

## Historic, archived document

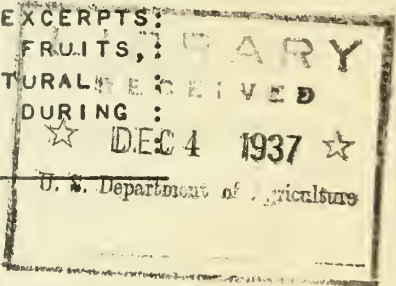
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



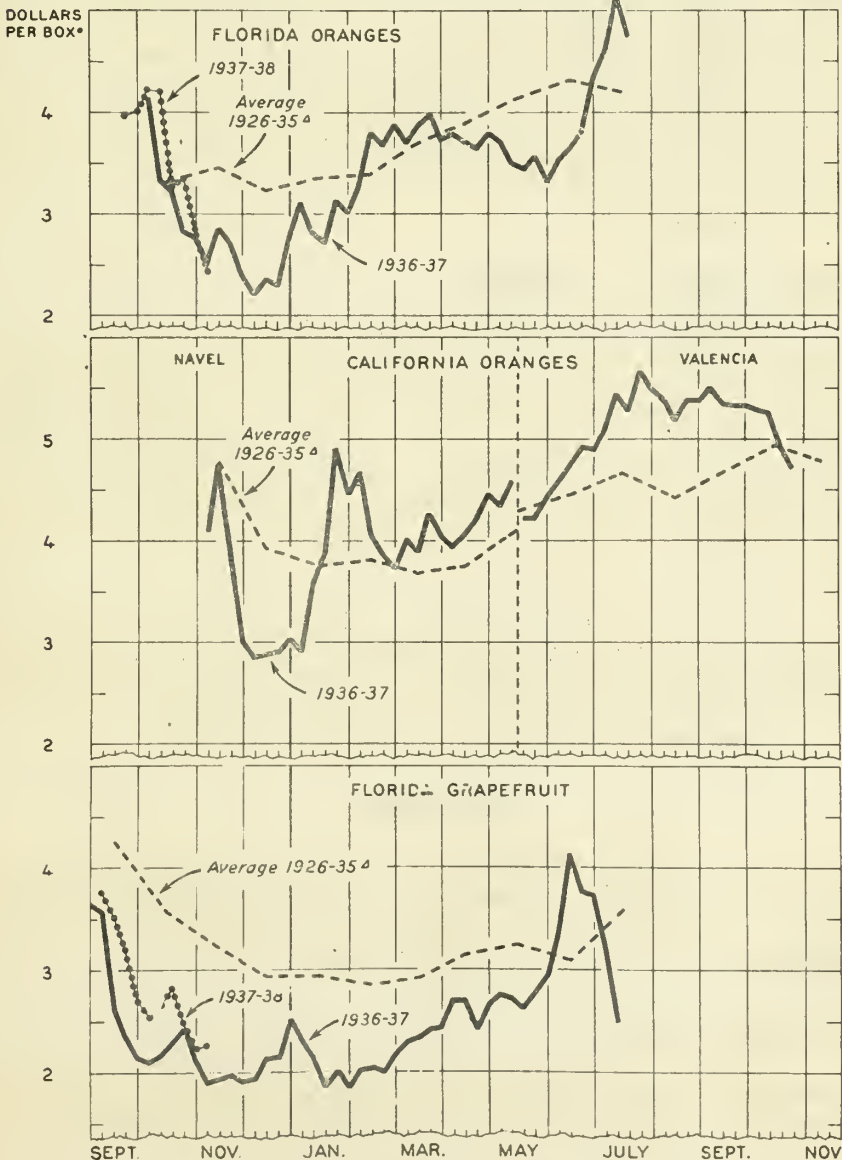
NOVEMBER 23, 1937

THE FRUIT SITUATION

: THIS ISSUE CONSISTS OF SUMMARIES AND EXCERPTS:  
 : FROM THE REGULAR ANNUAL OUTLOOK REPORTS ON FRUITS,  
 : ISSUED THIS MONTH BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL  
 : ECONOMICS. A BRIEF REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS DURING  
 : THE PAST MONTH IS ALSO INCLUDED.



ORANGES AND GRAPEFRUIT: WEIGHTED AUCTION PRICE AT NEW YORK, AVERAGE 1926-35, 1936, AND 1937 TO DATE



\* FLORIDA ORANGES, 90 POUNDS NET PER BOX; CALIFORNIA ORANGES, 70 POUNDS; FLORIDA GRAPEFRUIT, 80 POUNDS  
 † ADJUSTED FOR CHANGES IN B. L. S. INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE FOOD PRICES (JUNE-DEC. 1936=100)

## REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Oranges

Market prices of new crop Florida oranges declined seasonally during the past month, following much the same movement as occurred in orange prices during the like period of last year. Until the second week in November, however, weekly average prices at New York and Chicago remained slightly higher than prices a year earlier. But for the week ended November 13, prices at both markets averaged slightly lower than for the corresponding week of 1936.

Florida shipments heavier than in 1936

The Florida season got well under way by the middle of October, and shipments thus far from Florida have been about 10 percent greater than for the same period of 1936. The 1936-37 season for California Valencias is ended, the last shipments being made in the latter part of October. Shipments of California Navels began in the first week of November, but the season is a little later than in 1936, and shipments to date have been relatively light. Total shipments of oranges from all areas were about the same as last year during the latter part of October and first week of November. Owing largely to the lighter shipments of California Navels, however, total shipments of oranges during the second week of November were much smaller than for the corresponding week last year.

Growing conditions continue favorable

Growing conditions continued favorable during October, and crop indications on November 1 were unchanged from those of a month ago. The indicated production of oranges from the 1937 bloom, for all varieties except California Valencias, amounts to 41.3 million boxes, compared with 38.3 million boxes in 1936-37, 33.7 million boxes in 1935-36, and 37.9 million boxes in 1934-35. This prospective crop of 41.3 million boxes, which is the chief source of supply from late October to May, is one-fourth larger than the 1931-35 average production.

The crop of all varieties in Florida is indicated at 24 million boxes and is the largest production on record for that State. The indicated crop of California Navels and miscellaneous oranges is larger than the crop of 1936-37, but is 3 percent less than the 1931-35 average.

Grapefruit

Market prices of grapefruit continued to decline seasonally during the past month. At New York, prices have remained somewhat above prices of last season, but at Chicago prices during the second week of November dropped slightly below those of the like week in 1936.

Shipments from Texas heavy

During October total shipments of grapefruit were heavier than in October last year, but during the first 2 weeks of November they dropped below

those of a year ago. Shipments from Texas began about the middle of October and during the past several weeks have exceeded shipments from Florida.

Production prospects unchanged from October 1

No change occurred during October in the prospects for the 1937-38 production of grapefruit, and on November 1, the total crop was indicated at 25½ million boxes, the same as that indicated a month earlier. The prospective Florida crop is almost 5 million boxes less than last year's production, and the Texas crop is indicated to be about 1 million boxes less than that of 1936-37, but production in both of these States is indicated to be well above the average of recent years. Production in Arizona and California this year is indicated to be somewhat larger than last year's crops.

Citrus fruits: Production, average 1931-35, annual 1936 and 1937

| Crop and States                    | Production 1/ |             |             |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                    | Average       | Indicated   |             |
|                                    | 1931-35       | 1936        | 1937        |
|                                    | 1,000 boxes   | 1,000 boxes | 1,000 boxes |
| Oranges:                           |               |             |             |
| Winter and spring varieties:       |               |             |             |
| Calif., Navels and miscel. . . . . | 15,175        | 13,234      | 14,726      |
| Fla. all . . . . .                 | 16,824        | 22,500      | 24,000      |
| Five other States . . . . .        | 1,087         | 2,566       | 2,535       |
| Total . . . . .                    | 33,086        | 38,300      | 41,261      |
| Summer and early fall varieties:   |               |             |             |
| Calif., Valencias . . . . .        | 19,965        | 16,829      | 2/          |
| Total 7 States . . . . .           | 53,051        | 55,129      | 2/          |
| Grapefruit:                        |               |             |             |
| Fla., all . . . . .                | 11,997        | 18,100      | 13,000      |
| Seedless . . . . .                 | 3/ 3,633      | 6,000       | 5,000       |
| Other . . . . .                    | 3/ 8,833      | 12,100      | 8,000       |
| Tex. . . . .                       | 2,105         | 9,231       | 8,400       |
| Calif. . . . .                     | 1,786         | 1,550       | 1,755       |
| Ariz. . . . .                      | 981           | 1,400       | 2,300       |
| Total 4 States . . . . .           | 16,869        | 30,281      | 25,455      |
| Lemons:                            |               |             |             |
| Calif. . . . .                     | 8,045         | 8,102       | 2/          |

1/ Relates to crop of bloom of year shown; picking beginning November 1 in California and September 1 in other States. 2/ First report of production of California Valencia oranges and lemons and Florida limes (from bloom of 1937) will be issued in December. 3/ 1932-35 average.



Oranges and tangerines: Total shipments (rail, boat and truck)1/  
from producing areas by weeks, average 1933-35, 1936, and 1937

| Week ended     | Average<br>1933-35 | 1936  | 1937  |
|----------------|--------------------|-------|-------|
|                | Cars               | Cars  | Cars  |
| Sept. 18 ..... | 1,187              | 1,153 | 944   |
| 25 .....       | 1,172              | 1,188 | 861   |
| Oct. 2 .....   | 1,156              | 1,142 | 846   |
| 9 .....        | 1,147              | 1,193 | 852   |
| 16 .....       | 1,216              | 1,302 | 1,221 |
| 23 .....       | 1,455              | 1,422 | 1,201 |
| 30 .....       | 1,568              | 1,320 | 1,309 |
| Nov. 6 .....   | 1,830              | 1,541 | 1,521 |
| 13 .....       | 2,229              | 2,473 | 1,494 |

1/ No truck shipments reported for Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi; total truck shipments from Texas, and interstate truck shipments from Florida and California-Arizona.

Grapefruit: Total shipments (rail, boat, and trucks) 1/  
from producing areas, by weeks, average 1934-35,  
1936 and 1937

| Week ended     | Average<br>1934-35 | 1936  | 1937  |
|----------------|--------------------|-------|-------|
|                | Cars               | Cars  | Cars  |
| Sept. 18 ..... | 221                | 661   | 196   |
| 25 .....       | 341                | 330   | 400   |
| Oct. 2 .....   | 431                | 508   | 485   |
| 9 .....        | 458                | 609   | 499   |
| 16 .....       | 543                | 529   | 681   |
| 23 .....       | 650                | 1,006 | 1,305 |
| 30 .....       | 738                | 1,062 | 1,369 |
| Nov. 6 .....   | 689                | 1,046 | 794   |
| 13 .....       | 767                | 912   | 803   |

1/ Total truck shipments from Texas; interstate truck shipments only from Texas and California-Arizona.

Citrus fruits: Weighted average price per box New York  
and Chicago, specified periods

| Market and crop      | Average for week ended |         |         | Average for |         |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------|---------|-------------|---------|
|                      | Nov. 14                | Oct. 16 | Nov. 13 | Oct.        | Oct.    |
|                      | 1936                   | 1937    | 1937    | 1936        | 1937    |
|                      | Dollars                | Dollars | Dollars | Dollars     | Dollars |
| <u>New York City</u> |                        |         |         |             |         |
| Oranges:             |                        |         |         |             |         |
| Florida .....        | 2.54                   | 4.21    | 2.44    | 3.05        | 3.51    |
| Calif. navels .....  | 4.09                   | ---     | ---     | ---         | ---     |
| Grapefruit:          |                        |         |         |             |         |
| Florida .....        | 1.90                   | 2.67    | 2.26    | 2.25        | 2.61    |
| Texas .....          | 2.23                   | ---     | 2.38    | ---         | ---     |
| <u>Chicago</u>       |                        |         |         |             |         |
| Oranges:             |                        |         |         |             |         |
| Florida .....        | 2.61                   | 4.75    | 2.52    | 3.30        | 3.63    |
| Calif. navels .....  | 4.43                   | ---     | 3.00    | ---         | ---     |
| Grapefruit:          |                        |         |         |             |         |
| Florida .....        | 2.02                   | 2.85    | 1.96    | 2.49        | 2.75    |
| Texas .....          | 2.21                   | ---     | 2.12    | 2.46        | 2.47    |

Apples

Prices of eastern apples continue to rise

Prices of eastern apples in terminal markets during the past month continued the advance begun in early October, and increases were noted for practically all varieties. The general average of all varieties of eastern apples at New York for the second week of November was \$1.16 per bushel, compared with 87 cents for the week ended October 2. At Chicago, the general average rose from 87 cents per bushel for the week ended October 2 to \$1.05 per bushel for the week ended November 13.

Prices of western apples at New York and Chicago have declined slightly since early October, as market supplies of these apples increased. At New York City a total of 45,803 boxes of western apples were sold on the auction market during the first half of October at an average price of \$1.98 per box. During the first half of November, a total of 67,177 boxes were sold at an average of \$1.72 per box.

November 1 cold storage stocks above average

The total quantity of apples in cold storage on November 1 was about 21 percent above that of a year earlier, and 19 percent above the 1926-35 average.

The increase in November 1 cold storage holdings this year is due entirely to larger holdings of eastern apples, since cold storage stocks of western apples are slightly less than those of last year and the average. The November 1 cold storage stocks of eastern apples are the largest on record. Usually apples continue to move into cold storage during early November, and in most years the December 1 holdings are slightly larger than those on November 1. There are no estimates available on the quantity of apples in common storage, but indications point to relatively large holdings this year.

Indications on November 1 pointed to a slightly larger total crop of apples than was indicated a month earlier. The indicated 1937 crop in the western States is only slightly larger than the 1931-35 average of 52½ million bushels. In the Atlantic Coast States the crop is indicated at nearly 41 percent above the 1931-35 average and in the Central States about 53 percent greater than average.

Apples: Production by regions, average 1931-35, annual  
1936 and 1937

| Region                    | Average<br>1931-35 | 1936             | Indicated<br>1937 | 1937 as<br>percentage<br>of average |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                           | 1,000<br>bushels   | 1,000<br>bushels | 1,000<br>bushels  | Percent                             |
| North Atlantic 1/.....    | 41,480             | 29,011           | 56,349            | 135.8                               |
| South Atlantic 2/.....    | 26,945             | 19,935           | 39,952            | 148.3                               |
| Total Atlantic .....      | 68,425             | 48,946           | 96,301            | 140.7                               |
| North Central 3/.....     | 32,809             | 17,593           | 49,964            | 152.3                               |
| South Central 4/.....     | 7,265              | 3,214            | 11,450            | 157.6                               |
| Total Central .....       | 40,074             | 20,807           | 61,410            | 153.2                               |
| Rocky Mountain 5/.....    | 7/ 8,504           | 6,581            | 8,994             | 105.8                               |
| Pacific Coast 6/.....     | 7/43,905           | 41,172           | 44,395            | 101.1                               |
| Total Western .....       | 52,489             | 47,753           | 53,389            | 101.9                               |
| Total United States ..... | 160,909            | 117,506          | 211,100           | 131.2                               |

1/ Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania.

2/ Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia.

3/ Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas.

4/ Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas.

5/ Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada.

6/ Washington, Oregon, California.

7/ Includes some quantities not harvested.





Apples, western: Weighted average auction price per box, all grades,  
at Chicago and New York, by specified varieties and weeks, 1936  
and 1937

| Market<br>and<br>week | 1936       |                      |                  |                | 1937       |                      |                  |                |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|
|                       | Washington |                      | All              |                | Washington |                      | All              |                |
|                       | Delicious: | Jonathan:<br>Beauty: | Rome:<br>Beauty: | varie-<br>ties | Delicious: | Jonathan:<br>Beauty: | Rome:<br>Beauty: | varie-<br>ties |
|                       | Dols.      | Dols.                | Dols.            | Dols.          | Dols.      | Dols.                | Dols.            | Dols.          |
| <u>Chicago:</u>       |            |                      |                  |                |            |                      |                  |                |
| Oct. 2                | 1.95       | 1.66                 | 1.79             | 1.79           | 1.84       | 1.72                 | ---              | 1.77           |
| 9                     | 1.94       | 1.61                 | 2.10             | 1.76           | 1.82       | 1.42                 | 1.54             | 1.57           |
| 16                    | 2.01       | 1.60                 | 2.00             | 1.80           | 1.73       | 1.25                 | 1.88             | 1.54           |
| 23                    | 1.83       | 1.51                 | 1.86             | 1.68           | 1.72       | 1.26                 | 1.78             | 1.50           |
| 30                    | 1.93       | 1.56                 | 1.62             | 1.69           | 1.54       | 1.21                 | 1.39             | 1.39           |
| Nov. 6                | 1.96       | 1.68                 | 1.73             | 1.75           | 1.65       | 1.13                 | 1.32             | 1.42           |
| 13                    | 2.04       | 1.79                 | 1.69             | 1.87           | 1.53       | 1.23                 | 1.14             | 1.33           |
|                       | :          |                      |                  |                |            |                      |                  |                |
| <u>New York:</u>      |            |                      |                  |                |            |                      |                  |                |
| Oct. 2                | 2.11       | 1.84                 | 1.78             | 1.95           | 2.04       | 1.69                 | ---              | 1.89           |
| 9                     | 2.31       | 1.88                 | 2.28             | 2.14           | 2.41       | 1.83                 | 1.96             | 1.92           |
| 16                    | 2.16       | 1.70                 | 2.33             | 2.05           | 2.21       | 1.46                 | 2.03             | 2.00           |
| 23                    | 2.10       | 1.77                 | 2.06             | 2.06           | 1.89       | 1.43                 | 1.87             | 1.80           |
| 30                    | 2.11       | 1.94                 | 1.86             | 2.02           | 1.85       | 1.40                 | 1.78             | 1.76           |
| Nov. 6                | 2.15       | 1.71                 | 1.85             | 2.01           | 1.93       | 1.37                 | 1.56             | 1.74           |
| 13                    | 2.15       | 1.48                 | 1.84             | 2.01           | 1.80       | 1.46                 | 1.52             | 1.70           |
|                       | :          |                      |                  |                |            |                      |                  |                |

Apples, western: Sales and weighted average auction price per  
box, all varieties and grades, at New York and Chicago,  
specified 2-week periods, 1936 and 1937

| Two-week period:<br>ended | 1936   |         | 1937   |         |
|---------------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
|                           | Sales  | Price   | Sales  | Price   |
|                           | Boxes  | Dollars | Boxes  | Dollars |
| <u>Chicago:</u>           |        |         |        |         |
| Oct. 16 .....             | 47,092 | 1.78    | 45,820 | 1.56    |
| 30 .....                  | 56,141 | 1.68    | 41,955 | 1.45    |
| Nov. 13 .....             | 48,279 | 1.80    | 51,925 | 1.37    |
|                           | :      |         |        |         |
| <u>New York:</u>          |        |         |        |         |
| Oct. 16 .....             | 61,185 | 2.09    | 45,803 | 1.98    |
| 30 .....                  | 82,403 | 2.04    | 59,293 | 1.78    |
| Nov. 13 .....             | 75,439 | 2.01    | 67,177 | 1.72    |
|                           | :      |         |        |         |

THE FRUIT OUTLOOK FOR 1938  
(Excerpts from Report Issued November 10)

Summary

The average production of all fruits during the next 5 years (1937-41) will probably be larger than the average for the 5-year period (1932-36) just passed.

The increase in citrus production in recent years has offset the declines in apples and grapes. From the present indications it appears that during the next 5 years a somewhat larger total per-capita supply of fruit may be expected, but an increasing proportion of this supply will be comprised of citrus fruits.

The demand for fruits will probably average higher during the next 5-year period than the 5-year period just passed, which included the depression years, with the result that total income from fruit production will probably be somewhat higher. During the remainder of the present marketing year, however, demand conditions are apt to be somewhat lower than during the first part of the season.

Increasing competition may be expected in foreign markets during the next 5 years. Not only is the trend of fruit production upward in most countries for both deciduous and citrus fruits, but many European countries are taking steps to insure a larger production of deciduous fruits and to improve the quality of the crops. On the other hand, the long-time outlook for United States fruit exports has been improved by the modification and reduction of trade barriers that has taken place as a result of the trade agreements the United States has concluded within the last 3 years. In practically all of these agreements some concessions were obtained on fruit from the United States. Moreover, purchasing power has been improving in the principal countries to which the United States exports fruits and should continue to improve during 1938.

Oranges

The upward trend of orange production of the last 10 years probably will continue at a more moderate rate for the next 4 or 5 years.

Of the 34,600,000 bearing trees (5 years old and over) estimated in the groves of California, Florida, Texas, and Arizona in 1937, 45 percent had not reached full production and 26 percent were in the relatively young group of 5 to 10 years of age. With this proportion of the bearing trees yet to come into full bearing it seems reasonably certain that the average production during the next 5 years will be larger than that of the last 5 years. An average for the next 5-year period of 55,000,000 to 60,000,000 boxes seems probable, whereas the average for the last 5 years was 54,044,000 boxes. Production of Navel and other early varieties probably will not vary greatly from the present level; the upward trend of Valencias and other late varieties is expected to continue.

Prices received by growers for oranges have continued on a relatively low level since the season of 1929-30. The unfavorable effects of larger supplies of grapefruit in prospect for the next 5 years and prospective apple supplies, only slightly smaller than in recent years, probably will be offset to some extent by an improvement in consumer purchasing power. Disposal of larger quantities in



foreign markets holds little promise because of an increasing production in other countries, especially in Palestine.

### Grapefruit

Bearing acreage of grapefruit has increased rapidly during recent years and the trend of production is sharply upward. Last season (1936-37) when growing conditions were only slightly above average, a record-high crop of 30,281,000 boxes was produced, which is 80 percent above the average production of 16,869,000 boxes during the previous 5 years. Since only 31 percent of the bearing trees had reached the age of full production in 1937, the trend of production during the next decade is likely to continue upward because of the increasing bearing capacity of the large number of relatively young trees.

Much of the expected increase in production will take place in the seedless varieties of grapefruit. Bearing trees in this group are two-thirds of the total bearing trees of all grapefruit and represent plantings of which only 15 percent have reached full production. The seedless varieties predominate in Texas, California and Arizona.

Under the average growing conditions of recent years, and in the light of recent production trends and potential increases in bearing surface of young trees it seems certain that the average production of the next 5 marketing seasons (1937-41) will exceed 25,000,000 boxes, and may approach 30,000,000 boxes. It appears that crops of 30,000,000 boxes or more can be expected with increasing frequency during the next 10 years, whereas in the decade preceding 1936-37, the production averaged about 14,700,000 boxes and in only one season (1934-35) reached 20,000,000 boxes. As large crops in recent years have resulted in low prices to growers, the problem of operating groves at a profit will become more acute as production increases. Production in foreign countries is also increasing and exports will meet with greater competition.

The canning factory has become an important marketing outlet for grapefruit in Florida and Texas in recent years. Since 1928 there has been a rapid increase in the canning of grapefruit juice and sections, and during the 1936-37 season about 34 percent of the total production of Florida and Texas was used for this purpose.

### Lemons

Bearing acreage of lemons in California is estimated at approximately 47,000 acres in 1937, 34 percent of which has not yet reached full producing capacity. In 1936, bearing acreage was approximately 42,800 acres and non-bearing acreage was about 18,400 acres or 30 percent of the total acreage.

Should average growing conditions prevail during the 5-year period following 1937-38, the present acreage of bearing and non-bearing trees will permit an average annual production for the period of at least 10,000,000 boxes, as compared with 8,046,000 boxes, average annual production for the 5-year period 1931-32 to 1935-36. Reported condition of the crop from the bloom of 1937 is low and production for the 1937-38 marketing season probably will be in line with the 5-year (1931-35) average production.

Production in foreign countries has been declining since 1932-33. Italy has usually been the largest lemon-producing country in the world, but the Italian crop declined from 17,755,000 boxes in 1932-33 to an estimated crop of 8,202,000 boxes in 1936-37. The 5-year average for the period 1926-27 to 1930-31 was 12,764,000 boxes.

Exports from the United States amounted to 617,000 boxes in 1935-36 as compared with 532,000 boxes in 1934-35. Only 219,670 boxes were exported during the first 10 months of the 1936-37 season. Freeze damage to the crop in January 1937, with a reduction in the quantity of high quality fruit, was a significant factor affecting exports. Lemon imports are of minor importance in the United States at the present time.

Prices to growers for the 1937-38 crop probably will not differ greatly from those received during the last 2 seasons when production was about average. With the prospect of a substantial increase in production after the 1937-38 season, it seems certain that increasing quantities will be diverted to by-products, and it would appear that average annual returns to growers per box during the 5-year period following 1937-38 will trend downward.

### Apples

The long-time trend in total apple production in the United States is expected to be downward at a moderate rate. With average growing conditions, annual production probably will approach 140,000,000 bushels by 1945 compared with present production under average growing conditions of about 156,000,000 bushels.

Production of dessert apples in the chief producing countries outside of the United States is on a slightly upward trend. Improvements are being made in cultural practices in most apple-growing countries.

In the Pacific Coast and Rocky Mountain States production in recent years has been fairly stable at about 50,000,000 to 55,000,000 bushels per year. The peak of production has apparently been passed for the region as a whole, and the general trend is expected to be slightly downward.

In the Central States where annual production varies tremendously, increasing production from young orchards probably will about offset decreasing production from old commercial and farm orchards for several years, assuming average growing conditions.

In the Eastern States, the removal of unprofitable farm orchards continues. Although production of some of the more popular varieties may increase for several years, on the whole the number of trees yet to come into bearing is not sufficient to maintain the present number of trees of bearing age.

Domestic-apple supplies for the current season are the largest in several years, and apple prices thus far in the season have been substantially lower than those which prevailed for the small crop of 1936.

Improved demand conditions in many foreign countries, trade-agreement concessions on apples, smaller crops in European countries, and lower prices in this country, as compared with last year, are factors that indicate an increase in the volume of apple exports in 1937-38 as compared with last year.



Peaches

Peach production in the United States in the next 5 years will probably average slightly higher than in 1933-37. Anticipated improvement in demand as compared with the last 5 years is likely at least to offset the effect of larger supplies, and prices are expected to continue generally favorable to growers. In any year when growing conditions are considerably above average, however, marketing difficulties are likely to be experienced.

At this time, when the outlook for production and prices for several years is favorable, the danger of overexpansion of the industry should be recognized. Periods of fairly profitable prices in the past have often stimulated planting so that overproduction and severe losses to growers resulted in some districts. The industry from 5 to 15 years hence may be faced with burdensome market supplies if planting continues at the present or an increased rate over a period of years.

For the United States as a whole and for each of the important peach areas the number of trees in 1935 was near the low point for many years. The upward trend in production is expected chiefly because of the increase in planting in many districts during the last 3 years and the generally good care orchards are receiving.

Cherries

Indications are that cherry production in the United States, during the next 3 to 5 years, with average growing conditions, will be slightly larger than average production during the past 5 years. It is expected that the considerable number of trees yet to come into bearing will probably more than offset any normal losses and abandonment of orchards for the next few years.

Farm prices for cherries, after dropping to a decidedly low level in 1932, have been gradually rising in recent years largely because of increased demand and a higher general price level. In view of the present potential productive capacity however, it is expected that prices to growers in the next few years will not reach the high levels attained during the 1924-29 period.

There was an increase in the United States of about 35 percent in the number of trees of bearing age from 1930 to 1935. About 25 percent of the total number of trees in the entire country were of non-bearing age in 1935 as compared with 30 percent in 1930. New plantings were heavy during the period 1925-30 when prices to growers were at high levels. The increase in bearing acreage and an upward trend in production during recent years have been greater in the eastern group of States (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin) than in the western group (Montana, Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Washington, Oregon, and California).

From the utilization standpoint, trends in the last few years have been as follows: canned red pitted cherries, sharply upward; canned sweet cherries, slightly downward; brined and frozen cherries sharply upward. Under average conditions it is expected that the trends of all except canned sweet cherries will continue to be slightly upward for the next 2 or 3 years.

Pears

The trend of pear production in the United States is upward, chiefly because of increasing production in the three Pacific Coast States. Although new plantings of pears have almost ceased, there are sufficient young trees to permit the upward trend in production to continue for several years. Orchards in the important commercial pear-producing areas of California, Oregon, Washington, New York, Illinois, and Michigan were given good care in 1936 and very little abandonment took place. Neglect has been general in many other States where pear growing has been relatively unimportant and proved unprofitable.

Prices paid for pears have improved substantially from the low point reached in 1932. Prospects for pears may continue to improve for the next 2 or 3 years, providing demand conditions do not become unfavorable. In years of heavy production, however, considerable difficulty may be experienced in disposing of the crops at prices satisfactory to growers.

Indications point to larger exports of fresh pears in 1937-38 than in the preceding season. Exports of canned and dried pears also may show an increase. European pear crops are smaller than last year and European purchasing power has improved. More competition may be expected in foreign markets during the next few years because of the increasing production of dessert pears in a number of countries and the lengthening of the marketing season by the wider use of cold storage.

Grapes

Average production of grapes in the United States during the next few years is likely to be slightly larger than the 1932-36 average of 2,100,000 tons, but considerably smaller than the near-record crop of 1937.

Preliminary estimates indicate that the 1938 bearing acreage of grapes in California will be about 487,000 acres, an increase of nearly 19,000 acres over that of 1936. The 1938 bearing acreage is likely to be maintained and perhaps increased slightly during the next few years, since the relatively good prices this season, considering the very large crop, are expected to encourage good vineyard care. With average yields, this acreage would produce approximately 1,375,000 tons of grapes.

Plantings of raisin varieties have been heavier during the last few years than plantings of either wine or table varieties, and some increase has occurred in the bearing acreage of raisin grapes, particularly Thompson Seedless. A preliminary estimate places the 1938 bearing acreage of raisin varieties at about 238,000 acres, compared with 228,000 acres in 1936, and further increases may occur during the next few years. With average yields, annual production of raisin varieties during the next few years probably would be about 1,100,000 tons.

A preliminary estimate indicates that the bearing acreage of California table grapes in 1938 will be about 80,000 acres, compared with about 78,000 acres in 1936, and this acreage will likely be maintained during the next few years. Production on this acreage with average yields would be about 312,000 tons.

The 1938 bearing acreage of California wine grapes is tentatively set at a little more than 169,000 acres, an increase of more than 6,000 acres over the

1936 figure. This bearing acreage probably will be maintained during the next few years and some further increases may occur. Annual production with average yields on this acreage would amount to about 475,000 tons.

There has been no pronounced trend in production of grapes in the principal producing regions outside California. Production in these regions during the next few years will probably average near the 1932-36 average of 267,000 tons, although bearing acreage is likely to decline slightly. Reports indicate that plantings in all eastern regions are light.

### Strawberries

Indications are that strawberry production will be appreciably larger in 1938 than in 1937, and prices to growers will probably average somewhat below the relatively favorable 1937 prices. Prices to growers which have been increasing since 1933 were slightly higher in 1937 than in 1936, although production in 1937 was about 20 percent larger than in 1936. October reports indicate a 1938 acreage for picking about 12 percent larger than the 1937 harvested acreage and only slightly below the average of 1928-32. Beds are reported to be in good condition in most areas and appreciably improved over the low condition of a year earlier.

Acreage increases are indicated for each of the different groups of States, the largest increase occurring in the intermediate States.

Strawberry beds in most producing areas came through the summer in generally good condition. Condition of beds of all ages on October 1, 1937 was reported to be 79 percent as compared with 59.6 percent a year earlier when drought and unusually hot weather during the summer severely damaged strawberry beds in many producing areas. The favorable condition of beds, unless adverse factors intervene, should be reflected in better-than-average yields in 1938.

Exact forecasts of strawberry production several months in advance are not possible because of the influence of such factors as droughts, frosts, and excessive rainfall. If the yield per acre in 1938 is as high as in 1937, which appears probable in view of the generally favorable condition of beds, the intended acreage in 1938 would permit of a production of about 320,000,000 quarts. This would be more than 10 percent higher than the 1937 production which was about equal to the 1928-32 average.

### THE OUTLOOK FOR TREE NUTS (Summary of Report Issued November 10)

It is probable that production of tree nuts in the United States will continue at a high level, and the basic trend is expected to continue moderately upward.

Three other important trends are revealed by the data available for tree nuts during the last 15 years: (1) a steady and rapid increase since 1928 in the consumption of cashew nuts, (2) reduced importance of almonds in the total consumption of all tree nuts, and (3) continuation of farm prices of walnuts and improved varieties of pecans at the low levels established early in the depression. It is probable that these trends will characterize the next 2 or 3 years, at least.



A further trend is the rapidly increasing production of filberts in Oregon and Washington.

The outlook is for lower prices for tree nuts in 1937-38, since the pecan, almond, and English walnut crops are all substantially greater than in 1936.

Almond production in 1937 is expected to be the highest on record -- 16,200 tons. This crop follows 5 years of successively smaller crops, the 1936 crop having amounted to only 7,600 tons. During the 5 years 1938-42, bearing acreage is expected to increase moderately, and production is likely to average in the neighborhood of 13,000 tons, depending upon weather conditions. The very large domestic crop would seem to indicate a lower farm price in the 1937-38 marketing season, a somewhat greater consumption, and smaller imports than in 1936-37.

The 1937 pecan crop is expected to amount to about 35,300 tons -- slightly more than the average for the preceding 5 years. Over the past 6 or 7 years there has been an upward trend in the production of improved varieties of pecans whereas no trend has been noticeable in total production. Over the next few years a small rate of increase in total production seems likely together with an increase in the proportion of improved varieties produced.

The expected 1937 English walnut production of 59,600 tons is the heaviest on record, exceeding the previous record, made in 1935, by 8 percent and exceeding the 1932-36 average by 52 percent. This is in line with the long-time trend, which continues strongly upward. It is not unlikely that crops in excess of 50,000 tons will become usual during the next 5 years. With the prospects for heavy production, it seems probable that walnut producers will not receive as high prices in the future as in the past at given levels of consumer income. Another factor pointing in the same direction is the narrowed margin between the price of improved varieties of pecans and the price of walnuts.

The production of filberts in 1937 is expected to amount to approximately 2,230 tons, which is 21 percent above the 1936 production and about twice the 1932-36 average production. An average production in the neighborhood of 3,000 tons seems likely for the three seasons 1938, 1939, and 1940.

