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# FIELD CROPS

Crop Production



FLORIDA  
AGRICULTURE

October 14, 2003

## FLORIDA

**FLORIDA:** Drier weather during the first part of September allowed field work to proceed at a normal pace. Around mid-month, Hurricane Isabel drew moisture away as it traveled up the eastern coast and made landfall on the outer banks of North Carolina. Rains returned during the last part of September and early October which interrupted some harvesting of peanuts and hay with most on schedule. Peanut yields were reportedly good from well-drained acreage but poor in those areas that received abundant rains earlier in the season. Cotton picking got underway around mid-month. Hay making was very active throughout the month with the drier conditions improving quality. Sugarcane harvesting is expected to start around mid-October.

**PEANUTS:** Production is expected to total 310,300,000 pounds, up from the 197,800,000 pounds produced in 2002. Yield is set at 2,900 pounds per acre compared to 2,300 pounds per acre last year. Acreage to be harvested is set at 107,000 acres, up 21,000 acres from 2002.

**SUGARCANE:** Acres to be cut is set at 441,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from the 461,000 acres harvested last year. Yield is expected to average 40 tons per acre, up from the 38.3 tons per acre for the

2002-03 crop. Estimated production is 17,640,000 tons, down 13,000 tons from last year.

**TOBACCO:** Yield averaged 2,500 pounds per acre down 100 pounds from the 2002 yield. Production is set at 10,750,000 pounds compared with 11,960,000 pounds produced last year. Growers harvested 4,300 acres, down 300 acres from the 4,600 acres pulled in 2002.

**PECANS:** Production of all varieties is expected to total 2,100,000 pounds, up 700,000 pounds from the 1,400,000 pounds produced last year. Production of native and seedling varieties is estimated at 1,600,000 pounds up 700,000 from last year's 900,000 pounds. Production of improved varieties is set at 500,000 pounds equal to last year.

**WINTER POTATOES:** Final data show that production during January, February and March totaled 1,392,000 hundredweight, down 22 percent from the 1,776,000 hundredweight produced during the winter of 2002. A drop in yield from 265 hundredweight per acre last year to 240 hundredweight in 2003, coupled with a decrease in acres harvested, from 6,700 last year to 5,800 this year, caused the production decline.

## UNITED STATES

**PEANUTS:** Production is forecast at 3.95 billion pounds down 1 percent from last month and up 19 percent from 2002. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.28 million acres, unchanged from the September estimate but down 2 percent from 2002. Yields are expected to average a record high 3,095 pounds, 26 pounds below last month but up 534 pounds from 2002. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) is expected to total 2.63 billion pounds, unchanged from last month but 38 percent above last year. Expected area for harvest, at 849,000 acres, is unchanged from last month but up 8 percent from the previous year. Yield in the four-State area is expected to average 3,095 pounds per acre, unchanged from September but 662 pounds above 2002.

**COTTON:** Upland cotton harvested acreage, at 11.9 million acres, is down 1 percent from the previous month and 2 percent less than 2002. Yield is expected to average 688 pounds per acre. Growers hope to produce 17,118,000 bales of upland cotton. A significant number of cotton fields in the southern High Plains area of Texas were left unharvestable after one of the worst late season hail storms passed through the area. In the Southeastern States, early September weather was hot and humid resulting in stress on shallow rooted fields. Defoliation was just underway, but most of the region was two to three weeks late in maturity. Toward the middle of the month, North Carolina and Virginia cotton growing areas were hit by Hurricane Isabel, which brought intensive winds and rain. There were some losses from bolls being blown off and lodging of plants. After the hurricane, an additional cold front brought more rain resulting in flooded cotton fields. Concerns with boll rot increased. Harvesting began south of the Carolinas toward the end of the month, but was limited due to rains.

**SUGARCANE:** Production is forecast at 36.1 million tons, virtually unchanged from the September forecast but 1 percent above last year. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 997,000 acres for sugar and seed during the 2003 crop year, up fractionally from last month but 3 percent below last year's final harvested acres. Yield is forecast at 36.2 tons per acre, unchanged from the September forecast but 1.5 tons above 2002. Sugarcane ripeners were applied on time in Louisiana, and as of September 28, harvest was 5 percent complete. Weather

conditions there have been favorable for growth and remain favorable for harvest. The Texas Rio Grande Valley experienced some heavy and badly needed rain during September; however, yield prospects still declined from last month.

**FLUE-CURED TOBACCO:** Production is expected to total 476 million pounds, down less than 1 percent from last month and 8 percent below 2002. Growers plan to harvest 238,300 acres in 2003, down less than 1 percent from last month and 3 percent below last year. Yields are forecast to average 1,998 pounds per acre, 2 pounds above the September forecast but 107 pounds less than the previous year. As harvest nears completion in North Carolina, yields in the Border Belt region are reported to be somewhat better than previously expected. Virginia flue-cured producers anticipate lower yields due to damage caused by heavy rains and high winds from Hurricane Isabel. Additional yield losses occurred when a severe thunderstorm brought up to 5 inches of rain in some areas. Also, excessive rainfall from May through July caused a reduction in acres harvested.

**PECANS:** The October 1 forecast for 2003 pecan utilized production is 282 million pounds (in-shell basis), up 63 percent from last year's crop but 17 percent below the 2001 crop year. The 2003 season is the high year of the alternate bearing cycle; however, frequent rain and cool, cloudy conditions throughout the summer produced widespread disease problems, particularly in the Southeast States. Fungicide applicators were frequently interrupted by showers. Scab and insect pressure were the two most common problems reported. Improved varieties are expected to make up 210 million pounds or three quarters of the total, while the Native and seedling varieties, at 71.7 million pounds, make up the remaining crop.

**WINTER POTATOES:** Production for 2003 is set at 4.03 million cwt, down 3 percent from the April forecast and 4 percent below 2002. Harvested area of 14,300 acres in the two winter potato States (California and Florida) is 3 percent below the April 1 forecast and 9 percent less than last year. The average yield of 282 cwt per acre is up 1 cwt from the April forecast and 14 cwt above 2002. California's production, at 2.64 million cwt, is 8 percent above last season.

**Crop production: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida  
and United States as of October 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 <sup>1/</sup>	115	99	401	621 <sup>2/</sup>		96	128
Peanuts	86	107	2,300	2,900	Lbs.	197,800	310,300
Potatoes:							
Winter <sup>1/</sup>	6.7	5.8	265	240	Cwt	1,776	1,392
Spring <sup>1/</sup>	26.3	27.3	300	250	Cwt	7,883	6,825
Sugarcane	461	441	38.3	40.0	Ton	17,653	17,640
Tobacco, Type 14	4.6	4.3	2,600	2,500	Lbs.	11,960	10,750
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
Corn for grain	69,313	71,765	130.0	142.2	Bu.	9,007,659	10,207,141
Cotton, all	12,426.6	12,107.4	665	696 <sup>2/</sup>		17,208.6	17,559.0
Upland	12,184	11,939	651	688 <sup>2/</sup>		16,530.3	17,118.0
American-Pima	242.6	168.4	1,342	1,257 <sup>2/</sup>		678.3	441.0
Hay, Alfalfa	23,135	23,541	3.19	3.34	Ton	73,824	78,523
Hay, all other	41,362	40,838	1.86	2.01	Ton	77,138	82,183
Peanuts for nuts	1,296.7	1,277.0	2,561	3,095	Lbs.	3,320,490	3,951,900
Potatoes:							
Winter <sup>1/ 3/</sup>	15.7	14.3	268	282	Cwt	4,206	4,027
Spring <sup>1/</sup>	86.1	82.9	271	269	Cwt	23,294	22,305
Summer	59.1	60.5	304	320	Cwt	17,985	19,360
Fall <sup>3/</sup>	1,109.4	1,093.4	373	<sup>4/</sup>	Cwt	414,317	<sup>4/</sup>
Rice	3,207	2,978	6,578	6,624 <sup>5/</sup>		210,960	197,251
Sorghum for grain	7,299	7,851	50.7	51.0	Bu.	369,758	400,653
Soybeans for beans	72,437	75,538	38	34	Bu.	2,749,340	2,468,390
Sugarbeets	1,361.1	1,347.7	20.4	22.2	Ton	27,718	29,882
Sugarcane for sugar and seed	1,023.2	997.0	34.7	36.2	Ton	35,553	36,054
Tobacco, All	428.7	413.0	2,055	2,044	Lbs.	880,734	844,298
Tobacco, Type 14	31.1	33.0	2,174	2,239	Lbs.	67,610	74,550
Wheat, all	45,917	52,839	35.3	44.2	Bu.	1,619,001	2,336,526
Winter	29,751	36,541	38.5	46.7	Bu.	1,145,602	1,707,069
Durum	2,703	2,869	29.4	33.7	Bu.	79,450	96,637
Other spring	13,463	13,429	29.3	39.7	Bu.	393,949	532,820

<sup>1/</sup> Estimate for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

<sup>2/</sup> Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales.

<sup>3/</sup> 2003 crop revised.

<sup>4/</sup> First forecast in November.

<sup>5/</sup> Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight.