

SUGARCANE SUMMARY FOR CROP YEAR 2025

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In 2025, sugarcane was grown on 543,549 acres across 25 Louisiana parishes, with an estimated 502,783 acres available for harvest. The state's 11 operating raw sugar factories processed 17,944,640 tons of sugarcane, producing a total of 2.224 million short tons of raw sugar (96° pol). Average cane yield was 35.7 tons per harvested acre, and average sugar recovery was 247.8 pounds of sugar (96° pol) per ton of cane. This resulted in a sugar yield of 8,845 pounds per harvested acre.

Although the pricing period for the 2025 sugarcane crop was not complete at the time of reporting, the average predicted price for raw sugar was \$0.32 per pound. Molasses was estimated at \$0.70 per gallon at 79.5° Brix. The gross farm value of the 2025 sugarcane crop was estimated at \$888.99 million for sugar and molasses. This farm value represents approximately 60 percent of the value of sugar and 50 percent of the value of molasses, with the remaining share attributed to raw sugar processors. The processors' portion totaled \$604.36 million. Collectively, the total value of the 2025 sugarcane crop to Louisiana producers, processors, and landlords at the first processing level was estimated at \$1.493 billion.

Growing conditions in 2025 were generally more seasonal following severe freeze events in mid-January and mid-February. A low temperature of 4°F was recorded at the Lafayette Airport on January 22. Spring conditions were relatively dry, with rainfall near normal levels. As a result, spring cultivation, herbicide applications, and fertilizer applications were completed in a timely manner. Disease pressure from brown rust remained low throughout the season.

Summer rainfall patterns were timely and favorable, contributing to excellent sugarcane growth. Insect pressure was higher than normal, particularly from stalk borers in western parishes, which led to increased insecticide applications. An outbreak of West Indian cane flies was also observed, requiring treatment on significant acreage. A Section 18 emergency exemption was granted for the use of Sivanto® Prime insecticide (flupyradifurone) for cane fly control in Louisiana sugarcane.

Seedcane availability and quality were favorable, with sufficient stalk height and population to support timely planting and very good planting ratios. The crop remained largely erect during planting operations, with the exception of HoCP 14-885, which continued to show a tendency toward lodging. The practice of planting sugarcane billets continued to increase, extending a trend that has been ongoing for the past decade. No tropical systems made landfall in Louisiana during 2025, which was beneficial for both planting and harvesting operations.

Harvest operations began on September 15, 2025, at the Alma Mill and concluded on January 13, 2026, also at Alma. Dry weather conditions dominated much of the harvest season, contributing positively to sugar recovery. A new record average sugar recovery of 247.8 pounds of sugar per ton of cane (96° pol) was established in 2025. A mild freeze was recorded at the Baton Rouge Airport on November 11 (30°F), followed by a moderate freeze on December 15 (25°F). These two freeze events primarily affected the northern growing region.

The predominantly dry conditions during harvest allowed for extensive post-harvest cultivation and field preparation for the 2026 crop. Many fallow fields were precision graded and rows reshaped. An increasing number of growers adopted successive planting practices - harvesting fields and immediately burning, plowing out, and preparing them for fall planting.

The 2025 sugarcane variety census indicated that L 01-299 remained the dominant cultivar, accounting for 54 percent of total planted acreage. Other widely grown varieties included HoCP 14-885 (16%), HoCP 09-804 (8%), and Ho 12-615 (6%). Sugarcane variety HoCP 14-885 was widely planted in 2025. A new variety, HoCP 18-803, was released to Louisiana sugarcane growers during the 2025 crop year. Distribution of seedcane was made from secondary seed increase stations managed by the American Sugar Cane League.

Rainfall totals and related weather data for the Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Lafayette airports are summarized in Tables 1–3.

Table 1. 2025 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	59.9	37.8	48.9	81	30	7	22	3.04	8
February	69.6	47.2	58.4	84	15	25	21	3.62	8
March	76.8	52.6	64.7	86	30	35	21	6.20	8
April	83.1	61.6	72.3	89	29	43	8	4.76	5
May	85.8	67.0	76.4	94	23	53	5	8.51	14
June	91.5	72.6	82.1	95	22	63	1	6.60	14
July	92.7	74.8	83.8	98	30	72	11	5.49	15
August	92.9	73.4	83.2	99	21	70	31	5.90	10
September	91.4	69.0	80.2	95	20	62	9	3.82	3
October	83.5	60.1	71.8	91	8	43	31	4.56	8
November	75.1	49.8	62.5	85	18	30	11	0.80	4
December	66.8	44.6	55.7	82	18	25	15	6.40	14
Annual	80.9	59.3	70.1	99		7		59.70	111

Table 2. 2025 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	58.7	42.2	50.5	77	31	21	23	4.68	10
February	70.3	52.6	61.5	85	8	29	20	5.45	8
March	76.1	56.6	66.3	86	30	41	21	4.25	8
April	81.1	65.8	73.5	86	29	47	8	5.23	6
May	85.9	71.3	78.6	92	27	59	11	7.55	12
June	91.8	76.2	84.0	96	23	68	1	10.50	16
July	93.5	77.4	85.5	98	29	74	9	6.42	14
August	93.0	77.7	85.4	99	17	74	16	4.85	10
September	91.8	73.6	82.7	96	13	69	27	0.64	3
October	84.4	67.4	75.9	92	1	49	31	3.34	7
November	75.1	55.5	65.3	85	25	35	11	0.34	3
December	67.0	49.0	58.0	82	26	30	31	4.29	9
Annual	80.8	63.8	72.3	99		21		57.54	106

Table 3. 2025 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	58.6	38.8	48.7	79	5	4	22	3.48	10
February	69.4	49.2	59.3	82	9	26	21	4.5	9
March	75.3	54.5	64.9	84	31	36	21	5.08	7
April	80.9	63.0	72.0	86	22	45	8	8.07	7
May	83.5	67.7	75.7	90	26	56	11	14.91	14
June	89.5	73.5	81.5	93	30	68	1	10.96	15
July	91.4	75.5	83.4	96	29	72	6	6.7	14
August	91.7	74.3	83.0	96	18	71	25	3.57	12
September	90.1	69.8	79.9	94	13	60	9	3.45	4
October	83.7	61.2	72.4	90	8	45	31	2.83	6
November	76.0	51.1	63.5	85	19	31	11	1.28	4
December	67.1	46.4	56.8	82	21	26	15	7.58	12
Annual	79.8	60.5	70.1	96		4		72.41	114