



FIELD CROPS

CROP PRODUCTION

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October 15, 2007

FLORIDA

WEATHER: Corn, peanut and cotton harvesting gained momentum in early September. Army worms and spider mites pressured row crops and hay with growers spraying rigorously for control. The oldest peanut and cotton fields showed poor quality and low yields due to drought. Producers picked a considerable amount of cotton without defoliating. Scattered rains during September slowed some harvesting but boosted production prospects for the younger acreages of peanuts and cotton. The rainfall softened the ground and settled the dust which aided harvesting. Irrigated pecan orchards were in good condition but dryland trees had smaller nuts. Some pecan producers combated mouse ear infestations to increase yield prospects; however, trees not sprayed showed lower prospects. By the end of the month, a considerable amount of peanut acreage in some Panhandle localities was not yet mature due to late plantings. Most irrigated fields averaged good production with peanut digging 25 percent finished by September 30, compared with 14 percent dug by the same date last year. The five year average harvest progress for peanuts dug by the end of the month is 35 percent.

COTTON: Based on conditions existing on September 1, yield is expected to average 644 pounds per acre, unchanged from a month ago, and down 145 pounds or 18 percent from last year. Production is expected to total 110,000 bales, down 56,000 bales or 34 percent from last year. Growers plan to harvest 82,000 acres, down 19,000 acres or 19 percent from last year. Scattered rains throughout September aided growth and development of late plantings.

PEANUTS: Yield is forecast to average 2,700 pounds per acre, equal to the September forecast and up 200 pounds from last year. Production is estimated at 310,500,000 pounds, up 10,500,000 pounds from last year's production, but down 99,900,000 pounds from the record crop of 410,400,000 pounds produced in 2005. Growers expect to dig 115,000 acres, down 5,000 acres or 4 percent from a year ago. Scattered rainfall over the Panhandle and northern Peninsula interrupted some digging during September. However, producers kept most harvesting on schedule.

PECANS: Production of this alternate bearing crop is anticipated at 1,000,000 pounds, double the 2006 production of 500,000 pounds. Ninety percent of the crop or 900,000 pounds will come from improved varieties. Most growers do not anticipate harvest to start until late October or early November. Growers with adequate spray programs have disease problems under control, and the trees show large nuts. Orchards without irrigation systems show smaller nuts and are in poor condition.

SUGARCANE: Production for seed and sugar is forecast at 14,612,000 tons, up 266,000 pounds or 2 percent from the 14,346,000 tons cut last year. Yield is set at 36.9 tons per acre, equal to the September forecast, and up a ton from last year. Growers hope to cut 396,000 acres, down 4,000 acres from the 400,000 acres cut in 2006. Harvesting began in early October with most mills open by mid-month. Growers faced problems with Orange Rust disease in most areas.

UNITED STATES

COTTON: Upland cotton production is forecast at 17.4 million 480-pound bales, up 2 percent from last month but down 17 percent from last year. Growers in the Southeast are expecting lower production than last month. However, in the Delta and Southwest regions, producers are expecting higher production than last month with record yields forecast in Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. In the Southeastern States, defoliation of the crop was underway throughout the region. In Alabama, the crop is developing ahead of normal. Harvest got underway by mid-September ahead of the 5-year average but condition is rated mostly poor to very poor. In Georgia, harvest began by the end of September and was behind the 5-year average. In the Carolinas and Virginia, harvest was progressing ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Objective yield measurements in Georgia show bolls per acre to be the lowest since 2002, but boll weight is the third heaviest in the last five years.

PEANUTS: Production is forecast at 3.42 billion pounds, down 1 percent from last year's crop but up 3 percent from last month. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.19 million acres, unchanged from September but down 2 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 2,873 pounds per acre, up 70 pounds from last month and up 10 pounds from 2006. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina) is expected to total 2.44 billion pounds, up 3 percent from September but down 3 percent from last year's level. Expected acreage for harvest, at 866,000, is unchanged from September but down 7 percent from 2006. Yields in the region are expected to average 2,819 pounds per acre, 75 pounds above last month and 109 pounds above 2006. As of September 30, peanut harvest was 12 percent complete in Alabama, and 5 percent complete in Georgia. Alabama and Georgia lagged their 5-year averages by at least 17 percentage points. Peanut harvest in South Carolina, at 21 percent complete, was closer to normal but still lagged its 5-year average by 4 points.

PECANS: The October 1, 2007 forecast of pecan utilized production is 320 million pounds (in-shell basis), up 55 percent from last year's crop and 14 percent above 2005. Improved varieties are expected to produce 260 million pounds or 81 percent of the total, while native and seedling varieties, at 59.2 million pounds, make up the remaining 19 percent. The 2007 crop is expected to be larger than last year's in most producing States mainly because it is a high year in the alternate bearing pattern typical of pecans. Production is lower than last year in Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri due to a severe Easter freeze, and in Louisiana, which is in a down-cycle production season. Georgia's forecast, at 100 million pounds, would make the State the leading pecan producer. The crop is over twice as large as last season's and up 25 percent from 2005. Pecan trees in Georgia had a very large nut set in 2007. Hot, dry weather limited nut size in dryland orchards and limited disease and insect damage. The Easter freeze damaged some trees in the eastern part of the State, but the major growing area in the southwest escaped most of the damage. New Mexico's production forecast of 71.0 million pounds would rank the State second in pecans for 2007. Alabama's production is forecast at 11.0 million pounds, up 83 percent from 2006 and nearly 3 times 2005. Two hurricane seasons followed by very low production last year created a situation where a majority of trees in the State set a very heavy crop in 2007.

SUGARCANE: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2007 is forecast at 30.4 million tons, unchanged from the September forecast but up 3 percent from 2006. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 883,500 acres for sugar and seed during the 2007 crop year, unchanged from September but 14,600 acres less than last year. Yield is forecast at 34.4 tons per acre, the same as last month but up 1.5 tons from last year. The Louisiana harvested acreage is down 15,000 acres, yield up 1.7 tons, and production up 3 percent from 2006. Yields are forecast above last year in all producing States except Texas, where the yield is expected to decline 0.3 ton.

CROP PRODUCTION: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida and United States as of October 1, 2007 with comparisons

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2006	For harvest 2007	2006	Indicated 2007		2006	Indicated 2007
	<i>Thousands</i>					<i>Thousands</i>	
FLORIDA							
Cotton ^{1/}	101	82	789	644		166	110
Peanuts ^{1/}	120	115	2,500	2,700	Lbs.	300,000	310,500
Pecans, All					Lbs.	500	1,000
Improved Varieties					Lbs.	200	900
Native and Seedling					Lbs.	300	100
Potatoes:							
Winter ^{1/}	5.5	^{3/}	250	^{3/}	Cwt	1,375	^{3/}
Spring ^{1/}	22.6	27.2	285	284	Cwt	6,441	7,726
Sugarcane ^{1/}	400	396	35.9	36.9	Ton	14,346	14,612
Tobacco, Type 14 ^{1/}	1.1	^{4/}	2,600	^{4/}	Lbs.	2,860	^{4/}
UNITED STATES							
Corn for grain	70,648	86,071	149.1	154.7	Bu.	10,534,868	3,318,102
Cotton, All ^{5/}	12,731.5	10,543.0	814	826	^{2/}	21,587.8	18,153.5
Hay, Alfalfa	21,384	21,451	3.35	3.37	Ton	71,666	72,347
Hay, All Other	39,423	40,338	1.78	1.87	Ton	70,000	75,617
Peanuts for nuts ^{6/}	1,210	1,190	2,863	2,873	Lbs.	3,464,250	3,419,300
Pecans, All					Lbs.	206,300	319,605
Improved Varieties					Lbs.	151,130	260,361
Native and Seedling					Lbs.	55,170	59,244
Potatoes:							
Winter ^{1/}	17.5	11.5	257	215	Cwt	4,495	2,473
Spring ^{1/}	67.5	70.4	293	294	Cwt	19,766	20,668
Summer ^{1/}	53.9	50.3	337	328	Cwt	18,166	16,504
Fall	983.0	996.2	406	^{7/}	Cwt	398,921	^{7/}
Rice	2,821	2,731	6,868	7,215	^{8/}	193,736	197,051
Sorghum for grain	4,937	6,702	56.2	74.8	Bu.	277,538	501,457
Soybeans for beans	74,602	62,818	42.7	41.4	Bu.	3,188,247	2,598,046
Sugarbeets	1,303.6	1,241.4	26.1	24.5	Ton	34,064	30,382
Sugarcane for							
Sugar and seed	898.1	883.5	32.9	34.4	Ton	29,580	30,411
Tobacco, All	338.9	355.1	2,144	2,000	Lbs.	726,644	709,965
Wheat, All:	46810	51,011	38.7	40.5	Bu.	1,812,036	2,066,722
Winter	31,117	35,952	41.7	42.2	Bu.	1,298,081	1,515,989
Durum	1,815	2,112	29.5	33.9	Bu.	53,475	71,686
Other spring	13,878	12,947	33.2	37.0	Bu.	460,480	479,047

^{1/} Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

^{2/} Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales.

^{3/} Winter potatoes combined with spring.

^{4/} Estimates discontinued in 2007.

^{5/} Includes both upland and Amer-Pima cotton.

^{6/} 2006 revised.

^{7/} First forecast in November.

^{8/} Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight. Includes sweet rice production.