

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT
December 1 Cotton & Sugarcane Crop Prospects
Pecan Production

U. S. Cotton & Sugarcane Crop Prospects

All cotton production is forecast at 17.4 million 480-pound bales, down 2 percent from November and 14 percent less than last year's record high production. Yield decreased 17 pounds from last month and 57 pounds from last year. Harvested area, at 12.9 million acres, is unchanged from November but 7 percent below 2001. Southeastern growers are continuing to see the results of adverse weather that has affected their season.

U. S. upland cotton harvested area, at 12.6 million acres, is unchanged from the November estimate but 7 percent less than last year. American-Pima harvested area, at 241,400 acres, is also unchanged from November but down 10 percent from the 2001 harvested acres.

The Delta Region cotton harvest continued to be delayed during the first half of November due to unrelenting downpours. Growers managed to make progress with the harvest during the drier, last half of the month. Objective yield data continue to show boll counts in Arkansas higher than average with weights below average. Mississippi's boll counts are surpassed only by the 1997 and 1998 counts. The average weight per boll in Mississippi is the highest of the previous 10 years. Louisiana's boll counts and weights are the highest since 1994.

U. S. sugarcane production for sugar and seed is forecast at 35.9 million tons, 1 percent above the November forecast and 4 percent above last year. This year's forecast production is less than 1 percent below the record high crop of 2000. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 1.03 million acres for sugar and seed during the 2002 crop year. This is fractionally higher than the previous month but nearly the same as last year's final harvested acres. Yield is forecast at 34.9 tons per acre, up 0.3 ton from the November 1 forecast and 1.3 tons above last year's estimate.

Early month rain continued to hamper harvest in Louisiana where progress was well behind the 5-year average. Despite the muddy conditions, harvesting gained momentum after midmonth. Harvest progressed well in Florida and Hawaii.

Sugarcane: Area Harvested, Yield and Production by State and United States

State	Area Harvested	Yield	Production	
	2002 1/		Final 2001	Ind 2002
	1,000 Acres	Net Tons	1,000 Net Tons	
Florida	461.0	37.0	16,338	17,034
Hawaii	25.1	91.0	1,932	2,284
Louisiana	495.0	30.0	14,355	14,850
Texas	45.0	37.5	1,962	1,687
United States	1,026.1	34.9	34,587	35,855

¹For sugar and seed.

All Cotton: Area Harvested, Yield and Production by State and United States

State	Area Harvested		Yield		Production 1/	
	Final 2001	Ind 2002	Final 2001	Ind 2002	Final 2001	Ind 2002
	-----1,000 Acres-----		-----Pounds-----		-----1,000 Bales 2/-----	
Alabama	605.0	585.0	730.0	492.0	920.0	600.0
Arizona	297.5	239.4	1,137.0	1,231.0	704.5	614.0
Arkansas	1065.0	930.0	826.0	852.0	1,833.0	1,650.0
California	864.0	686.0	1,338.0	1,406.0	2,409.0	2,010.0
Georgia	1,480.0	1,430.0	720.0	587.0	2,220.0	1,750.0
Louisiana	855.0	500.0	580.0	720.0	1,034.0	750.0
Mississippi	1,600.0	1,170.0	719.0	788.0	2396.0	1,920.0
Missouri	400.0	385.0	834.0	761.0	695.0	610.0
New Mexico	70.2	63.0	920.0	869.0	134.5	114.0
North Carolina	965.0	945.0	832.0	437.0	1,673.0	860.0
Oklahoma	185.0	190.0	511.0	505.0	197.0	200.0
South Carolina	296.0	286.0	686.0	252.0	423.0	150.0
Tennessee	615.0	560.0	763.0	686.0	978.0	800.0
Texas	4,266.5	4,618.0	483.0	524.0	4,296.4	5,037.0
Virginia	104.0	100.0	929.0	480.0	201.3	100.0
Other States 3/	159.5	174.0	566.0	579.0	188.1	210.0
US, All	13,827.7	12,861.4	705.0	648.0	20,302.8	17,375.0

¹Production ginned and to be ginned. ²480-pound net weight bales. ³Other states include Florida and Kansas.

All Pecan Production

State	Utilized		Ind 2002
	Final 2000	Final 2001	
	-----1,000 Pounds-----		
Alabama	15,000	15,000	7,000
Arizona	14,500	21,000	14,000
Arkansas 1/	900	2,600	1,700
California 1/	3,400	3,700	2,800
Florida 1/	3,300	3,300	1,500
Georgia	80,000	110,000	45,000
Kansas	550	2,200	1,700
Louisiana	18,000	14,000	6,000
Mississippi 1/	3,500	4,500	3,000
New Mexico	35,000	60,000	36,000
North Carolina 1/	1,600	3,200	2,000
Oklahoma	2,500	20,000	14,000
South Carolina 1/	1,600	4,000	1,000
Texas	30,000	75,000	40,000
United States	209,850	338,500	175,700

¹Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

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U.S. Pecan Production

The December 1 forecast for 2002 pecan utilized production is 176 million pounds (in-shell basis), down 13 percent from the October 1 forecast and 48 percent below last year's crop. Wet conditions and tropical storms in the southern states have combined with the alternate bearing cycle to sharply reduce crop size. Wet weather from September through November in these states delayed harvest. Improved varieties are expected to make up 137 million pounds, or 78 percent of the total, while the native and seedling varieties make up the difference.

The Louisiana forecast of 6.00 million pounds is reduced 33 percent from the October forecast and down 57 percent from 2001. Many producers have struggled with black rot this year due to extremely wet conditions over the last two months.

The Georgia forecast, at 45.0 million pounds, is 10 percent below the October 1 forecast and 59 percent below last year's crop. Most of the decrease is related to the alternate bearing cycle. However, dry early season conditions and wet weather during the fall further reduced production and quality by increasing diseases and delaying harvest. The Texas production forecast is 40.0 million pounds, 20 percent below the previous forecast and 47 percent below last year's production. Unseasonable rains during October and November reduced harvested production and quality. New Mexico's forecast, at 36.0 million pounds, is unchanged from October but down 40 percent from last year. Harvest is just getting underway. Production is lower due to the alternate bearing cycle as well as wind damage to limbs and nut clusters.

Arizona forecasts a 14.0 million pound pecan crop, down 7 percent from October and 33 percent below last year. Harvest is just beginning and producers report the crop 'looks good'. Oklahoma's forecast of 14.0 million pounds is 22 percent below the October forecast and down 30 percent from last year's production. There are reports of reduced production in the tops of trees damaged by previous years ice storms. Alabama pecan production, at 7.00 million pounds, is 30 percent below the October forecast and 53 percent below last year. Wet weather since October caused many pecans to rot.

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