

# CALIFORNIA'S CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

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**COTTON:** American Pima cotton production is forecast at 345,000 bales, 21% below last year's crop. The 180,000 acres for harvest are 2% below last year. Harvest and second pickings were essentially complete by the end of December.

California's 1998 Upland cotton production is forecast at 1.15 million bales as of January 1, unchanged from the December forecast, but 48% below last year. This is based on 620,000 acres for harvest with an average yield of 890 pounds per acre.

**GRAPEFRUIT:** The 1998-99 all grapefruit crop is estimated at 16.0 million cartons, down 11% from last season. This number is down 5% from the initial October 1998 forecast. The yield is 964 cartons per acre which is based on the 1998-99 acreage of 16,600 acres. A hard freeze from December 20-23 destroyed most of the crop in Fresno, Kern, and Tulare counties. However, the majority of the State's production (86%) is from southern California where the weather has been manageable using normal frost protection measures.

**LEMONS:** The 1998-99 California lemon forecast is 36.0 million cartons. This is down 14% from the October forecast and down 18% from the 1997-98 production level of 44.0 million cartons. In the Central Valley, most of the unpicked fruit was expected to be a total loss due to the hard freeze in late December. In the South Coast and Desert regions, the crop looked good with a light green color reported. Defects included botrytis bumps, flat sides, tip injuries, and wind scar.

**ORANGES:** The 1998-99 California Navel orange forecast is 38.0 million cartons, down 44% from October and down 57% from last season. December's hard freeze caused extensive damage in the San Joaquin Valley where only 15% of the crop had been picked prior to the freeze. Some of the fruit may be salvageable for the juice market. About 90% of the Navel orange acreage is grown in the San Joaquin Valley. In southern California, the duration of the sub-freezing weather was insufficient to cause damage.

The 1998-99 Valencia orange forecast is 38.0 million cartons, down 32% from October and down 37% from last season. Much of the San Joaquin Valley crop was very green and immature prior to the December freeze. Therefore, damage was expected to be quite extensive in that area. Southern California Valencias survived the freeze with no damage due to the shorter duration of sub-freezing temperatures.

**TANGERINES:** The 1998-99 California tangerine forecast is 3.2 million cartons. This is down 36% from the October forecast and down 33% from the 1997-98 season. Freeze damage in the Central Valley was severe with most growers in that area expecting a total loss. Fruit in the Southern California area suffered minimal freeze damage. Color is excellent and eating quality is very good. Grade defects include wind scar, picking injury, and puff.

## JANUARY CROP PRODUCTION ESTIMATES

CROP	1998 PRODUCTION	PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR
COTTON,	<i>Bales</i>	
American Pima	345,000	-21
Upland	1,150,000	-48
CITRUS <sup>1/</sup>	<i>Cartons</i>	
Grapefruit	16,000,000	-11
Lemons	36,000,000	-18
Oranges,		
Navel	38,000,000	-57
Valencia	38,000,000	-37
All	76,000,000	-49
Tangerines	3,200,000	-33

<sup>1/</sup> Grapefruit - 33.5 lbs. per carton; Lemons - 38.0 lbs. per carton;  
Oranges and Tangerines - 37.5 lbs. per carton.