



FIELD CROPS

Prospective Plantings for 2011

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FLORIDA

Forecast Planted Acres: Florida farmers indicated that as of March 1 they intended to plant more corn, cotton, peanuts, soybeans, and wheat, but fewer sweet potatoes in 2011. Acreage harvested for hay is expected to increase this year. Corn growers expect to plant 65,000 acres, up 5,000 acres from 2010. The acreage planted to cotton is projected to total 100,000 acres, up 8,000 acres from the 92,000 planted a year ago. Producers intended to bale 350,000 acres of hay, an increase of 30,000 acres from the 320,000 acres last year. Peanut growers forecast planting 150,000 acres compared to 145,000 acres in 2010. Growers expected to plant 26,000 acres of soybeans, up 1,000 acres from the previous year. Sweet potato acres (includes boniatos) are forecasted to be down 300 acres or 9 percent from last season. Winter wheat growers indicated that 13,000 acres were seeded, up 1,000 acres from the 2010 season.

Weather: Warm temperatures early in March allowed soil preparations to continue in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas. Favorable weather persisted by mid-month which allowed ground preparations to remain on schedule for growers. Near the end of March, dry conditions depleted topsoil and subsoil moisture with supplies rated very short to adequate. Producers were preparing to plant corn, cotton, and peanuts by month's end. Some growers had planted a few acres of corn.

Prospective Plantings for 2011 with Comparisons

Crops	Florida				United States			
	2009	2010	Indicated 2011 ¹	2011 as % of 2010	2009	2010	Indicated 2011 ¹	2011 as % of 2010
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Corn	70.0	60.0	65.0	108	86,382.0	88,192.0	92,178.0	105
Cotton, Upland.....	82.0	92.0	100.0	109	9,008.1	10,769.0	12,313.0	114
All Hay, Harvested	300.0	320.0	350.0	109	59,755.0	59,862.0	58,973.0	99
Peanuts	115.0	145.0	150.0	103	1,116.0	1,288.0	1,237.0	96
Soybeans	37.0	25.0	26.0	104	77,451.0	77,404.0	76,609.0	99
Sweet potatoes ²	3.3	3.5	3.2	91	109.9	119.8	126.7	106
Winter Wheat ³	17.0	12.0	13.0	108	43,346.0	37,335.0	41,229.0	110

X Not applicable

¹ Intended plantings or harvested acres in 2011 as indicated by reports from farmers.

² Estimates began in 2009.

³ Includes area planted in the preceding fall.

UNITED STATES

Corn: Growers intend to plant 92.2 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2011, up 5 percent from last year and 7 percent higher than in 2009. If realized, this will be the second highest planted acreage in the United States since 1944, behind only the 93.5 million acres planted in 2007. Acreage increases of 250,000 or more are expected in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, and South Dakota. The largest decrease is expected in Texas, down 150,000 acres.

All Cotton: Plantings for 2011 are expected to total 12.6 million acres, 15 percent above last year. Upland acreage is expected to total 12.3 million acres, up 14 percent from 2010. American Pima acreage is expected to total 252,500 acres, up 24 percent from 2010. Cotton acreage increases are expected in every State. The largest increase, at 548,000 acres, is expected in Texas. Acreage increases of more than 100,000 acres are expected in North Carolina, Georgia, and Mississippi.

Hay: Producers expect to harvest 59.0 million acres of all hay in 2011, down 1 percent from 2010. If realized, this will be the fourth lowest harvested acreage on record. Harvested area is expected to decrease from last year throughout most of the western two-thirds of the Nation, primarily due to lower livestock inventories, an increase in acreage being planted to other crops with higher prices, and drought conditions in the Southern Great Plains. The largest decreases in acreage harvested are expected in Idaho, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas. Compared with last year, producers in Oklahoma and Texas intend to harvest 110,000 and 220,000 less acres, respectively, while growers in Pennsylvania expect to harvest 100,000 more acres.

Peanuts: Growers intend to plant 1.24 million acres of peanuts in 2011, down 4 percent from the previous year. An increase in planted area is expected in Florida and South Carolina and acreage is expected to remain unchanged from last year in New Mexico. Growers in all other States intend to plant fewer acres to peanuts than last year.

Soybean: Planted area for 2011 is estimated at 76.6 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. If realized, the United States planted area will be the third largest on record. Compared with last year, planted acreage declines of 100,000 acres or more are expected in Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, and Ohio. If realized, the planted area in New York and North Dakota will be the largest on record.

Sweet Potatoes: Planted area of sweet potatoes is expected to total 126,700 acres for the 2011 season, up 6 percent from last year. Large increases are expected in North Carolina and California, up 9 and 8 percent from 2010, respectively.

All Wheat: Planted area is estimated at 58.0 million acres, up 8 percent from last year. The 2011 winter wheat planted area, at 41.2 million acres, is 10 percent above last year and up 1 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 29.4 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.2 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.7 million are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2011 is estimated at 14.4 million acres, up 5 percent from 2010. Of this total, about 13.6 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Durum planted area for 2011 is estimated at 2.37 million acres, down 8 percent from 2010.