



Crop Production

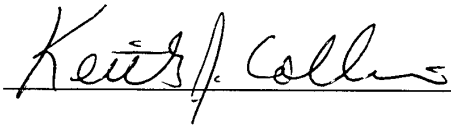
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U.S. Orange Production Unchanged from February

The U.S. all orange March 1 forecast of the 2000-01 crop is 12.4 million tons, unchanged from February's forecast but 6 percent less than last season's final utilization. Florida's all orange forecast is 223 million boxes (10.0 million tons), the same as last month but 4 percent less than the 1999-2000 final utilization. The early and midseason orange forecast remains at 127 million boxes (5.72 million tons), 5 percent lower than the previous season. Harvest is nearing completion and is expected to be finished by the end of March. Florida's Valencia forecast, at 96.0 million boxes (4.32 million tons), is unchanged from February but is 3 percent lower than last season's final utilization. The Valencia growth rate during February was near the average, but size continues below average. Loss from droppage remains below the previous ten-season average. Harvest has just begun with only a very low percentage of rows harvested. Arizona, California, and Texas orange production forecasts are carried forward from the February forecasts.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield projection is increased from 1.54 to 1.58 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix. The early and midseason portion is increased to 1.54 gallons per box from 1.51 last month. The Valencia portion is also increased and is expected to yield 1.65 gallons per box. All of the projected increases in yield are dependent on processors and harvesters following similar patterns of the past several seasons.

This report was approved on March 8, 2001.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Keith J. Collins



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
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**Sugarcane: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Use, State, and United States, 1999-2000**

Use and State	Area Harvested		Yield ¹		Production ¹	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
For Sugar						
FL	443.0	437.0	35.0	37.0	15,505	16,169
HI ²	35.4	32.6	81.7	80.7	2,892	2,631
LA ²	435.0	465.0	32.7	30.0	14,225	13,950
TX ²	28.0	46.0	34.1	37.7	955	1,734
US	941.4	980.6	35.7	35.2	33,577	34,484
For Seed						
FL	17.0	18.0	35.0	39.0	595	702
HI ²	1.9	2.8	35.8	34.0	68	95
LA ²	30.0	35.0	32.7	30.0	981	1,050
TX ²	3.0	0.6	26.0	25.0	78	15
US	51.9	56.4	33.2	33.0	1,722	1,862
For Sugar and Seed						
FL	460.0	455.0	35.0	37.1	16,100	16,871
HI ²	37.3	35.4	79.4	77.0	2,960	2,726
LA ²	465.0	500.0	32.7	30.0	15,206	15,000
TX ²	31.0	46.6	33.3	37.5	1,033	1,749
US	993.3	1,037.0	35.5	35.0	35,299	36,346

¹ Net tons.

² Current estimates carried forward from previous forecast.

Papayas: Area and Fresh Production, by Month, Hawaii, 2000-2001

Month	Area				Fresh Production	
	Total in Crop		Harvested		2000	2001
	2000	2001	2000	2001		
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Jan	3,280	2,690	1,635	1,870	3,175	4,835
Feb	3,075	2,630	1,675	1,845	3,440	4,295

**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
1998-99, 1999-00 and Forecasted March 1, 2001¹**

Crop and State	Utilized Production Boxes			Utilized Production Ton Equivalent		
	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
	<i>1,000 Boxes²</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes²</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes²</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel ³						
AZ ⁴	550	600	500	21	22	19
CA ⁴	21,000	40,000	34,000	787	1,500	1,275
FL	112,000	134,000	127,000	5,040	6,030	5,715
TX ⁴	1,250	1,540	1,900	53	66	81
US	134,800	176,140	163,400	5,901	7,618	7,090
Valencia						
AZ ⁴	600	500	550	22	19	21
CA ⁴	15,000	27,000	25,000	563	1,013	938
FL	74,000	99,000	96,000	3,330	4,455	4,320
TX ⁴	180	200	200	8	8	8
US	89,780	126,700	121,750	3,923	5,495	5,287
All						
AZ ⁴	1,150	1,100	1,050	43	41	40
CA ⁴	36,000	67,000	59,000	1,350	2,513	2,213
FL	186,000	233,000	223,000	8,370	10,485	10,035
TX ⁴	1,430	1,740	2,100	61	74	89
US	224,580	302,840	285,150	9,824	13,113	12,377
Temples						
FL	1,800	1,950	1,700	81	88	77
Grapefruit						
White Seedless ⁵						
FL	17,800	20,900	20,000	757	888	850
Colored Seedless						
FL	28,700	31,900	29,000	1,220	1,356	1,233
Other ⁵						
FL	550	600		23	25	
All						
AZ ⁴	750	500	600	25	17	20
CA ⁴	7,300	7,000	7,200	244	235	241
FL	47,050	53,400	49,000	2,000	2,269	2,083
TX ⁴	6,100	5,930	6,500	244	237	260
US	61,200	66,830	63,300	2,513	2,758	2,604
Tangerines						
AZ ^{4,6}	950	850	800	36	32	30
CA ^{4,6}	1,500	2,300	2,200	56	86	83
FL	4,950	7,000	5,600	235	333	266
US	7,400	10,150	8,600	327	451	379
Lemons ⁴						
AZ	3,450	3,100	3,400	131	118	129
CA	16,200	19,600	21,000	616	745	798
US	19,650	22,700	24,400	747	863	927
Tangelos						
FL	2,550	2,200	2,100	115	99	95
K-Early Citrus						
FL	80	110	40	4	5	2

¹ The crop year begins with the bloom of the first year shown and ends with the completion of harvest the following year.

² Net lbs. per box: oranges-AZ & CA-75, FL-90, TX-85; grapefruit-AZ & CA-67, FL-85, TX-80; lemons-76; tangelos, K-Early Citrus & Temples-90; tangerines-AZ & CA-75, FL-95.

³ Navel and miscellaneous varieties in AZ and CA. Early (including Navel) and midseason varieties in FL and TX. Small quantities of tangerines in TX.

⁴ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

⁵ "Other" seedy grapefruit estimates discontinued after 1999-2000 crop. Included with white seedless beginning with the 2000-01 crop.

⁶ Includes tangelos and tangors.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2000-2001
(Domestic Units)¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2000	2001	2000	2001
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	5,844.0		5,201.0	
Corn for Grain ²	79,545.0		72,732.0	
Corn for Silage			5,868.0	
Hay, All			59,854.0	
Alfalfa			23,077.0	
All Other			36,777.0	
Oats	4,477.0		2,324.0	
Proso Millet	440.0		370.0	
Rice	3,065.0		3,044.0	
Rye	1,335.0		302.0	
Sorghum for Grain ²	9,195.0		7,723.0	
Sorghum for Silage			265.0	
Wheat, All	62,529.0		53,028.0	
Winter	43,348.0	41,309.0	35,022.0	
Durum	3,937.0		3,572.0	
Other Spring	15,244.0		14,434.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,567.0		1,509.0	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	536.0		517.0	
Mustard Seed	46.0		42.9	
Peanuts	1,543.0		1,315.5	
Rapeseed	4.0		3.9	
Safflower	215.0		197.0	
Soybeans for Beans	74,496.0		72,718.0	
Sunflower	2,792.0		2,629.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	15,536.5		13,097.5	
Upland	15,365.0		12,927.0	
Amer-Pima	171.5		170.5	
Sugarbeets	1,564.2		1,378.1	
Sugarcane			1,037.0	
Tobacco			485.7	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	5.2		4.1	
Dry Edible Beans	1,756.2		1,606.4	
Dry Edible Peas	188.0		179.0	
Lentils	217.0		214.0	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			6.8	
Ginger Root (HI)			0.3	
Hops			36.1	
Peppermint Oil			89.5	
Potatoes, All	1,387.3		1,351.6	
Winter	17.2	16.8	17.0	14.0
Spring	77.4		75.6	
Summer	64.7		61.8	
Fall	1,228.0		1,197.2	
Spearmint Oil			21.7	
Sweet Potatoes	97.3		94.2	
Taro (HI) ³			0.5	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2001 crop year. ² Area planted for all purposes. ³ Area is total acres in crop, not harvested acreage.

Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 2000-2001
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Unit	Yield		Production	
		2000	2001	2000	2001
				<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Grains & Hay					
Barley	Bu	61.1		317,865	
Corn for Grain	"	137.1		9,968,358	
Corn for Silage	Ton	16.8		98,538	
Hay, All	"	2.54		152,183	
Alfalfa	"	3.48		80,347	
All Other	"	1.95		71,836	
Oats	Bu	64.2		149,195	
Proso Millet	"	19.8		7,320	
Rice ²	Cwt	6,278		191,113	
Rye	Bu	28.5		8,619	
Sorghum for Grain	"	60.9		470,070	
Sorghum for Silage	Ton	10.8		2,863	
Wheat, All	Bu	41.9		2,223,440	
Winter	"	44.6		1,562,733	
Durum	"	30.7		109,805	
Other Spring	"	38.2		550,902	
Oilseeds					
Canola	Lb	1,337		2,016,951	
Cottonseed ³	Ton			6,439	
Flaxseed	Bu	20.8		10,730	
Mustard Seed	Lb	852		36,570	
Peanuts	"	2,499		3,287,600	
Rapeseed	"	1,474		5,750	
Safflower	"	1,434		282,545	
Soybeans for Beans	Bu	38.1		2,769,665	
Sunflower	Lb	1,363		3,584,339	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops					
Cotton, All ²	Bale	631		17,219.5	
Upland ²	"	625		16,822.0	
Amer-Pima ²	"	1,119		397.5	
Sugarbeets	Ton	23.6		32,521	
Sugarcane	"	35.0		36,346	
Tobacco	Lb	2,264		1,099,884	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils					
Austrian Winter Peas ²	Cwt	1,780		73	
Dry Edible Beans ²	"	1,646		26,440	
Dry Edible Peas ²	"	1,955		3,499	
Lentils ²	"	1,415		3,029	
Wrinkled Seed Peas	"			680	
Potatoes & Misc.					
Coffee (HI)	Lb	1,340		9,100	
Ginger Root (HI)	"	50,000		13,500	
Hops	"	1,871		67,577	
Peppermint Oil	"	77		6,926	
Potatoes, All	Cwt	382		515,964	
Winter	"	292	268	4,960	3,750
Spring	"	290		21,921	
Summer	"	301		18,579	
Fall	"	393		470,504	
Spearmint Oil	Lb	101		2,199	
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt	145		13,613	
Taro (HI) ³	Lb			7,000	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2001 crop year. ² Yield in pounds. ³ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 1999-2001
(Domestic Units)¹

Crop	Unit	Production		
		1999	2000	2001
		<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Citrus ²				
Grapefruit	Ton	2,513	2,758	2,604
K-Early Citrus (FL)	"	4	5	2
Lemons	"	747	863	927
Oranges	"	9,824	13,113	12,377
Tangelos (FL)	"	115	99	95
Tangerines	"	327	451	379
Temples (FL)	"	81	88	77
Non-Citrus				
Apples	1,000 Lbs	10,630.7	10,598.0	
Apricots	Ton	90.5	99.9	
Bananas (HI)	Lb	24,500.0	28,500.0	
Grapes	Ton	6,236.4	7,315.3	
Olives (CA)	"	142.0	53.0	
Papayas (HI)	Lb	42,400.0	53,000.0	
Peaches	1,000 Lbs	2,525.7	2,610.9	
Pears	Ton	1,015.5	975.2	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	"	178.0	220.0	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	"	22.9	23.9	
Nuts & Misc.				
Almonds (CA)	Lb	833,000	710,000	
Hazelnuts	Ton	40.0	24.0	
Pecans	Lb	406,100	206,600	
Pistachios (CA)	"	123,000	243,000	
Walnuts (CA)	Ton	283.0	239.0	
Maple Syrup	Gal	1,188	1,231	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2001 crop year.

² Production years are 1998-99, 1999-00, and 2000-01.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2000-2001
(Metric Units)¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2000	2001	2000	2001
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	2,365,010		2,104,790	
Corn for Grain ²	32,191,070		29,433,910	
Corn for Silage			2,374,720	
Hay, All ³			24,222,320	
Alfalfa			9,339,030	
All Other			14,883,280	
Oats	1,811,800		940,500	
Proso Millet	178,060		149,740	
Rice	1,240,370		1,231,880	
Rye	540,260		122,220	
Sorghum for Grain ²	3,721,120		3,125,420	
Sorghum for Silage			107,240	
Wheat, All ³	25,304,860		21,459,900	
Winter	17,542,500	16,717,340	14,173,050	
Durum	1,593,260		1,445,550	
Other Spring	6,169,090		5,841,300	
Oilseeds				
Canola	634,150		610,680	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	216,910		209,220	
Mustard Seed	18,620		17,360	
Peanuts	624,440		532,370	
Rapeseed	1,620		1,580	
Safflower	87,010		79,720	
Soybeans for Beans	30,147,790		29,428,250	
Sunflower	1,129,890		1,063,930	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ³	6,287,470		5,300,430	
Upland	6,218,060		5,231,430	
Amer-Pima	69,400		69,000	
Sugarbeets	633,020		557,700	
Sugarcane			419,660	
Tobacco			196,570	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	2,100		1,660	
Dry Edible Beans	710,720		650,090	
Dry Edible Peas	76,080		72,440	
Lentils	87,820		86,600	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			2,750	
Ginger Root (HI)			110	
Hops			14,620	
Peppermint Oil			36,220	
Potatoes, All ³	561,430		546,980	
Winter	6,960	6,800	6,880	5,670
Spring	31,320		30,590	
Summer	26,180		25,010	
Fall	496,960		484,490	
Spearmint Oil			8,780	
Sweet Potatoes	39,380		38,120	
Taro (HI) ⁴			190	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2001 crop year. ² Area planted for all purposes. ³ Total may not add due to rounding. ⁴ Area is total hectares in crop, not harvested hectares.

Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 2000-2001
(Metric Units)¹

Crop	Yield		Production	
	2000	2001	2000	2001
	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	3.29		6,920,690	
Corn for Grain	8.60		253,207,960	
Corn for Silage	37.64		89,392,170	
Hay, All ²	5.70		138,058,100	
Alfalfa	7.80		72,889,570	
All Other	4.38		65,168,520	
Oats	2.30		2,165,560	
Proso Millet	1.11		166,010	
Rice	7.04		8,668,740	
Rye	1.79		218,930	
Sorghum for Grain	3.82		11,940,330	
Sorghum for Silage	24.22		2,597,270	
Wheat, All ²	2.82		60,512,120	
Winter	3.00		42,530,620	
Durum	2.07		2,988,400	
Other Spring	2.57		14,993,100	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.50		914,870	
Cottonseed ³			5,841,000	
Flaxseed	1.30		272,550	
Mustard Seed	0.96		16,590	
Peanuts	2.80		1,491,230	
Rapeseed	1.65		2,610	
Safflower	1.61		128,160	
Soybeans for Beans	2.56		75,377,930	
Sunflower	1.53		1,625,830	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ²	0.71		3,749,100	
Upland	0.70		3,662,560	
Amer-Pima	1.25		86,550	
Sugarbeets	52.90		29,502,550	
Sugarcane	78.57		32,972,540	
Tobacco	2.54		498,900	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	2.00		3,310	
Dry Edible Beans	1.84		1,199,300	
Dry Edible Peas	2.19		158,710	
Lentils	1.59		137,390	
Wrinkled Seed Peas			30,840	
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)	1.50		4,130	
Ginger Root (HI)	56.04		6,120	
Hops	2.10		30,650	
Peppermint Oil	0.09		3,140	
Potatoes, All ²	42.79		23,403,730	
Winter	32.70	30.02	224,980	170,100
Spring	32.50		994,320	
Summer	33.70		842,730	
Fall	44.05		21,341,700	
Spearmint Oil	0.11		1,000	
Sweet Potatoes	16.20		617,480	
Taro (HI) ³			3,180	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2001 crop year. ² Production may not add due to rounding. ³ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 1999-2001
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Production		
	1999	2000	2001
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>
Citrus ²			
Grapefruit	2,279,760	2,502,020	2,362,310
K-Early Citrus (FL)	3,630	4,540	1,810
Lemons	677,670	782,900	840,960
Oranges	8,912,180	11,895,910	11,228,230
Tangelos (FL)	104,330	89,810	86,180
Tangerines	296,650	409,140	343,820
Temples (FL)	73,480	79,830	69,850
Non-Citrus			
Apples	4,822,000	4,807,170	
Apricots	82,100	90,630	
Bananas (HI)	11,110	12,930	
Grapes	5,657,530	6,636,300	
Olives (CA)	128,820	48,080	
Papayas (HI)	19,230	24,040	
Peaches	1,145,640	1,184,280	
Pears	921,200	884,640	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	161,480	199,580	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	20,770	21,680	
Nuts & Misc.			
Almonds (CA)	377,840	322,050	
Hazelnuts	36,290	21,770	
Pecans	184,200	93,710	
Pistachios (CA)	55,790	110,220	
Walnuts (CA)	256,730	216,820	
Maple Syrup	5,940	6,150	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2001 crop year.

² Production years are 1998-99, 1999-00, and 2000-01.

February Weather Summary

Storm systems continued to bypass the snow-deficient Northwest, instead charting a course across southern California and the Southwest. Spring runoff and summer water-supply prospects improved in the Sierra Nevada but worsened from the Cascades to the northern Rockies. Farther east, much of the storms' energy tracked northeastward across the central and southern Plains and into the Great Lakes region, causing considerable lowland flooding and leaving standing water in some winter wheat fields. Heavy rain fell as far east as the Tennessee and lower Mississippi Valleys, but abruptly drier conditions prevailed just to the south, including areas from southern Texas to the southern Atlantic region. Drought-stricken Florida remained especially dry, further reducing freshwater reserves, maintaining heavy citrus irrigation requirements, and fostering the spread of wildfires.

After a January respite, bitterly cold weather returned to the northern and central Plains and western Corn Belt, where monthly temperatures ranged from 4 to 12 degrees F below normal. In addition, heavy snow blanketed the upper Midwest, increasing the threat of spring snow-melt flooding from the eastern Dakotas to the upper Mississippi Valley. Cool weather (as much as 4 degrees F below normal) also prevailed in California's Central Valley, combining with frequent showers to slow spring fieldwork and winter crop development. In contrast, temperatures averaged 2 to 8 degrees F above normal across most of the East and South, spurring pasture and winter grain development in the latter region.

February Agricultural Summary

Most of the central and southwestern United States received above normal precipitation during the month. The precipitation boosted soil moisture reserves, but streams and low-lying areas were occasionally flooded in parts of the southern Great Plains, Mississippi Delta, and Tennessee Valley. Drought conditions continued in the Florida peninsula, while drier-than-normal weather prevailed along the Gulf Coast, on the Atlantic Coastal Plains, and through most of the Northeast. Most of the Pacific Northwest, adjacent areas of the northern Great Plains, and interior parts of the Southwest received below-normal precipitation. Unprotected winter wheat fields in the northern Great Plains were exposed to below-normal temperatures and strong winds. In the southern Great Plains, winter grains were dormant early in the month due to cold weather, but growth resumed when above-normal temperatures returned after mid-month. Below-normal temperatures hindered growth of winter grains and forages in California.

In Florida, citrus caretakers irrigated groves to maintain tree conditions. Biological development gradually accelerated as the month progressed due to above normal temperatures. Trees in well maintained groves produced new growth and bloom buds, especially after mid-month. Citrus, sugarcane, and vegetable harvests continued with virtually no rain delays. Rain aided growth of winter grains and forages in the Panhandle, but dry weather prevented growth elsewhere.

Fieldwork steadily progressed in southern Texas, where precipitation was below normal. Corn, cotton, and sorghum planting began in the Coastal Bend, Lower Valley, and South Texas regions. Adequate moisture and warm weather aided germination and growth of early-planted fields. Some oat fields in South Texas entered the heading stage. Cold, wet weather limited field preparations in northern areas of the State.

In California, wet weather frequently delayed fieldwork, including tillage, orchard and vineyard activities, and fertilizer and pesticide applications. The precipitation provided beneficial moisture for development of dryland crops, but growth of small grains was hindered by below-normal temperatures. Some early peach, nectarine, and plum varieties produced bloom buds, but most of California's orchards and vineyards remained dormant due to cool weather.

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 2000-01 grapefruit crop for the United States is unchanged from February, at 2.60 million tons, but 6 percent less than last season. The Florida grapefruit forecast is 49.0 million boxes (2.08 million tons), unchanged from the February forecast but 8 percent lower than the previous season. The all white grapefruit forecast, which includes seedless and seedy varieties, remains at 20.0 million boxes (850,000 tons). If realized, the crop size will be down 4 percent from last season. The colored seedless utilization remains at 29.0 million boxes (1.23 million tons) but is 9 percent below the previous season's final utilization. Fruit size continues to increase, but still remains small in relation to most recent seasons. Loss from droppage continues to be minimal this season, less than the 1999-2000 crop and below the ten-season mean. Forecasts for Arizona, California, and Texas are carried forward from the January forecast.

Tangelos: Florida's 2000-01 tangelo forecast, at 2.10 million boxes (94,500 tons), is unchanged from February but is 5 percent less than last season. This will be the smallest utilized production of tangelos recorded since the 1968-69 season. Harvest is winding down rapidly with very few boxes certified in recent weeks.

Tangerines: The 2000-01 U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at 379,000 tons, unchanged from February but 16 percent below last season's record high utilization of 451,000 tons. Florida's tangerine crop, at 5.60 million boxes (266,000 tons), is the same as the February forecast but 20 percent less than the record high use of 7.00 million boxes (333,000 tons) last season. Their early tangerine harvest is virtually complete. The late season Honey variety tangerines remaining for harvest have shown a slight increase in size since the end of January. However, the loss from droppage since August is 53 percent, nearly equal to the ten-season average but much higher than last season. Arizona and California forecasts are carried forward from the January forecast.

Temples: Florida's Temple forecast, at 1.70 million boxes (76,500 tons), is 6 percent less than the February forecast and 13 percent lower than the 1.95 million boxes (88,000 tons) recorded last season. Objective surveys indicated a slight reduction in the average size, which is the smallest in the ten-season series. Also, loss from droppage increased from last month. The percent harvested to-date lags behind six of the previous eight seasons. Estimated utilization by the end of February was 715,000 boxes.

K-Early Citrus: The K-Early Citrus Fruit forecast for 2000-01 is final at 40,000 boxes (1,800 tons), unchanged from February but 70,000 boxes fewer than last season. This equals the record low utilization of the 1997-98 season.

Florida Citrus: The entire Florida citrus belt continued to be very dry during the month of February. There were a few rainy days with measurable precipitation, but not enough to alleviate the dry conditions. Growers and caretakers have been using all types of irrigation to maintain good tree condition. The drought is causing a great deal of concern as water restrictions and dry wells could cause serious problems to Florida's citrus industry. The lack of precipitation could lead to higher amounts of salt intrusion in many of the coastal wells and water sources.

Harvest of early and midseason oranges was very active in early February, but by the month's end weekly movement was slowing considerably as supplies were running low. Grapefruit movement for both fresh and process utilization increased toward the end of the month as more labor from the completed orange harvesting crews became available. However, most processing plants are waiting for better maturity tests before taking large amounts of grapefruit. Honey tangerine and tangelo movement continued active during February. Picking of Temples is gaining momentum for both fresh and process use. Caretakers have been very active cutting cover crops prior to harvesting and for fire protection. Growers have been hedging and topping before the full open bloom period. Dead trees and limbs are being stacked for future burning. There are very few burn permits being issued due to the current dry conditions.

New growth and bloom buds for next season's crop started to show in early February and by the end of the month there were bloom buds of all sizes in all areas. There were even some Navel and Valencia orange trees in full bloom and some showing petal drop.

California Citrus: Harvest of lemons, grapefruit, tangerines, and Navel oranges was slowed in February by rainy weather. Good quality remains apparent for nearly all citrus fruits. The harvest of the Valencia orange crop in the desert area began in late February.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: The wet weather throughout February kept growers from conducting typical cultural activities in orchards and vineyards. Cultivating, fertilizing, pruning, and brush shredding were active, however, when weather permitted. The frequent rains hampered bees from pollinating almond trees. However, the much needed rainfall helped alleviate dry conditions. Early varieties of nectarines, peaches, and plums pushed buds. Strawberry fields were weeded and plants were trimmed. Fields in some locations were blooming.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya production is estimated at 4.30 million pounds for February, a decrease of 11 percent from January but 25 percent higher than February 2000. Area in crop totaled 2,630 acres, down 2 percent from January and 14 percent lower than a year ago. Harvested area, totaling 1,845 acres, was 1 percent less than January but 10 percent higher than last February. Weather conditions during February

were variable. Dry conditions during the first week were followed by rains, sometimes heavy, the next two weeks. Sunnier skies and light showers returned during the last week of February.

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed is estimated at 36.3 million tons, 3 percent above the previous record of 35.3 million tons set last year, but unchanged from the previous estimate. Harvested acres are estimated at a record high 1.04 million acres for sugar and seed during the 2000 crop year, 4 percent more than the 1999 final harvested acres. Yield is estimated at 35.0 tons per acre, 0.5 ton below 1999, but unchanged from the previous estimate.

Area harvested for sugar production is estimated at 980,600 acres, while area harvested for seed is estimated at 56,400 acres. Cane for sugar production is estimated at 34.5 million tons, 3 percent above 1999, but unchanged from the February 1 estimate.

Area harvested for sugar and seed is a record high 500,000 acres in Louisiana, however, production was 1 percent below 1999, due to drought conditions that reduced the average yield by 8 percent. Harvest continued without delay in Florida.

Reliability of March 1 Orange Forecast

Survey Procedures: The orange objective yield survey for the March 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which produces about 75 percent of the U.S. production. In July and August, the number of bearing trees and the number of fruit per tree were determined. In subsequent months, fruit size measurement and fruit droppage surveys are conducted to develop the current forecast of production. Arizona, California, and Texas conduct grower and packer surveys on a quarterly basis, in October, January, April, and July.

Estimating Procedures: State level objective yield estimates for Florida oranges were reviewed for errors, reasonableness, and consistency with historical estimates. The Florida State Statistical Office submits its analyses of the current situation to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB). The ASB uses the Florida survey data and their analyses to prepare the published March 1 forecast. Reports from growers and packers in Arizona, California, and Texas were also used for setting estimates. The March 1 orange production forecasts for these three States are carried forward from January.

Revision Policy: The March 1 production forecast will not be revised. A new forecast will be made each month throughout the growing season. End of year estimates will be published in September's Citrus Fruits Summary. 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 March 1 production forecast, the "Root Mean Square Error," a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the March 1 production forecast and the final estimate is expressed as a percentage of the final estimate. The average of the 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 March 1 orange production forecast is 3.6 percent. However, if you exclude the seven freeze seasons, the "Root Mean Square Error" is 3.3 percent. This means that chances are two out of three that the current orange production forecast will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.6 percent or 3.3 percent, excluding freeze seasons. Chances are nine out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.3 percent or 5.8 percent, excluding freeze seasons.

Changes between the March 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 255,000 tons (241,000 tons, excluding freezes), ranging from 8,000 tons to 713,000 tons. The March 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 6 times and above 14 times (below 5 times and above 8 times, excluding freeze seasons). The difference does not imply that the March 1 forecast this year is likely to understate or overstate final production.

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