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Released January 12, 2018, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## Orange Production Up Slightly from December Forecast

**The United States all orange** forecast for the 2017-2018 season is 3.99 million tons, up slightly from last month but down 23 percent from the 2016-2017 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 46.0 million boxes (2.07 million tons), is unchanged from last month but down 33 percent from last season's final utilization. Early, midseason, and Navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 19.0 million boxes (855,000 tons), unchanged from last month but down 42 percent from last season's final utilization. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 27.0 million boxes (1.22 million tons), is unchanged from last month but down 24 percent from last season's final utilization.

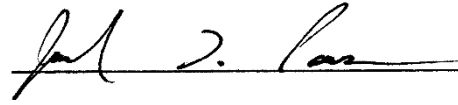
The California all orange forecast is 46.0 million boxes (1.84 million tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but down 9 percent from last season's final utilization. The California Navel orange forecast, at 35.0 million boxes (1.40 million tons), is down 11 percent from last season's final utilization. The California Valencia orange forecast is 11.0 million boxes (440,000 tons), unchanged from both the previous forecast and last season's final utilization. The Texas all orange forecast, at 1.83 million boxes (78,000 tons), is up 11 percent from the previous forecast and up 34 percent from last season's final utilization.

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This report was approved on January 12, 2018.



Secretary of  
Agriculture  
Sonny Perdue



Agricultural Statistics Board  
Chairperson  
Joseph L. Parsons

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## Utilized Production of Citrus Fruits by Crop – States and United States: 2016-2017 and Forecasted January 1, 2018

[The crop year begins with the bloom of the first year shown and ends with the completion of harvest the following year]

Crop and State	Utilized production boxes <sup>1</sup>		Utilized production ton equivalent	
	2016-2017 (1,000 boxes)	2017-2018 (1,000 boxes)	2016-2017 (1,000 tons)	2017-2018 (1,000 tons)
<b>Oranges</b>				
California, all .....	50,300	46,000	2,012	1,840
Early, mid, and Navel <sup>2</sup> .....	39,300	35,000	1,572	1,400
Valencia .....	11,000	11,000	440	440
Florida, all .....	68,750	46,000	3,094	2,070
Early, mid, and Navel <sup>2</sup> .....	33,000	19,000	1,485	855
Valencia .....	35,750	27,000	1,609	1,215
Texas, all .....	1,370	1,830	58	78
Early, mid, and Navel <sup>2</sup> .....	1,090	1,430	46	61
Valencia .....	280	400	12	17
United States, all .....	120,420	93,830	5,164	3,988
Early, mid, and Navel <sup>2</sup> .....	73,390	55,430	3,103	2,316
Valencia .....	47,030	38,400	2,061	1,672
<b>Grapefruit</b>				
California .....	4,000	4,200	160	168
Florida, all .....	7,760	4,650	330	198
Red .....	6,280	3,800	267	162
White .....	1,480	850	63	36
Texas .....	4,800	4,100	192	164
United States .....	16,560	12,950	682	530
<b>Tangerines and mandarins <sup>3</sup></b>				
California .....	23,900	21,000	956	840
Florida .....	1,620	860	77	41
United States .....	25,520	21,860	1,033	881
<b>Lemons</b>				
Arizona .....	1,650	1,250	66	50
California .....	20,500	20,500	820	820
United States .....	22,150	21,750	886	870

<sup>1</sup> Net pounds per box: oranges in California-80, Florida-90, Texas-85; grapefruit in California-80, Florida-85, Texas-80; tangerines and mandarins in California-80, Florida-95; lemons-80.

<sup>2</sup> Navel and miscellaneous varieties in California. Early (including Navel) and midseason varieties in Florida and Texas.

<sup>3</sup> Includes tangelos and tangors.

## Hay Stocks on Farms – States and United States: May 1 and December 1, 2016 and 2017

State	May 1		December 1	
	2016 (1,000 tons)	2017 (1,000 tons)	2016 (1,000 tons)	2017 (1,000 tons)
Alabama .....	265	240	1,050	1,550
Arizona .....	55	30	300	235
Arkansas .....	530	600	1,950	1,800
California .....	340	330	1,800	1,800
Colorado .....	800	500	1,650	1,750
Connecticut .....	4	9	47	54
Delaware .....	2	3	25	25
Florida .....	55	40	550	490
Georgia .....	195	165	950	1,240
Idaho .....	950	510	2,600	2,200
Illinois .....	300	300	1,100	1,100
Indiana .....	185	310	960	1,300
Iowa .....	620	630	2,650	2,280
Kansas .....	1,350	1,250	5,300	4,500
Kentucky .....	800	1,090	3,950	3,850
Louisiana .....	150	200	780	620
Maine .....	26	22	142	170
Maryland .....	78	100	360	350
Massachusetts .....	14	16	55	66
Michigan .....	440	375	1,320	1,100
Minnesota .....	770	860	3,200	2,590
Mississippi .....	145	160	900	970
Missouri .....	1,585	1,500	5,350	5,100
Montana .....	1,025	870	4,100	3,700
Nebraska .....	1,450	1,300	4,600	4,250
Nevada .....	215	220	600	600
New Hampshire .....	6	6	31	45
New Jersey .....	20	26	123	131
New Mexico .....	115	90	400	400
New York .....	189	325	1,390	1,500
North Carolina .....	260	260	1,200	880
North Dakota .....	1,450	1,090	4,700	3,350
Ohio .....	355	415	1,340	1,590
Oklahoma .....	1,450	1,500	5,700	4,800
Oregon .....	440	270	2,300	1,700
Pennsylvania .....	390	520	2,200	2,400
Rhode Island .....	1	1	4	5
South Carolina .....	75	80	380	390
South Dakota .....	2,200	1,850	6,000	5,350
Tennessee .....	550	480	3,050	3,000
Texas .....	2,500	3,280	10,000	7,300
Utah .....	410	300	1,200	1,150
Vermont .....	35	40	260	165
Virginia .....	420	540	2,300	2,100
Washington .....	400	330	1,500	1,150
West Virginia .....	190	175	870	950
Wisconsin .....	810	820	3,200	2,650
Wyoming .....	525	360	1,400	1,550
United States .....	25,140	24,388	95,837	86,246

## Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2017 and 2018

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2018 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	2,481		1,954	
Corn for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	90,167		82,703	
Corn for silage .....	(NA)		6,434	
Hay, all .....	(NA)		53,784	
Alfalfa .....	(NA)		16,563	
All other .....	(NA)		37,221	
Oats .....	2,588		801	
Proso millet .....	478		404	
Rice .....	2,463		2,374	
Rye .....	1,961		286	
Sorghum for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	5,626		5,045	
Sorghum for silage .....	(NA)		284	
Wheat, all .....	46,012		37,586	
Winter .....	32,696	32,608	25,291	
Durum .....	2,307		2,136	
Other spring .....	11,009		10,159	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola .....	2,077.0		2,002.0	
Cottonseed .....	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed .....	303		272	
Mustard seed .....	103.0		95.4	
Peanuts .....	1,870.6		1,775.6	
Rapeseed .....	10.1		9.7	
Safflower .....	162.0		143.2	
Soybeans for beans .....	90,142		89,522	
Sunflower .....	1,403.0		1,344.7	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all .....	12,611.5		11,348.9	
Upland .....	12,360.0		11,101.0	
American Pima .....	251.5		247.9	
Sugarbeets .....	1,131.2		1,114.1	
Sugarcane .....	(NA)		892.9	
Tobacco .....	(NA)		321.5	
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas .....	26.5		9.4	
Dry edible beans .....	2,092.0		2,012.7	
Chickpeas, all .....	618.8		599.3	
Large .....	439.3		424.5	
Small .....	179.5		174.8	
Dry edible peas .....	1,128.0		1,050.5	
Lentils .....	1,104.0		1,022.0	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	(NA)		(NA)	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
Hops .....	(NA)		53.3	
Maple syrup .....	(NA)		(NA)	
Mushrooms .....	(NA)		(NA)	
Peppermint oil .....	(NA)		60.4	
Potatoes, all .....	1,034.3		1,025.5	
Spring .....	58.0		57.7	
Summer .....	68.3		65.5	
Fall .....	908.0		902.3	
Spearmint oil .....	(NA)		22.3	
Sweet potatoes .....	161.6		159.3	
Taro (Hawaii) .....	(NA)		0.4	

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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## Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2017 and 2018 (continued)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2018 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per acre		Production	
	2017	2018	2017 (1,000)	2018 (1,000)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	bushels	72.6	141,923	
Corn for grain .....	bushels	176.6	14,604,067	
Corn for silage .....	tons	19.9	128,356	
Hay, all .....	tons	2.44	131,455	
Alfalfa .....	tons	3.32	55,068	
All other .....	tons	2.05	76,387	
Oats .....	bushels	61.7	49,391	
Proso millet .....	bushels	36.1	14,567	
Rice <sup>2</sup> .....	cwt	7,507	178,228	
Rye .....	bushels	33.9	9,696	
Sorghum for grain .....	bushels	72.1	363,832	
Sorghum for silage .....	tons	13.3	3,772	
Wheat, all .....	bushels	46.3	1,740,582	
Winter .....	bushels	50.2	1,269,437	
Durum .....	bushels	25.7	54,909	
Other spring .....	bushels	41.0	416,236	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola .....	pounds	1,558	3,118,680	
Cottonseed .....	tons	(X)	6,725.0	
Flaxseed .....	bushels	14.1	3,842	
Mustard seed .....	pounds	632	60,250	
Peanuts .....	pounds	4,074	7,233,600	
Rapeseed .....	pounds	2,139	20,750	
Safflower .....	pounds	1,256	179,896	
Soybeans for beans .....	bushels	49.1	4,391,553	
Sunflower .....	pounds	1,613	2,168,737	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all <sup>2</sup> .....	bales	899	21,263.0	
Upland <sup>2</sup> .....	bales	889	20,570.0	
American Pima <sup>2</sup> .....	bales	1,342	693.0	
Sugarbeets .....	tons	31.7	35,325	
Sugarcane .....	tons	36.1	32,243	
Tobacco .....	pounds	2,209	710,161	
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas <sup>2</sup> .....	cwt	1,330	125	
Dry edible beans <sup>2</sup> .....	cwt	1,781	35,845	
Chickpeas, all <sup>2</sup> .....	cwt	1,152	6,905	
Large <sup>2</sup> .....	cwt	1,165	4,945	
Small <sup>2</sup> .....	cwt	1,121	1,960	
Dry edible peas <sup>2</sup> .....	cwt	1,350	14,177	
Lentils <sup>2</sup> .....	cwt	732	7,482	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	cwt	(NA)	357	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
Hops .....	pounds	1,959	104,366.0	
Maple syrup .....	gallons	(NA)	4,271	
Mushrooms .....	pounds	(NA)	928,605	
Peppermint oil .....	pounds	96	5,778	
Potatoes, all .....	cwt	430	441,307	
Spring .....	cwt	343	19,790	
Summer .....	cwt	331	21,679	
Fall .....	cwt	443	399,838	
Spearmint oil .....	pounds	125	2,796	
Sweet potatoes .....	cwt	224	35,646	
Taro (Hawaii) .....	pounds	10,530	3,686	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Area planted for all purposes.

<sup>2</sup> Yield in pounds.

## Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Metric Units – United States: 2017 and 2018

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2018 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	1,004,040		790,760	
Corn for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	36,489,680		33,469,080	
Corn for silage .....	(NA)		2,603,780	
Hay, all <sup>2</sup> .....	(NA)		21,765,850	
Alfalfa .....	(NA)		6,702,880	
All other .....	(NA)		15,062,970	
Oats .....	1,047,340		324,160	
Proso millet .....	193,440		163,490	
Rice .....	996,750		960,730	
Rye .....	793,600		115,740	
Sorghum for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	2,276,790		2,041,660	
Sorghum for silage .....	(NA)		114,930	
Wheat, all <sup>2</sup> .....	18,620,600		15,210,680	
Winter .....	13,231,740	13,196,130	10,235,010	
Durum .....	933,620		864,420	
Other spring .....	4,455,230		4,111,250	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola .....	840,540		810,190	
Cottonseed .....	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed .....	122,620		110,080	
Mustard seed .....	41,680		38,610	
Peanuts .....	757,010		718,570	
Rapeseed .....	4,090		3,930	
Safflower .....	65,560		57,950	
Soybeans for beans .....	36,479,570		36,228,660	
Sunflower .....	567,780		544,190	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all <sup>2</sup> .....	5,103,750		4,592,790	
Upland .....	5,001,970		4,492,460	
American Pima .....	101,780		100,320	
Sugarbeets .....	457,790		450,870	
Sugarcane .....	(NA)		361,350	
Tobacco .....	(NA)		130,100	
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas .....	10,720		3,800	
Dry edible beans .....	846,610		814,520	
Chickpeas <sup>2</sup> .....	250,420		242,530	
Large .....	177,780		171,790	
Small .....	72,640		70,740	
Dry edible peas .....	456,490		425,130	
Lentils .....	446,780		413,590	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	(NA)		(NA)	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
Hops .....	(NA)		21,560	
Maple syrup .....	(NA)		(NA)	
Mushrooms .....	(NA)		(NA)	
Peppermint oil .....	(NA)		24,440	
Potatoes, all <sup>2</sup> .....	418,570		415,010	
Spring .....	23,470		23,350	
Summer .....	27,640		26,510	
Fall .....	367,460		365,150	
Spearmint oil .....	(NA)		9,020	
Sweet potatoes .....	65,400		64,470	
Taro (Hawaii) .....	(NA)		140	

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Metric Units – United States:  
2017 and 2018 (continued)**

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2018 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per hectare		Production	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	3.91		3,090,010	
Corn for grain .....	11.08		370,960,390	
Corn for silage .....	44.72		116,442,600	
Hay, all <sup>2</sup> .....	5.48		119,253,970	
Alfalfa .....	7.45		49,956,850	
All other .....	4.60		69,297,120	
Oats .....	2.21		716,910	
Proso millet .....	2.02		330,370	
Rice .....	8.41		8,084,290	
Rye .....	2.13		246,290	
Sorghum for grain .....	4.53		9,241,760	
Sorghum for silage .....	29.77		3,421,900	
Wheat, all <sup>2</sup> .....	3.11		47,370,880	
Winter .....	3.38		34,548,410	
Durum .....	1.73		1,494,380	
Other spring .....	2.76		11,328,090	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola .....	1.75		1,414,610	
Cottonseed .....	(X)		6,100,820	
Flaxseed .....	0.89		97,590	
Mustard seed .....	0.71		27,330	
Peanuts .....	4.57		3,281,110	
Rapeseed .....	2.40		9,410	
Safflower .....	1.41		81,600	
Soybeans for beans .....	3.30		119,518,490	
Sunflower .....	1.81		983,720	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all <sup>2</sup> .....	1.01		4,629,470	
Upland .....	1.00		4,478,590	
American Pima .....	1.50		150,880	
Sugarbeets .....	71.08		32,046,300	
Sugarcane .....	80.95		29,250,360	
Tobacco .....	2.48		322,120	
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas .....	1.49		5,670	
Dry edible beans .....	2.00		1,625,900	
Chickpeas, all <sup>2</sup> .....	1.29		313,210	
Large .....	1.31		224,300	
Small .....	1.26		88,900	
Dry edible peas .....	1.51		643,060	
Lentils .....	0.82		339,380	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	(NA)		16,190	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
Hops .....	2.20		47,340	
Maple syrup .....	(NA)		21,360	
Mushrooms .....	(NA)		421,210	
Peppermint oil .....	0.11		2,620	
Potatoes, all <sup>2</sup> .....	48.23		20,017,350	
Spring .....	38.44		897,660	
Summer .....	37.10		983,340	
Fall .....	49.67		18,136,350	
Spearmint oil .....	0.14		1,270	
Sweet potatoes .....	25.08		1,616,880	
Taro (Hawaii) .....	11.80		1,670	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Area planted for all purposes.

<sup>2</sup> Total may not add due to rounding.

## Fruits and Nuts Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2017 and 2018

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2018 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2017-2018 season. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2017	2018
<b>Citrus <sup>1</sup></b>		
Grapefruit ..... 1,000 tons	682	530
Lemons ..... 1,000 tons	886	870
Oranges ..... 1,000 tons	5,164	3,988
Tangerines and mandarins ..... 1,000 tons	1,033	881
<b>Noncitrus</b>		
Apples ..... million pounds	10,444.0	
Apricots ..... tons	55,500	
Avocados ..... tons		
Bananas (Hawaii) ..... 1,000 pounds		
Blackberries (Oregon) ..... 1,000 pounds		
Blueberries, Cultivated ..... 1,000 pounds		
Blueberries, Wild (Maine) ..... 1,000 pounds		
Boysenberries (Oregon) ..... 1,000 pounds		
Cherries, Sweet ..... tons	432,760	
Cherries, Tart ..... million pounds	238.2	
Coffee (Hawaii) ..... 1,000 pounds		
Cranberries ..... barrel	9,050,000	
Dates ..... tons		
Figs (California) ..... tons		
Grapes ..... tons	7,505,300	
Kiwifruit (California) ..... tons		
Nectarines ..... tons		
Olives (California) ..... tons		
Papayas (Hawaii) ..... 1,000 pounds		
Peaches ..... tons	735,200	
Pears ..... tons	707,000	
Plums (California) ..... tons		
Prunes (California) ..... tons	105,000	
Raspberries, all ..... 1,000 pounds		
Strawberries ..... 1,000 cwt	30,534	
<b>Nuts and miscellaneous</b>		
Almonds, shelled (California) ..... 1,000 pounds	2,250,000	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon) ..... tons	36,000	
Macadamias (Hawaii) ..... 1,000 pounds		
Pecans, in-shell ..... 1,000 pounds	277,400	
Pistachios (California) ..... 1,000 pounds		
Walnuts, in-shell (California) ..... tons	650,000	

<sup>1</sup> Production years are 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

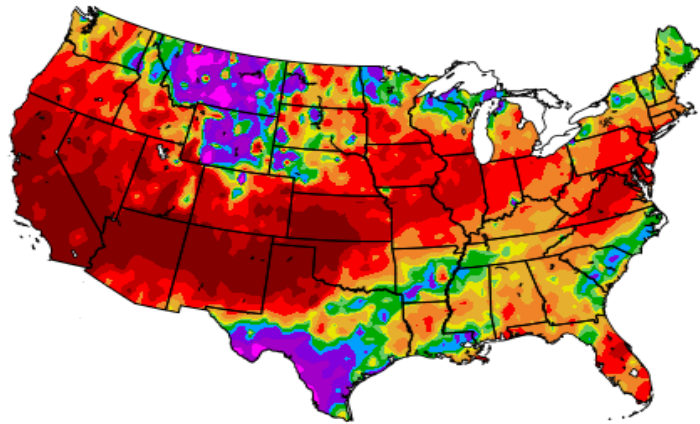
## Fruits and Nuts Production in Metric Units – United States: 2017 and 2018

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2018 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2017-2018 season. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2017 (metric tons)	2018 (metric tons)
<b>Citrus<sup>1</sup></b>		
Grapefruit .....	618,700	480,810
Lemons .....	803,770	789,250
Oranges .....	4,684,700	3,617,850
Tangerines and mandarins .....	937,120	799,230
<b>Noncitrus</b>		
Apples .....	4,737,320	
Apricots .....	50,350	
Avocados .....		
Bananas (Hawaii) .....		
Blackberries (Oregon) .....		
Blueberries, Cultivated .....		
Blueberries, Wild (Maine) .....		
Boysenberries (Oregon) .....		
Cherries, Sweet .....	392,590	
Cherries, Tart .....	108,050	
Coffee (Hawaii) .....		
Cranberries .....	410,500	
Dates .....		
Figs (California) .....		
Grapes .....	6,808,690	
Kiwifruit (California) .....		
Nectarines .....		
Olives (California) .....		
Papayas (Hawaii) .....		
Peaches .....	666,960	
Pears .....	641,380	
Plums (California) .....		
Prunes (California) .....	95,250	
Raspberries, all .....		
Strawberries .....	1,384,990	
<b>Nuts and miscellaneous</b>		
Almonds, shelled (California) .....	1,020,580	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon) .....	32,660	
Macadamias (Hawaii) .....		
Pecans, in-shell .....	125,830	
Pistachios (California) .....		
Walnuts, in-shell (California) .....	589,670	

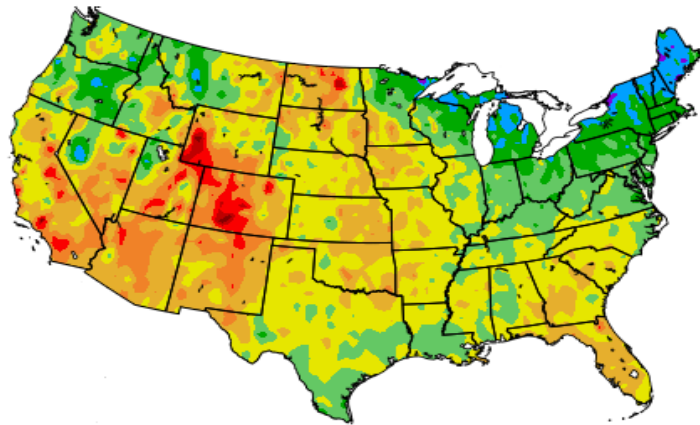
<sup>1</sup> Production years are 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
12/1/2017 - 12/31/2017



NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
12/1/2017 - 12/31/2017



NOAA Regional Climate Centers

## December Weather Summary

Raging wildfires in southern California and a late-month cold wave east of the Rockies highlighted a La Niña-driven weather regime. La Niña also likely contributed to a broad expanse of drier-than-normal conditions, as well as unusually warm weather across the nation's southwestern quadrant.

A few areas, however, received significant December precipitation. Wet (or snowy) regions included the northern High Plains and areas downwind of the Great Lakes. After mid-month, a pair of heavy precipitation events across the interior Southeast eased drought and generally benefited winter grains and cover crops.

In advance of bitterly cold conditions, snow cover increased from less than one-quarter (24 percent) of the country on December 20 to nearly half (49 percent) by December 25. Most of the gain in snow coverage occurred across the northern half of the U.S., providing highly beneficial insulation for Northwestern and Midwestern winter wheat, as well as wheat on the Plains from Nebraska northward. Earlier in the month, from December 7-9, a rare, early-season snow storm had blanketed the Deep South from southern Texas to the southern Appalachians.

In contrast, winter wheat across the southern half of the Plains—already poorly established and stressed by developing drought—was left exposed. And, as very cold air arrived late in the month, concerns mounted with regard to the health of the southern Plains' wheat. Between November 26 and December 31, wheat rated very poor to poor increased from 10 to 42 percent in Oklahoma; from 14 to 22 percent in Kansas; and from 7 to 21 percent in Colorado. Oklahoma led the Plains with topsoil moisture rated 84 percent very short to short at the end of December, followed by Kansas (77 percent) and Colorado (60 percent).

Southern California's wildfire outbreak, which began on December 4, was fanned by a protracted period of "Santa Ana" winds that hampered containment efforts. The Thomas fire spread across parts of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties and—with more than 280,000 acres burned—became the largest single wildfire in modern California history.

## December Agricultural Summary

December started milder than normal, particularly in the middle of the Nation. By the first full week of December, cooler weather crept into the United States, but the Northern Plains, and especially eastern Montana, remained well above average. As the month progressed, the northern part of the country began to chill to more normal temperatures, while the Southeast saw a burst of warmth during the third week. Colder temperatures finally replaced the warmth in the Northern Plains and temperatures fell drastically, with areas in Montana and the Dakotas plunging to 25°F or more below normal. Despite snows in the Northern half of the country and rain storms along the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts, the Nation was fairly dry during December. Eastern Montana remained in an extreme drought during the month, and the lack of precipitation helped fuel wildfires in Southern California.

During the last week of the year, the majority of the winter wheat crop in reporting States was estimated to be in fair to good condition. Mild temperatures and occasional rains helped push three-fourths of California's winter wheat crop to excellent condition by the end of the month. At that same time in Kansas, cold, dry conditions caused 75 percent of the crop to be reported in fair to good condition, 4 percentage points below the same time last year.

Pasture and range conditions were low in reporting States during the last week of December. In particular, half of Montana's pasture and range land was reported in very poor condition, 10 percentage points more than was reported in these two categories for the week ending October 29. Other States fared better, but only Colorado and North Carolina had the majority of their pasture and range land rated in good to excellent condition.

During the middle of December, temperatures in Florida were reported as being ideal for citrus orchards. Grove operations were normal during the month, with producers spraying, mowing, replanting, and harvesting. Sporadic bloom was reported in some areas, possibly due to warmer temperatures. By the end of the month tangerines and tangelos were being harvested for the fresh market included midseason cultivars Autumn Honey, Orri, Osceola, Robinson and Tango tangerines, and Orlando tangelos were the main varieties at the packinghouses. Early orange harvest for the fresh market was mostly Hamlins and Navels.

## Crop Comments

**Grapefruit:** The United States 2017-2018 grapefruit crop is forecast at 530,000 tons, down 8 percent from last month and 22 percent below last season's final utilization. In Florida, expected production, at 4.65 million boxes (198,000 tons), is unchanged from last month, but down 40 percent from last year. When compared with the previous season, California's expected production, at 4.20 million boxes (168,000 tons), is up, however Texas's grapefruit production forecast at 4.10 million boxes (164,000 tons) is down.

**Lemons:** The forecast for the 2017-2018 United States lemon crop is 870,000 tons, down 4 percent from last month and down 2 percent from last season's final utilization. The California production forecast, at 20.5 million boxes (820,000 tons), is down 2 percent from last month but unchanged from 2016-2017.

**Tangerines and mandarins:** The United States tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 881,000 tons, down 9 percent from last month and down 15 percent from last season's final utilization. The California forecast, at 21.0 million boxes (840,000 tons), is down 9 percent from last month and down 12 percent from the 2016-2017 season. Growers reported lower than originally expected yields.

**Florida citrus:** Daily temperatures across the citrus region were cooler than average the first week of December, but warmed up quickly as the month progressed. Reported high temperatures ranged from the upper 50s, on the coldest days, to the low 80s, on the warmest days. Rainfall totals were below the average in most of the citrus growing region. The Indian River District was the only area with typical rainfall for the month. Vero Beach (Indian River County) and Ft. Pierce (St. Lucie County) each reported one and a half inches of rainfall during the month. Most of Desoto, Hendry, and Polk, the three highest citrus producing counties, had less than a half of an inch of rainfall. According to the December 28, 2017 U.S. Drought Monitor, the complete citrus growing region remained drought free.

Reported grove operations included fertilizing, mowing, topping, and hedging, applying herbicides, spraying, and harvesting. All growers were irrigating regularly due to the dry weather and warm temperatures. Processing plants accepted both packinghouse eliminations and field run fruit.

**California citrus:** Navel orange harvest was ongoing and gained momentum by month's end. Lemon, grapefruit, mandarin, and pomelo harvests continued. Young citrus trees were bagged to protect them from frost, as citrus growers continued to protect their orchards due from cold overnight temperatures.

**California noncitrus fruits and nuts:** Table grape harvest was almost finished mid-month. Some vineyards were sprayed for weeds. Table grapes from cold storage continued to be exported. Pomegranates, kiwifruit, and persimmons were harvested. Olive groves were pruned throughout the month. The extent of the impact of the southern California wild fires and Santa Ana winds on avocado and citrus orchards has yet to be quantified. At the end of December some older, poorly producing orchards and vineyards were removed and prepared for replanting. Some growers prepared to apply winter dormant sprays. Almond and pistachio harvests were complete by the first of December. Walnut harvest was nearly complete. Soil amendments were applied in orchards. By the end of the month, pistachios, almonds, walnuts, and pecans continued to be packed and shipped primarily to foreign markets. Nut growers were busy applying winter weed sprays. Some older orchards were pushed out and the ground was prepped for planting.

**Hay stocks on farms:** All hay stored on United States farms as of December 1, 2017 totaled 86.2 million tons, down 10 percent from the previous December. Disappearance from May 1, 2017 - December 1, 2017 totaled 69.6 million tons, compared with 64.3 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

The majority of the eastern States reported higher stocks compared to the previous year due to a higher production. Meanwhile, among States west of the Mississippi River, only Colorado and Wyoming had higher stocks than in 2016.

## Statistical Methodology

**Survey procedures:** The orange objective yield survey for the January 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which produces about 60 percent of the United States production last season. In August and September 2017, the number of bearing trees and the number of fruit per tree is determined. In August and subsequent months, fruit size measurement and fruit droppage surveys are conducted, which combined with the previous components are used to develop the current forecast of production. California and Texas conduct grower on a quarterly basis in October, January, April, and July. California conducts an objective measurement survey in September for Navel oranges and in March for Valencia oranges.

**Estimating procedures:** State level objective yield estimates for Florida oranges were reviewed for errors, reasonableness, and consistency with historical estimates. Reports from growers in California and Texas were also used for setting estimates. These three States submit their analyses of the current situation to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB). The ASB uses the survey data and the State analyses to prepare the published January 1 forecast.

**Revision policy:** The January 1 production forecasts will not be revised. A new forecast will be made each month throughout the growing season. End-of-season estimates will be published in the *Citrus Fruits Summary* released in August. The production estimates are based on all data available at the end of the marketing season, including information from marketing orders, shipments, and processor records. Allowances are made for recorded local utilization and home use.

**Reliability:** To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the January 1 production forecasts, the "Root Mean Square Error," a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the January 1 production forecast and the final estimate is expressed as a percentage of the final estimate. The average of squared percentage deviations for the latest 20-year period is computed. The square root of the average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error." Probability statements can be made concerning expected differences in the current forecast relative to the final end-of-season estimate, assuming that factors affecting this year's forecast are not different from those influencing recent years.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1 orange production forecast is 5.2 percent. However, if you exclude the three abnormal production years (one freeze season and two hurricane seasons), the "Root Mean Square Error" is 5.4 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current orange production forecast will not be above or below the final estimates by more than 5.2 percent, or 5.4 percent excluding abnormal seasons. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 8.9 percent, or 9.4 percent excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the January 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 344,000 tons (355,000 tons excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 2,000 tons to 843,000 tons regardless of exclusions. The January 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 7 times and above 13 times (below 7 times and above 10 times, excluding abnormal seasons). The difference does not imply that the January 1 forecast this year is likely to understate or overstate final production.

## USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov)

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James Johanson – County Estimates, Hay .....	(202) 690-8533
Jeff Lemmons – Oats, Soybeans .....	(202) 690-3234
Sammy Neal – Peanuts, Rice .....	(202) 720-7688
Joshua O’Rear – Crop Weather, Barley .....	(202) 720-7621
Jean Porter – Rye, Wheat .....	(202) 720-8068
Bianca Pruneda – Cotton, Cotton Ginnings, Sorghum.....	(202) 720-5944
Travis Thorson – Sunflower, Other Oilseeds .....	(202) 720-7369
Jorge Garcia-Pratts, Head, Fruits, Vegetables and Special Crops Section.....	(202) 720-2127
Vincent Davis – Apricots, Bananas, Cherries, Garlic, Lettuce, Mint, Papaya, Pears, Strawberries, Tomatoes.....	(202) 720-2157
Fleming Gibson – Avocados, Cauliflower, Celery, Citrus, Coffee, Dates, Figs, Kiwifruit, Nectarines, Olives, Green Peas, Taro, Watermelons .....	(202) 720-5412
Greg Lemmons – Blackberries, Blueberries, Boysenberries, Cranberries, Cucumbers, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Raspberries, Squash, Sugarbeets, Sugarcane, Sweet Potatoes .....	(202) 720-4285
Dan Norris – Artichokes, Austrian Winter Peas, Cantaloupes, Dry Beans, Dry Edible Peas, Honeydews, Lentils, Mushrooms, Peaches, Snap Beans .....	(202) 720-3250
Daphne Schaubert – Bell Peppers, Broccoli, Cabbage, Chile Peppers, Floriculture, Grapes, Hops, Maple Syrup, Tree Nuts, Spinach .....	(202) 720-4215
Chris Singh – Apples, Apricots, Asparagus, Carrots, Lima Beans, Onions, Plums, Prunes, Sweet Corn, Tobacco .....	(202) 720-4288



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