

SUGARCANE SUMMARY FOR CROP YEAR 2021

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In 2021, sugarcane was grown on 508,000 acres in 25 Louisiana parishes. An estimated 467,360 acres were available for harvest for sugar. The 11 operating raw sugar factories in the state processed 15,163,536 tons of sugarcane. In total, the 11 factories produced 1.832 million short tons of sugar (96° pol). The average yield of cane produced from each harvested acre amounted to 32.5 tons/acre. The average sugar recovery at the 11 raw sugar factories was 12.08 percent or 242 pounds of sugar (96° pol) per ton of cane. The yield of commercially recoverable sugar produced per harvested acre was approximately 7,842 pounds.

Although the pricing period is not complete for the 2021 crop, the average predicted price for raw sugar is \$0.286 per pound. Molasses price is estimated at \$135 per short ton at 79.5° Brix.

The gross farm value of the 2021 sugarcane crop was \$660.1 million for sugar and molasses. The gross farm value represents 60 percent of the value of the sugar and 50 percent of the value of molasses produced. The remaining percentages are for processing and marketing, which amounted to \$450.5 million. Total value of the sugarcane crop to Louisiana producers, processors, and landlords at the first processing level was \$1,110 million.

The 2021 sugarcane crop experienced a hard freeze on February 16, 2021, with a low temperature of 12.3 F recorded at the Dean Lee Experiment Station in Alexandria, Louisiana. The duration was short, and temperatures rebounded quickly. The biggest effect from the freeze was injury to older stubble crops in the northern sugarcane producing areas. The predominate weather event affecting the Louisiana sugar industry was above normal rainfall. Cultivation and fertilization were difficult to accomplish. Much of the crop was fertilized late, and growth and development of the crop was delayed. Sugarcane brown rust levels were moderate, but mainly an issue in the southern most growing regions. Populations of the Mexican rice borer continued to increase and move eastward.

Planting was delayed because of a short crop at planting and some delays in getting labor in on time. The southeastern most regions (Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. Charles, St. John, St. James, Assumption, and Ascension parishes) were severely affected by Hurricane Ida, which made landfall on August 29, 2021, near Port Fourchon, LA. The crop severely lodged, and cane yield in the fields were much lower due to the wind and water damage. Nearly all growers switched to billet planting to complete the 2021 planting season.

Fortunately, much of the 2021 harvest season was dry, which had a beneficial effect on sugar recovery. The dry weather also allowed for some post-harvest cultivation and plow out of fields for replanting. Fallow fields were precision graded and rows pulled up. Much of the cultivation not done in the spring was done during the dry fall.

Rainfall and other weather data are reported in (Tables 1-3).

Harvest began on September 24, 2021, at the Alma mill and concluded at the Enterprise raw sugar factory on January 21, 2022. The 2021 harvest was marked by dry weather. The Louisiana sugar industry did not experience any severe freezes during the grinding season.

The 2021 sugarcane variety census showed that the most widely grown variety was L 01-299, grown on 57 percent of the production acres. This was followed by HoCP 96-540 (10%), L 01-283 (10%), and HoCP 09-804 (10%). Two new sugarcane varieties, L 14-267 and HoCP 14-885, were released to sugarcane growers in 2021. Seed cane was made available by the American Sugar Cane League.

Table 1. 2021 monthly weather summary for Baton Rouge from data obtained at Ryan Airport.

Month	Maximum Temperature	Minimum Temperature	Average Temperature	High Temperature	High Temp Date	Low Temperature	Low Temp. Date	Monthly Rainfall	Rain Days
January	63	42	53	76	25	30	18	3.01	9
February	60	40	50	85	27	20	16	4.33	7
March	75	54	64	85	27	36	8	4.85	9
April	77	56	67	90	28	38	3	12.84	11
May	83	65	74	90	27	56	14	13.23	11
June	89	72	81	95	15	67	17	10.04	17
July	91	74	82	95	29	70	13	8.92	17
August	90	72	81	95	24	66	5	8.48	16
September	86	68	77	93	5	53	25	8.35	13
October	83	62	72	91	14	46	31	1.65	3
November	71	45	58	80	17	34	27	0.68	5
December	74	54	64	84	31	34	22	3.49	8
Annual	79	59	69	95		20		79.87	126

Table 2. 2021 monthly weather summary for New Orleans from data obtained at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

Month	Maximum Temperature	Minimum Temperature	Average Temperature	High Temperature	High Temp Date	Low Temperature	Low Temp Date	Monthly Rainfall	Rain Days
January	64.2	46.6	55.4	78	25	36	17	2.04	8
February	63.5	45.8	54.6	83	28	25	16	4.83	9
March	75.1	58.2	66.7	85	31	43	8	9.78	7
April	77.4	61.9	69.7	88	29	44	3	12.85	8
May	84.1	70.2	77.1	90	28	62	7	12.8	11
June	89.6	76.2	82.9	97	13	72	18	8.15	18
July	91.9	78.0	84.9	98	24	74	11	10.61	20
August	92.8	77.7	85.3	98	24	72	6	9.61	13
September	86.2	72.5	79.4	93	4	61	26	9.38	14
October	82.5	68.4	75.4	88	15	53	31	2.44	4
November	70.4	52.3	61.4	81	11	42	14	0.52	4
December	73.6	57.5	65.6	84	30	39	22	3.07	10
Annual	79.4	63.9	71.7	98		25		86.08	126

Table 3. 2021 monthly weather summary for Lafayette from data obtained at the Lafayette Regional Airport.

Month	Maximum Temperature	Minimum Temperature	Average Temperature	High Temperature	High Temp Date	Low Temperature	Low Temp Date	Monthly Rainfall	Rain Days
January	43.7	53.0	74	26	30	12	43.7	1.99	8
February	41.2	50.6	79	28	16	16	41.2	3.71	8
March	54.7	64.1	84	15	39	7	54.7	3.31	7
April	57.8	66.9	86	24	40	2	57.8	8.35	11
May	66.5	74.5	88	27	57	14	66.5	19.17	15
June	73.6	81.3	95	13	69	17	73.6	7.14	17
July	75.1	83.2	96	31	72	13	75.1	13.52	20
August	75.2	84.0	98	24	69	5	75.2	3.71	12
September	70.1	78.5	95	5	57	24	70.1	11.04	12
October	64.8	74.2	91	15	50	31	64.8	3.51	5
November	47.5	59.7	82	17	39	27	47.5	0.70	6
December	56.0	65.2	82	31	35	22	56.0	3.29	9
Annual	60.7	69.7	98		16		60.7	79.44	130