



Florida Agricultural Statistics Service  
1222 Woodward Street  
Orlando, Florida 32803  
407 / 648-6013

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl>

# FIELD CROPS

Crop Production



FLORIDA  
AGRICULTURE

August 12, 2003

## FLORIDA

**FLORIDA:** The clash of the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico sea breezes, coupled with moisture from tropical systems, caused daily, scattered storms during **July** with some field activities delayed, especially the application of herbicides and pesticides and the baling of hay. However, drought conditions stressed some cover crops in St. John's County potato fields. Some hay producers combated armyworm infestations throughout the month. Water accumulation in low lying areas hindered the growth and development of peanuts and cotton in some Panhandle and northern Peninsula fields. Cloud cover kept most July temperatures below normal. Tobacco and corn silage harvesting were very active between showers throughout the month. Tobacco contract collection centers opened in late July. Some northern Peninsula and Panhandle growers completed harvesting tobacco by early to mid-July with others continuing to pull leaves throughout July into early August. Wet conditions continued into early **August** which reduced the quality of hay and some tobacco, lowered the yield prospects for peanuts and cotton and increased reports of disease in some peanut and tobacco fields.

**COTTON:** Production is expected to total 128,000 bales, about one-third higher than the 96,000 bales harvested last year. Yield per acre is set at 621 pounds, up 220 pounds or fifty-five percent from the 401 pounds per acre for the 2002

crop. Acreage to be picked is estimated at 99,000 acres, down 16,000 acres or fourteen percent from a year ago.

**PEANUTS:** Harvested acreage is forecast at 107,000 acres, up 21,000 acres or 24 percent from last year. Yield per acre is expected to average 2,700 pounds, up 400 pounds or seventeen percent from the 2002 crop yield of 2,300 pounds per acre. Production is set at 288,900,000 pounds, up 91,100,000 pounds or forty-six percent from the 197,800,000 pounds produced last year.

**SUGARCANE:** Production for seed and sugar is set at 16,060,000 tons, down 1,593,000 tons from the 17,653,000 tons produced last year. Yield is expected to average 36.5 tons per acre versus the 2002-03 crop yield of 38.3 tons. Producers expect to harvest 440,000 acres for the 2003-04 season. This compares with 461,000 harvested during the 2002-03 season.

**TOBACCO:** Producers expect to pull 10,200,000 pounds, down 1,760,000 pounds from the 11,960,000 harvested last year. Acreage is set at 4,000 acres, down 600 acres from the 4,600 acres harvested in 2002. Yield is expected to average 2,550 pounds per acre, down 50 pounds from the 2,600 pounds per acre in 2002.

## UNITED STATES

**COTTON:** Upland cotton production is forecast at 16.7 million 480-pound bales, 1 percent above 2002. Upland cotton harvested area, at 12.1 million acres, is 60,000 acres less than a year ago. Cotton farmers in the Southeastern States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia) experienced wet weather throughout much of the planting season. Although much of the rain was needed, some growers were concerned whether they would ever get their crop planted. Development in the Carolinas and Virginia was slow, but has progressed rapidly throughout the last half of July.

**PEANUTS:** Production is forecast at 3.96 billion pounds, up 19 percent from last year's crop, but down 7 percent from 2001. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.28 million acres, 5 percent above the June estimate but down 2 percent from 2002. Yields are expected to average a record high 3,102 pounds per acre, 544 pounds per acre above the 2002 level. Planted acres, at 1.32 million, are 5 percent above the June estimate but 3 percent below 2002. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) is expected to total 2.61 billion pounds, up 37 percent from last year's level. Yields in the four-State area are expected to average 3,070 pounds per acre, 637 pounds above 2002. Expected acreage for harvest, at 849,000 acres, is up 6 percent from the June estimate and up 8 percent from the previous year. Planted acres, at 864,000, are up 6 percent from June and up 7 percent from 2002. As of July 27, peanuts pegging in Alabama, at 87 percent, exceeded the 5-year average by 11 percentage points. Florida peanuts pegging, at 90 percent, were ahead of average by 5 percentage points. Georgia peanuts pegging, at 88 percent, lagged the 5-year average by 4 percentage points.

**SUGARCANE:** Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2003 is forecast at 34.5 million tons, 3 percent below last year. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 995,000 acres for sugar and seed during the 2003 crop year, 3 percent less than last year's final harvested acres. Yield is forecast at 34.7 tons per acre, equal to 2002. Florida, Louisiana, and Texas report favorable rainfall for sugarcane production. Hawaii's current dry spell has not affected this year's forecast.

**TOBACCO:** Flue-cured tobacco production is expected to total 486 million pounds, down 6 percent from both the previous forecast and the 2002 crop. Growers plan to harvest 239,000 acres in 2003, down 3 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 2,034 pounds, down 136 pounds from the July 1 forecast and 71 pounds lower than the previous year. Persistent wet weather in most of the flue-cured producing areas caused an overall reduction in yield potential compared to the July forecast and last year. In North Carolina, excessive rainfall resulted in disease problems and reduced crop growth. In Virginia, the crop is experiencing problems such as leaching of fertilizer, early blooming, and poor root development.

**CORN:** Production is forecast at 10.1 billion bushels, up 12 percent from last year and 2 percent above 2001. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 139.9 bushels per acre, up 9.9 bushels from last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous record for both was set in 1994 when production was estimated at slightly below the 10.1 billion bushels being forecast for 2003 and yield was 138.6 bushels per acre. Yields are higher in all States east of the Mississippi River as favorable precipitation and temperatures have been received since planting occurred. With the exception of Iowa and Minnesota, forecasted yields in all the Corn Belt States are increasing from last year. However, both States are forecasting lower yields from record 2002 estimates. Farmers expect to harvest 71.9 million acres of corn for grain, down 70,000 acres from June but up 4 percent from 2002.

**SOYBEANS:** Production is forecast at 2.86 billion bushels, up 5 percent from 2002 but down 1 percent from 2001. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 39.4 bushels per acre, up 1.6 bushels from 2002. Yields are higher than 2002 across much of the United States. However, the average yield in Iowa, Minnesota, and Oklahoma is expected to be lower, while yields are expected to be the same in Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and North Dakota. Area for harvest, at 72.6 million acres is down 55,000 acres from June but up 1 percent from 2002 acreage.

**CROP PRODUCTION:** Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida and United States as of August 1, 2003 with comparisons

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2002	For harvest 2003	2002	Indicated 2003		2002	Indicated 2003
	Thousands		Units			Thousands	
<b>FLORIDA</b>							
Cotton	115	99	401	621	<sup>1/</sup>	96	128
Peanuts	86	107	2,300	2,700	Lbs.	197,800	288,900
Potatoes:							
Winter <sup>2/</sup>	6.7	5.8	265	235	Cwt	1,776	1,363
Spring <sup>2/</sup>	26.3	27.3	300	250	Cwt	7,883	6,825
Sugarcane	461	440	38.3	36.5	Ton	17,653	16,060
Tobacco, Type 14	4.6	4.0	2,600	2,550	Lbs.	11,960	10,200
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
Corn for grain	69,313	71,915	130.0	139.9	Bu.	9,007,659	10,064,452
Cotton, all <sup>4/</sup>	12,426.6	12,302.4	665	667	<sup>1/</sup>	17,208.6	17,103.5
Hay, Alfalfa	23,135	23,541	3.19	3.31	Ton	73,824	77,952
Hay, All Other	41,362	40,838	1.86	2.01	Ton	77,138	82,066
Peanuts for nuts	1,296.7	1,277.0	2,561	3,102	Lbs.	3,320,490	3,961,200
Potatoes:							
Winter <sup>2/</sup>	15.7	14.8	268	281	Cwt	4,206	4,153
Spring <sup>2/</sup>	86.1	82.9	271	269	Cwt	23,294	22,305
Summer <sup>2/</sup>	59.1	63.1	304	310	Cwt	17,985	19,585
Fall <sup>2/</sup>	1,114.8	1,093.4	374	<sup>5/</sup>	Cwt	417,228	<sup>5/</sup>
Rice	3,207	2,967	6,578	6,577	<sup>3/</sup>	210,960	195,130
Sorghum for grain	7,299	8,241	50.7	54.4	Bu.	369,758	448,438
Soybeans for beans	72,160	72,626	37.8	39.4	Bu.	2,729,709	2,862,039
Sugarbeets	1,361.1	1,342.1	20.4	22.7	Ton	27,718	30,509
Sugarcane for							
sugar and seed	1,023.2	995.0	34.7	34.7	Ton	35,553	34,484
Tobacco, All	428.7	413.7	2,055	2,031	Lbs.	880,734	840,236
Tobacco, Types 11 - 14	245.6	239.0	2,105	2,034	Lbs.	517,035	486,200
Tobacco, Type 14	31.1	33.0	2,174	2,242	Lbs.	67,610	74,000
Wheat, all	45,817	52,677	35.3	43.5	Bu.	1,616,441	2,291,825
Winter	29,651	36,491	38.5	46.9	Bu.	1,142,802	1,712,150
Durum	2,703	2,738	29.4	31.9	Bu.	79,450	87,355
Other spring	13,463	13,448	29.3	36.6	Bu.	394,189	492,320

<sup>1/</sup> Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales.

<sup>2/</sup> Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

<sup>3/</sup> Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight.

<sup>4/</sup> Includes both upland and Amer-Pima cotton.

<sup>5/</sup> First forecast in November.