples 1,000 pounds		
Apricots		
Bananas (Hawaii)		
Grapes		
Olives (California)		
Papayas (Hawaii)		
Peaches		
Pears		
Prunes, dried (California)		
Prunes and plums (excludes California)		
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California)		
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon)		
Pecans, in-shell		
Walnuts, in-shell (California)		
Maple syrup	3,253	

¹ Production years are 2012-2013 and 2013-2014.

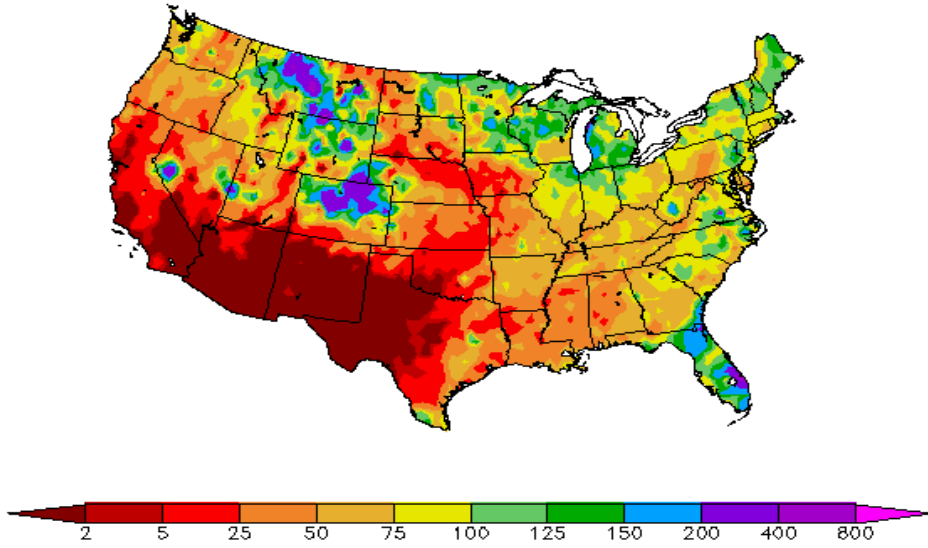
Fruits and Nuts Production in Metric Units – United States: 2013 and 2014

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2014 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2013-2014 season. Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2013 (metric tons)	2014 (metric tons)
Citrus ¹		
Grapefruit	1,074,110	995,180
Lemons	827,350	790,160
Oranges	7,574,090	6,706,820
Tangelos (Florida)	40,820	32,660
Tangerines and mandarins	620,510	636,840
Noncitrus		
Apples		
Apricots		
Bananas (Hawaii)		
Grapes		
Olives (California)		
Papayas (Hawaii)		
Peaches		
Pears		
Prunes, dried (California)		
Prunes and plums (excludes California)		
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California)		
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon)		
Pecans, in-shell		
Walnuts, in-shell (California)		
Maple syrup	16,260	

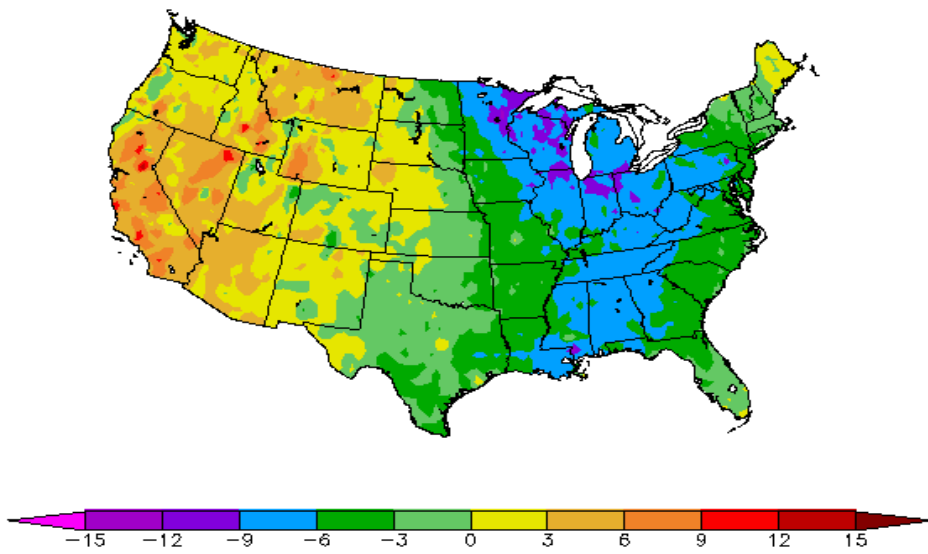
¹ Production years are 2012-2013 and 2013-2014.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
1/1/2014 - 1/31/2014



Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/1/2014 - 1/31/2014



Regional Climate Centers

January Weather Summary

California's drought crisis deepened, despite some late-month rain and snow. For much of the month, the western United States, particularly California, endured warm, dry conditions. As a result, California, the Great Basin, and parts of the Southwest faced nearly insurmountable odds of overcoming huge season-to-date precipitation deficits by the end of winter - and the likelihood of completing a third year of drought. In addition to California's impending water-supply crisis, drought impacts included poor rangeland conditions, severe stress on rain-fed winter grains, and depleted soil moisture reserves.

In stark contrast, colder-than-normal conditions accompanied occasional winter storms across the eastern half of the Nation. Several periods of bitterly cold weather gripped the Midwest, South, and East, resulting in the lowest temperatures in one to three decades. Frigid conditions were especially persistent across the upper Midwest, maintaining stress on livestock in the wake of a cold December. Among a number of notable storms were an early-month blizzard in parts of the Midwest and a late-month snow and ice event across the Deep South.

Between the Western warmth and Eastern chill, highly variable temperatures affected the Plains. In addition, January precipitation was scarce across the Nation's mid-section, leaving winter wheat exposed at times to bitterly cold conditions. More specifically, wheat in parts of Nebraska and environs was not insulated by snow when temperatures plunged below 0°F on January 6, 23, and 27-28. As a result of unfavorable weather, wheat conditions declined during January. For example, the portion of the wheat rated good to excellent fell from 70 percent to 60 percent in South Dakota; 65 percent to 46 percent in Nebraska; 60 percent to 46 percent in Montana; 63 percent to 36 percent in Oklahoma; and 58 percent to 35 percent in Kansas. Texas wheat, already stressed by drought, was rated 19 percent good to excellent and 41 percent very poor to poor by month's end.

January Agricultural Summary

January temperatures were below-normal in most areas east of the Great Plains. However, some areas in California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, and Wyoming recorded temperatures for the month over 6°F above normal. Almost all areas east of the Mississippi River recorded over 1 inch of precipitation for the month, while rain and snowfall in the western United States was much more scattered. The lack of rainfall in California and Nevada led to increasingly more severe drought conditions across the area.

As the month began, growers in most citrus producing States were harvesting early and mid-season citrus crops. Despite initial dry conditions and only average to above-average precipitation for the month in Florida, the majority of the active commercial citrus groves in the State were drought free. Field workers reported small sizes on all varieties.

Above-average temperatures in California have had a positive effect on irrigated fields, fruit, and vegetable crops in the State. Abnormally dry conditions have caused dryland small grains to experience varying levels of stress and poor germination. Range and non-irrigated pasture conditions continue to be rated in mostly poor to fair condition.

Little to no snow cover in most of the Plains region has had a negative effect on winter wheat conditions with many producers concerned with winterkill on their crop. By February 2, winter wheat rated in good to excellent condition was 35 percent in Kansas, 36 percent in Oklahoma, and 19 percent in Texas.

Crop Comments

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast is 800,000 boxes (36,000 tons), down 20 percent from the January forecast and last season's final utilization. The Row Count Survey conducted January 28-29 showed 67 percent of the rows were harvested.

Grapefruit: The 2013-2014 United States grapefruit crop is forecast at 1.10 million tons, up 2 percent from the January forecast but down 7 percent from last season's final utilization. In Florida, fruit size is slightly above the minimum and droppage is the highest of any non-hurricane season for both white and colored grapefruit. California and Texas grapefruit production forecasts are carried forward from the January 1 forecast.

Tangerines and mandarins: The United States tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 702,000 tons, up 1 percent from the January forecast and up 3 percent from last season's final utilization. In Florida, early tangerine harvest is complete and droppage is near average. Arizona and California estimates are carried forward from the January 1 forecast.

Florida citrus: High temperatures reported during the month ranged from the low 70s to the low 80s. Rainfall was light as the dry season continued. The abnormally dry conditions observed in the citrus producing regions continued, but the western area remained drought free. Field workers reported small sizes on all varieties. Grove activity included harvesting, resetting of new trees, pushing of dead groves, replanting new citrus, mowing, fertilizing, and psyllid control. About 91 percent of packinghouses have opened and begun shipping small quantities of fruit. Fifteen of nineteen processing plants were open so far this season.

California citrus: Harvest of navel oranges, Satsuma mandarins, Clementine tangerines, and lemons continued at a slow pace. Murcott tangerine harvest began. Grapefruit and pommelo harvests were complete in Tulare County. Minneola tangelo harvest was expected to start soon.

California noncitrus fruits and nuts: Growers across California reported concerns due to prolonged lack of rain. Orchards and vineyards required irrigation in January due to drought conditions. Pruning of fruit trees continued. Early variety stone fruit trees were beginning to bloom with the warm weather; pre-emergent sprays were applied throughout the month. Cherry growers applied lime sulfur to their orchards. Early blueberry varieties were blooming in the San Joaquin Valley. New blueberry fields were planted. Strawberry transplants were planted in Monterey County. Avocados were harvested. Farmers continued to prune kiwi and grape vines. Discing, shredding brush, and trellis work were also ongoing. Grapes in the Central Valley were experiencing bud swell early due to the warm temperatures. Pruning, irrigating, and spraying of almond, pistachio, and walnut orchards continued. Almond trees were close to bloom. Dormant sprays were applied to nut trees. Nut tree removals were ongoing and land was prepared for tree planting.

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2013 is forecast at 32.2 million tons, down fractionally from both January and last year. Producers intend to harvest 905,600 acres for sugar and seed during the 2013 crop year, unchanged from the previous forecast. Yield for sugar and seed is forecast at 35.6 tons per acre, unchanged from January. In Florida, rain and freezing temperatures in January delayed some harvesting. Estimates for Hawaii, Texas, and Louisiana were carried forward from January.

Statistical Methodology

Survey procedures: The orange objective yield survey for the February 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which produces about 68 percent of the United States production. Bearing tree numbers are determined at the start of the season based on a fruit tree census conducted every other year, combined with ongoing review based on administrative data or special surveys. From mid-July to mid-September, the number of fruit per tree is determined. In September and subsequent months, fruit size measurement and fruit droppage surveys are conducted, which are combined with the previous components to develop the current forecast of production. California and Texas conduct grower and packer surveys on a quarterly basis in October, January, April, and July. California conducts an objective measurement survey in September for Navel oranges and in March for Valencia oranges.

Estimating procedures: State level objective yield estimates for Florida oranges were reviewed for errors, reasonableness, and consistency with historical estimates. Reports from growers and packers in California and Texas were also used for setting estimates. These three States submit their analyses of the current situation to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB). The ASB uses the survey data and the State analyses to prepare the published February 1 forecast.

Revision policy: The February 1 production forecast will not be revised. A new forecast will be made each month throughout the growing season. End-of-season estimates will be published in the *Citrus Fruits Summary* released in September. The production estimates are based on all data available at the end of the marketing season, including information from marketing orders, shipments, and processor records. Allowances are made for recorded local utilization and home use.

Reliability: To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the February 1 production forecast, the "Root Mean Square Error," a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the February 1 production forecast and the final estimate is expressed as a percentage of the final estimate. The average of squared percentage deviations for the latest 20-year period is computed. The square root of the average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error." Probability statements can be made concerning expected differences in the current forecast relative to the final end-of-season estimate, assuming factors affecting this year's forecast are not different from those influencing recent years.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the February 1 orange production forecast is 3.3 percent for both the normal and the three abnormal production years (one freeze season and two hurricane seasons). This means chances are 2 out of 3 that the current orange production forecast will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.8 percent, or 5.6 percent, excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the February 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 298,000 tons (290,000 tons excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 18,000 tons to 638,000 tons regardless of exclusions. The February 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 8 times and above 12 times (below 8 times and above 9 times, excluding abnormal seasons). The difference does not imply the February 1 forecast this year is likely to understate or overstate final production.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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