



Crop Production

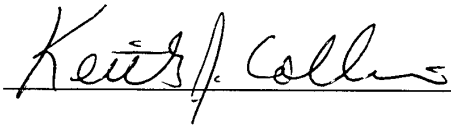
Released March 8, 2002, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Crop Production" call (202) 720-2127, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

All Orange Production Unchanged from February 1 Forecast

The U.S. all orange March 1 forecast for the 2001-02 crop is 12.4 million tons, unchanged from the February 1 forecast but up fractionally from last season's final utilization. Florida's all orange forecast is 228 million boxes (10.3 million tons), the same as the February 1 forecast but up 2 percent from the previous season. The forecast for Florida's early and midseason variety oranges remains at 128 million boxes (5.76 million tons) and, if realized, will be the same utilization as last season. The harvest of the early and midseason oranges is nearly complete with 95 percent of the crop picked. Florida's Valencia forecast is 100 million boxes (4.50 million tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but 5 percent higher than last season's final utilization. Fruit size and loss from droppage continue to be below average. Arizona, California, and Texas orange production forecasts are carried forward from the January forecasts.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield is projected at 1.58 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, unchanged from February's projection and the same yield as last season. The early and midseason portion is projected to yield 1.52 gallons per box and the Valencia portion is projected to yield 1.68 gallons per box. Both of these yields are the same as projected last month. All projections of yield assume that the processing relationships this year will be similar to those of the past several years.

This report was approved on March 8, 2002.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Keith J. Collins



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Frederic A. Vogel

Contents

	Page
Citrus	5
Crop Comments	13
Crop Summary	6
Information Contacts	17
Papayas	4
Reliability	16
Sugarcane	4
Weather Maps	12
Weather Summary	13

**Sugarcane: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Use, State, and United States, 2000-2001**

Use and State	Area Harvested		Yield ¹		Production ¹	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	<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	436.0	446.0	37.5	35.1	16,350	15,655
HI ²	30.2	21.4	78.3	89.5	2,365	1,915
LA ²	465.0	460.0	29.7	30.0	13,811	13,800
TX ²	45.5	44.5	38.8	33.0	1,765	1,469
US	976.7	971.9	35.1	33.8	34,291	32,839
For Seed						
FL	18.0	19.0	38.4	38.3	691	728
HI ²	1.8	1.8	38.0	31.5	68	57
LA ²	35.0	35.0	29.7	30.0	1,040	1,050
TX ²	0.8	1.5	30.0	25.0	24	38
US	55.6	57.3	32.8	32.7	1,823	1,873
For Sugar and Seed						
FL	454.0	465.0	37.5	35.2	17,041	16,383
HI ²	32.0	23.2	76.0	85.0	2,433	1,972
LA ²	500.0	495.0	29.7	30.0	14,851	14,850
TX ²	46.3	46.0	38.6	32.8	1,789	1,507
US	1,032.3	1,029.2	35.0	33.7	36,114	34,712

¹ Net tons.

² Estimates are carried forward from the 2001 Crop Production Summary.

Papayas: Area and Fresh Production, by Month, Hawaii, 2001-2002

Month	Area				Fresh Production ¹	
	Total in Crop		Harvested		2001	2002
	2001	2002	2001	2002		
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Jan	2,690	2,575	1,870	1,865	4,930	3,285
Feb	2,630	2,555	1,845	1,860	4,040	3,135

¹ Utilized fresh production.

**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
1999-2000, 2000-2001 and Forecasted March 1, 2002 ¹**

Crop and State	Utilized Production Boxes			Utilized Production Ton Equivalent		
	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
	<i>1,000 Boxes ²</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes ²</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes ²</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel ³						
AZ ⁴	600	480	350	22	18	13
CA ⁴	40,000	36,000	32,000	1,500	1,350	1,200
FL	134,000	128,000	128,000	6,030	5,760	5,760
TX ⁴	1,460	2,000	1,700	62	85	72
US	176,060	166,480	162,050	7,614	7,213	7,045
Valencia						
AZ ⁴	500	420	350	19	16	13
CA ⁴	24,000	23,000	22,000	900	862	825
FL	99,000	95,300	100,000	4,455	4,289	4,500
TX ⁴	200	235	200	9	10	9
US	123,700	118,955	122,550	5,383	5,177	5,347
All						
AZ ⁴	1,100	900	700	41	34	26
CA ⁴	64,000	59,000	54,000	2,400	2,212	2,025
FL	233,000	223,300	228,000	10,485	10,049	10,260
TX ⁴	1,660	2,235	1,900	71	95	81
US	299,760	285,435	284,600	12,997	12,390	12,392
Temples						
FL	1,950	1,250	1,500	88	56	68
Grapefruit						
White Seedless ⁵						
FL	20,900	18,700	19,000	888	795	808
Colored Seedless						
FL	31,900	27,300	28,000	1,356	1,160	1,190
Other ⁵						
FL	600			25		
All						
AZ ⁴	450	250	200	15	8	7
CA ⁴	7,200	6,500	6,200	241	218	208
FL	53,400	46,000	47,000	2,269	1,955	1,998
TX ⁴	5,930	7,200	7,300	237	288	292
US	66,980	59,950	60,700	2,762	2,469	2,505
Tangerines						
AZ ^{4 6}	850	650	650	32	24	24
CA ^{4 6}	2,500	2,100	2,300	94	79	86
FL	7,000	5,600	6,400	332	266	304
US	10,350	8,350	9,350	458	369	414
Lemons ⁴						
AZ	3,100	3,600	3,100	118	137	118
CA	19,000	22,700	22,000	722	863	836
US	22,100	26,300	25,100	840	1,000	954
Tangelos						
FL	2,200	2,100	2,200	99	95	99
K-Early Citrus						
FL	110	40	30	5	2	1

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, 2001-2002
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	4,967.0		4,289.0	
Corn for Grain ²	75,752.0		68,808.0	
Corn for Silage			6,148.0	
Hay, All			63,511.0	
Alfalfa			23,812.0	
All Other			39,699.0	
Oats	4,403.0		1,905.0	
Proso Millet	650.0		580.0	
Rice	3,335.0		3,314.0	
Rye	1,328.0		255.0	
Sorghum for Grain ²	10,252.0		8,584.0	
Sorghum for Silage			336.0	
Wheat, All	59,617.0		48,653.0	
Winter	41,078.0	41,031.0	31,295.0	
Durum	2,910.0		2,789.0	
Other Spring	15,629.0		14,569.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,494.0		1,455.0	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	585.0		578.0	
Mustard Seed	45.8		44.2	
Peanuts	1,543.0		1,400.5	
Rapeseed	3.7		3.1	
Safflower	188.0		177.0	
Soybeans for Beans	74,105.0		73,000.0	
Sunflowers	2,653.0		2,580.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	15,787.8		13,810.0	
Upland	15,527.0		13,551.0	
Amer-Pima	260.8		259.0	
Sugarbeets	1,371.1		1,243.7	
Sugarcane			1,029.2	
Tobacco			432.6	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	15.9		7.1	
Dry Edible Beans	1,429.9		1,243.0	
Dry Edible Peas	211.8		196.8	
Lentils	201.0		197.0	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			6.3	
Ginger Root (HI)			0.4	
Hops			35.9	
Peppermint Oil			78.5	
Potatoes, All	1,267.1		1,241.3	
Winter	16.8	13.8	14.0	13.5
Spring	78.3		76.2	
Summer	60.9		58.6	
Fall	1,111.1		1,092.5	
Spearmint Oil			19.5	
Sweet Potatoes	97.9		93.5	
Taro (HI) ³			0.4	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2002 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, 2001-2002
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Unit	Yield		Production	
		2001	2002	2001	2002
				<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Grains & Hay					
Barley	Bu	58.2		249,590	
Corn for Grain	"	138.2		9,506,840	
Corn for Silage	Ton	16.6		102,352	
Hay, All	"	2.47		156,703	
Alfalfa	"	3.37		80,266	
All Other	"	1.93		76,437	
Oats	Bu	61.3		116,856	
Proso Millet	"	33.2		19,250	
Rice ²	Cwt	6,429		213,045	
Rye	Bu	27.3		6,971	
Sorghum for Grain	"	59.9		514,524	
Sorghum for Silage	Ton	11.1		3,728	
Wheat, All	Bu	40.2		1,957,643	
Winter	"	43.5		1,361,479	
Durum	"	30.0		83,556	
Other Spring	"	35.2		512,608	
Oilseeds					
Canola	Lb	1,374		1,998,515	
Cottonseed ³	Ton			7,533.0	
Flaxseed	Bu	19.8		11,455	
Mustard Seed	Lb	930		41,106	
Peanuts	"	3,027		4,239,450	
Rapeseed	"	1,306		4,050	
Safflower	"	1,365		241,665	
Soybeans for Beans	Bu	39.6		2,890,572	
Sunflowers	Lb	1,349		3,480,696	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops					
Cotton, All ²	Bale	698		20,084.0	
Upland ²	"	687		19,406.0	
Amer-Pima ²	"	1,257		678.0	
Sugarbeets	Ton	20.7		25,754	
Sugarcane	"	33.7		34,712	
Tobacco	Lb	2,314		1,000,936	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils					
Austrian Winter Peas ²	Cwt	1,366		97	
Dry Edible Beans ²	"	1,572		19,541	
Dry Edible Peas ²	"	1,920		3,779	
Lentils ²	"	1,471		2,898	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³	"			640	
Potatoes & Misc.					
Coffee (HI)	Lb	1,210		7,600	
Ginger Root (HI)	"	45,000		16,200	
Hops	"	1,861		66,832.1	
Peppermint Oil	"	81		6,343	
Potatoes, All	Cwt	358		444,766	
Winter	"	294	288	4,115	3,888
Spring	"	286		21,814	
Summer	"	309		18,110	
Fall	"	367		400,727	
Spearmint Oil	Lb	105		2,052	
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt	154		14,355	
Taro (HI) ³	Lb			6,400	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2002 crop year.

² Yield in pounds.

³ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2000-2002
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Unit	Production		
		2000	2001	2002
		<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Citrus ²				
Grapefruit	Ton	2,762	2,469	2,505
K-Early Citrus (FL)	"	5	2	1
Lemons	"	840	1,000	954
Oranges	"	12,997	12,390	12,392
Tangelos (FL)	"	99	95	99
Tangerines	"	458	369	414
Temples (FL)	"	88	56	68
Noncitrus				
Apples	1,000 Lbs	10,663.7	9,435.2	
Apricots	Ton	96.9	82.3	
Bananas (HI)	Lb	29,000.0	28,000.0	
Grapes	Ton	7,688.0	6,521.2	
Olives (CA)	"	53.0	134.0	
Papayas (HI)	Lb	54,500.0	55,000.0	
Peaches	1,000 Lbs	2,599.9	2,437.4	
Pears	Ton	967.2	970.8	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	"	219.0	148.0	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	"	23.9	20.8	
Nuts & Misc.				
Almonds (CA)	Lb	703,000	850,000	
Hazelnuts	Ton	22.5	48.0	
Pecans	Lb	209,850	315,000	
Pistachios (CA)	"	243,000	161,000	
Walnuts (CA)	Ton	239.0	305.0	
Maple Syrup	Gal	1,231	1,049	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2002 crop year.

² Production years are 1999-2000, 2000-2001, and 2001-2002.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2001-2002
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	2,010,100		1,735,720	
Corn for Grain ²	30,656,080		27,845,910	
Corn for Silage			2,488,030	
Hay, All ³			25,702,270	
Alfalfa			9,636,480	
All Other			16,065,790	
Oats	1,781,850		770,930	
Proso Millet	263,050		234,720	
Rice	1,349,640		1,341,140	
Rye	537,430		103,200	
Sorghum for Grain ²	4,148,880		3,473,860	
Sorghum for Silage			135,980	
Wheat, All ³	24,126,400		19,689,380	
Winter	16,623,860	16,604,840	12,664,770	
Durum	1,177,650		1,128,680	
Other Spring	6,324,900		5,895,930	
Oilseeds				
Canola	604,610		588,820	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	236,740		233,910	
Mustard Seed	18,530		17,890	
Peanuts	624,440		566,770	
Rapeseed	1,500		1,250	
Safflower	76,080		71,630	
Soybeans for Beans	29,989,550		29,542,370	
Sunflowers	1,073,640		1,044,100	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ³	6,389,160		5,588,770	
Upland	6,283,620		5,483,950	
Amer-Pima	105,540		104,810	
Sugarbeets	554,870		503,310	
Sugarcane			416,510	
Tobacco			175,090	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	6,430		2,870	
Dry Edible Beans	578,670		503,030	
Dry Edible Peas	85,710		79,640	
Lentils	81,340		79,720	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			2,550	
Ginger Root (HI)			150	
Hops			14,530	
Peppermint Oil			31,770	
Potatoes, All ³	512,780		502,340	
Winter	6,800	5,580	5,670	5,460
Spring	31,690		30,840	
Summer	24,650		23,710	
Fall	449,650		442,120	
Spearmint Oil			7,890	
Sweet Potatoes	39,620		37,840	
Taro (HI) ⁴			180	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2002 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, 2001-2002
(Metric Units)¹

Crop	Yield		Production	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	3.13		5,434,180	
Corn for Grain	8.67		241,484,860	
Corn for Silage	37.32		92,852,170	
Hay, All ²	5.53		142,158,570	
Alfalfa	7.56		72,816,090	
All Other	4.32		69,342,480	
Oats	2.20		1,696,160	
Proso Millet	1.86		436,580	
Rice	7.21		9,663,560	
Rye	1.72		177,070	
Sorghum for Grain	3.76		13,069,510	
Sorghum for Silage	24.87		3,381,980	
Wheat, All ²	2.71		53,278,310	
Winter	2.93		37,053,390	
Durum	2.01		2,274,020	
Other Spring	2.37		13,950,900	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.54		906,510	
Cottonseed ³			6,833,820	
Flaxseed	1.24		290,970	
Mustard Seed	1.04		18,650	
Peanuts	3.39		1,922,980	
Rapeseed	1.46		1,840	
Safflower	1.53		109,620	
Soybeans for Beans	2.66		78,668,480	
Sunflowers	1.51		1,578,820	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ²	0.78		4,372,780	
Upland	0.77		4,225,160	
Amer-Pima	1.41		147,620	
Sugarbeets	46.42		23,363,640	
Sugarcane	75.61		31,490,200	
Tobacco	2.59		454,020	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	1.53		4,400	
Dry Edible Beans	1.76		886,360	
Dry Edible Peas	2.15		171,410	
Lentils	1.65		131,450	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³			29,030	
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)	1.35		3,450	
Ginger Root (HI)	50.44		7,350	
Hops	2.09		30,310	
Peppermint Oil	0.09		2,880	
Potatoes, All ²	40.16		20,174,250	
Winter	32.94	32.28	186,650	176,360
Spring	32.09		989,470	
Summer	34.64		821,460	
Fall	41.11		18,176,670	
Spearmint Oil	0.12		930	
Sweet Potatoes	17.21		651,130	
Taro (HI) ³			2,900	

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² Production may not add due to rounding.

³ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2000-2002
(Metric Units) ¹

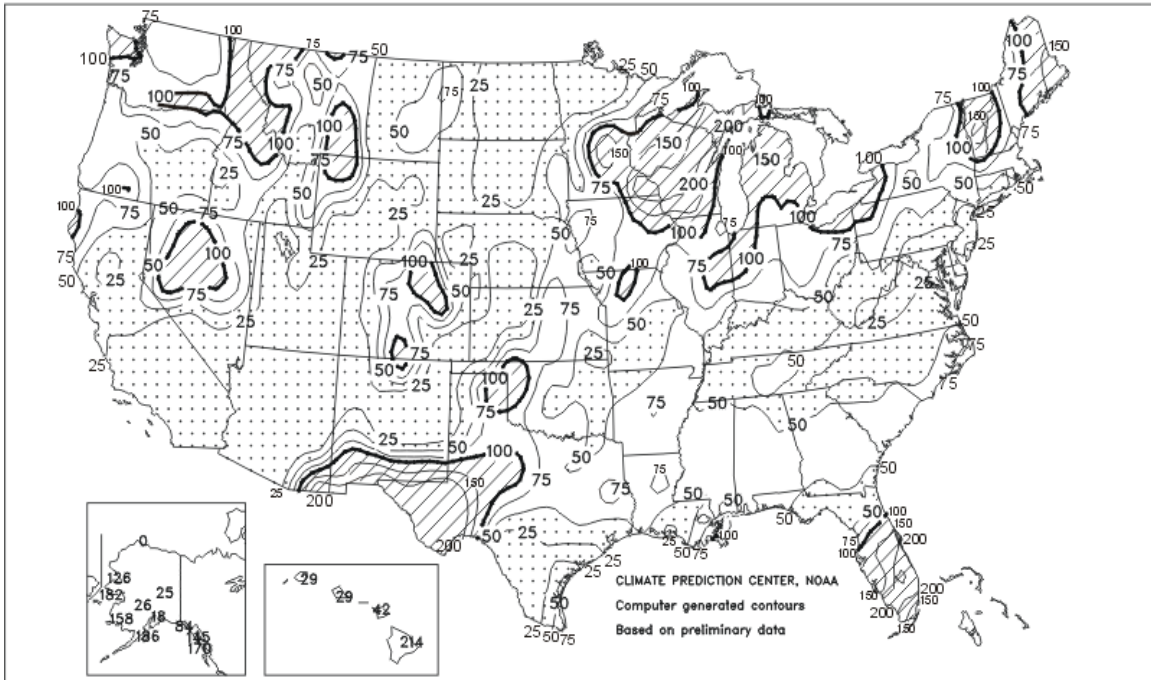
Crop	Production		
	2000	2001	2002
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>
Citrus ²			
Grapefruit	2,505,640	2,239,840	2,272,500
K-Early Citrus (FL)	4,540	1,810	910
Lemons	762,040	907,180	865,450
Oranges	11,790,680	11,240,020	11,241,830
Tangelos (FL)	89,810	86,180	89,810
Tangerines	415,490	334,750	375,570
Temples (FL)	79,830	50,800	61,690
Noncitrus			
Apples	4,836,970	4,279,740	
Apricots	87,910	74,630	
Bananas (HI)	13,150	12,700	
Grapes	6,974,410	5,915,930	
Olives (CA)	48,080	121,560	
Papayas (HI)	24,720	24,950	
Peaches	1,179,290	1,105,590	
Pears	877,380	880,700	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	198,670	134,260	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	21,680	18,870	
Nuts & Misc.			
Almonds (CA)	318,880	385,550	
Hazelnuts	20,410	43,540	
Pecans	95,190	142,880	
Pistachios (CA)	110,220	73,030	
Walnuts (CA)	216,820	276,690	
Maple Syrup	6,150	5,240	

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² Production years are 1999-2000, 2000-2001, and 2001-2002.

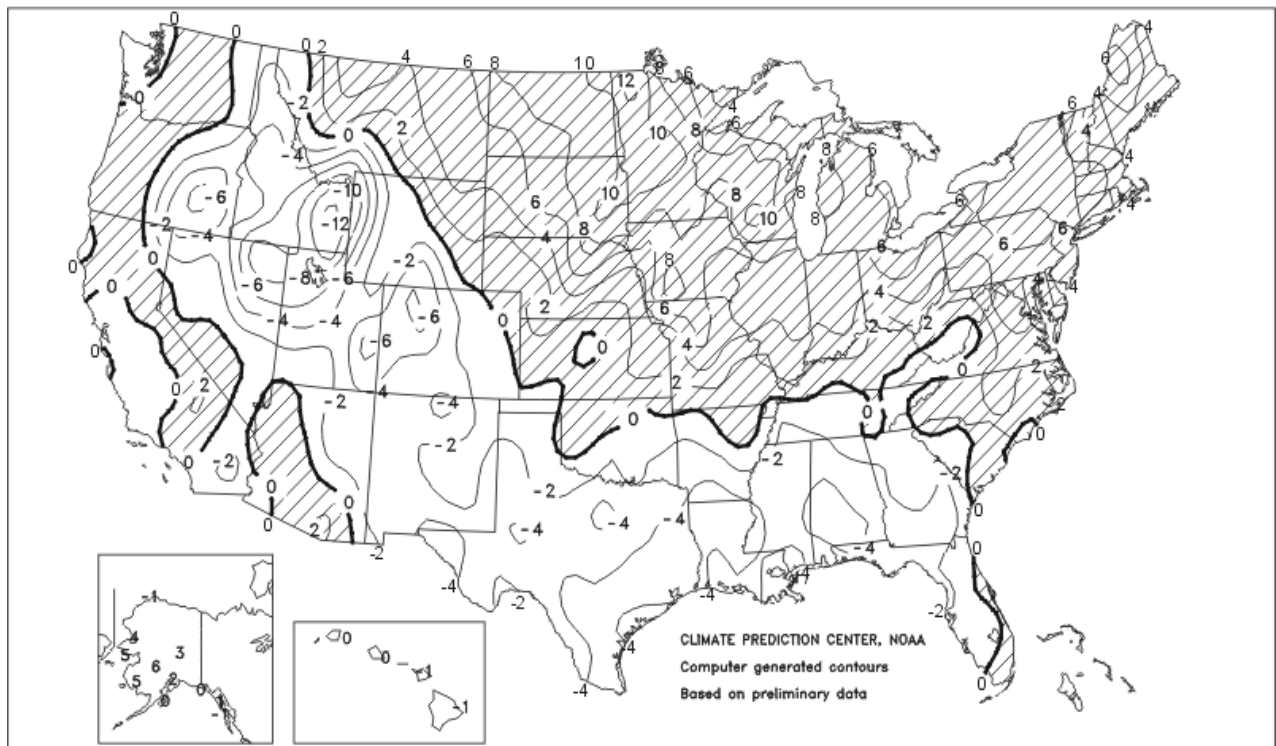
Percent Of Normal Precipitation

February 2002



Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

February 2002



February Weather Summary

February featured weather strikingly similar to January's pattern, highlighted by an early-month cold snap and a long spell of mild conditions thereafter, followed by a major late-month storm system and cold outbreak. In California and Arizona, dry weather favored fieldwork but increased stress on pastures and dryland small grains. Meanwhile, high-elevation snow packs remained significantly below normal across the central and southern Rockies and the Southwest, increasing concerns about summer water supplies. Snow packs remained mostly above normal in the Northwest, still recovering from the drought of 2000-01, despite a lack of February storminess. Farther east, mostly dry, breezy weather and temperature extremes continued to stress the High Plains' winter wheat crop. Areas from Montana to western Nebraska remained especially dry for most of February, having been bypassed by a late-January snow and ice storm. At month's end, some of the coldest air of the season swept across the Plains, accompanied and trailed by a widespread snowfall that provided much-needed moisture and insulation for wheat. However, the storm system bypassed the southern High Plains' wheat crop, which was exposed to potentially damaging temperatures as low as 0 degrees F. The suddenly cold, snowy weather pattern persisted into early March across most of the Plains and Midwest, providing beneficial soil moisture recharge but stressing livestock and hampering rural travel. Meanwhile across the South and East, dryness intensified across southern Texas and much of the middle and southern Atlantic regions. Limited relief from long-term drought was noted in the Northeast.

February Crop Summary

Soil moisture reserves remained very low across most of the Great Plains during February. In the southern Great Plains, an early month storm produced beneficial precipitation across a large portion of the region. However, dry weather prevailed the remainder of the month. In the central and northern Great Plains, precipitation was scattered and light. Parts of the northern High Plains received virtually no precipitation during the month. In addition to excessive dryness, winter wheat fields were exposed to wide temperature fluctuations, including several days of record and near record highs as well as periods of bitter cold. Wind-blown soil also contributed to harsh conditions on the Plains.

In the Southeast, early-month storms provided enough moisture to support current development of winter grains and forages in most areas, but precipitation was well below normal during the month and soil moisture reserves for spring and summer crop requirements remained very low. Periods of cold weather, including overnight lows that fell below freezing, frequently penetrated into the Southeast during February. For the month, temperatures averaged below-normal along the Gulf Coast and adjacent interior areas of the Southeast, Mississippi Delta, and southern Great Plains. The cold weather limited vegetative growth of winter crops, but also reduced soil moisture losses. The cold weather also provided beneficial chill hours for fruit orchards throughout the Southeast. In Florida, vegetable and fruit producers ran irrigation and wind machines to protect tender vegetation from periods of sub-freezing cold. Although some leafy new growth was lost in citrus groves, tree and fruit damage was minimized. After mid-month, field tillage and preparations for the spring planting season gradually increased throughout the southern States.

In the Pacific Northwest, the seasonal stormy pattern briefly abated near mid-month and again at the end of the month. As a result, monthly snowfall in the Cascade, Sierra, and interior Rocky Mountain ranges was below normal in most areas and well below normal in many areas. Dry weather also prevailed in California, permitting nearly uninterrupted work in fields and orchards. Temperatures averaged near normal in California's valleys, but periods of sub-freezing night time temperatures required protective measures. Meanwhile, favorably warm day time temperatures contributed to vigorous growth of winter vegetable, grain, and forage crops.

In the Corn Belt, temperatures averaged above normal and included several record and near record highs. Parts of the northern and western Corn Belt also experienced brief periods of sub-zero temperatures, once early in the month and again near the end of the month. Precipitation was below normal across most of the Corn Belt, although the upper Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes region were wetter-than-normal. Despite the low precipitation total during February, soil moisture reserves were mostly adequate.

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed for 2001 is estimated at 34.7 million tons, slightly below the February 1 forecast and 4 percent below last year's record high of 36.1 million tons. Acres harvested and to be harvested for sugar and seed is estimated at 1.03 million for the 2001 crop year, slightly

less than last year's harvested acres. Yield is estimated at 33.7 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton from February and 1.3 tons below the 2000 crop.

In Louisiana, acres harvested for sugar and seed, at 495,000, is 1 percent below last year's record high acreage of 500,000 and is the first year-to-year reduction in harvested acres since 1996. In Florida, acres harvested and to be harvested for sugar and seed is 2 percent above the 2000 level and 1 percent above the previous record high of 460,000 acres set in 1999.

Heavy rain interrupted harvest in Florida near mid-February. Also, cold weather extended into Florida near the end of February, but damaging sub-freezing temperatures remained well north of the sugarcane producing region.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya utilization is estimated at 3.14 million pounds for February 2002, down 5 percent from last month and 22 percent lower than a year ago. Area in crop totaled 2,555 acres, 1 percent lower than last month and 3 percent less than a year ago. Harvested area, at 1,860 acres, is virtually unchanged from a month ago but up 1 percent from February 2001. Weather conditions for February were variable with sunshine and sometimes heavy rain. Cool temperatures have slowed fruit maturation.

Grapefruit: The 2001-02 U.S. grapefruit crop is 2.51 million tons, unchanged from the February 1 forecast but 1 percent higher than the previous season. The Florida grapefruit forecast continues at 47.0 million boxes (2.00 million tons), the same as last month but 2 percent above last season's final utilization. Fruit sizes are equal to the smallest recorded level in the 10-season series and loss from droppage is slightly below average. The all white grapefruit forecast remains at 19.0 million boxes (808,000 tons), unchanged from February but 2 percent more than the previous season. The colored seedless utilization is forecast at 28.0 million boxes (1.19 million tons), the same as the February 1 forecast but 3 percent more than the previous season. Arizona, California, and Texas grapefruit forecasts are carried forward from the January forecasts.

Tangelos: Florida's 2001-02 tangelo forecast is reduced to 2.20 million boxes (99,000 tons), down 4 percent from the February 1 forecast but 5 percent more than last season's utilized production. The downward adjustment is based on the estimated utilization to date and the declining weekly use. Approximately 30 percent of the crop remains to be harvested.

Tangerines: The U.S. tangerine forecast for March 1 is unchanged at 414,000 tons. If realized, it will be 12 percent higher than last season's utilization of 369,000 tons. Florida's tangerine forecast is maintained at 6.40 million boxes (304,000 tons), the same as last month but 14 percent higher than last season. Harvest of the late season Honey variety is more than 60 percent complete. Fruit size is larger than average and loss from droppage is well below the loss that usually occurs by this time of the season. Arizona and California tangerine forecasts are carried forward from the January forecasts.

Temples: Florida's 2001-02 Temple forecast is 1.50 million boxes (68,000 tons), up 7 percent from the previous forecast. If realized, it will be the second smallest crop ever recorded, but 20 percent higher than the record low 1.25 million boxes (56,000 tons) utilized last season. Average fruit size is the smallest in the 10-season series but loss from droppage is below normal.

K-Early Citrus: The K-Early Citrus Fruit forecast for 2001-02 remains at 30,000 boxes (1,350 tons), unchanged from the February 1 forecast but 10,000 boxes fewer than last season. If realized, this will be the smallest crop of record.

Florida Citrus: February was wetter than normal in Florida's citrus belt. This moisture provided ideal conditions for the upcoming bloom period. Temperatures were cool with a few mornings in the lower thirties. There was no serious damage to citrus from the weather. Citrus trees are covered with feathery new growth and bloom buds of all sizes. A few trees in the southern part of the State are in full bloom.

Picking crews shifted to the late season Valencia oranges as harvest of early and midseason oranges slowed towards the end of the month. Grapefruit, Temples, and Honey tangerines were also shipped fresh or sent to the juice plants.

Caretakers have been fertilizing prior to the bloom period. Hedging and topping of harvested groves continues in all areas. Dead trees are being pushed out and burned. There have been many reports of newly planted trees in the southern counties.

California Citrus: The navel orange harvest continued throughout February. Sprays to control fungus were applied in some areas. The Valencia orange harvest began near the middle of the month. Grapefruit picking was ongoing in the desert and in the San Joaquin Valley. Lemons and Minneola tangelos were also picked throughout the month.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: Seasonal cultural activities such as pruning, grafting, cultivating, irrigating, and dormant spraying continued in orchards and vineyards. New orchards and vineyards were planted where older plantings had been removed. Crews continued to prune and tie grape vines throughout February. Grape growers also shredded brush, mowed cover crops, fertilized, and applied herbicides to vineyards. Unseasonably warm weather throughout the month initiated the bloom on early and midseason tree fruit varieties. Almond orchards were in bloom and weather conditions were optimal for pollination. Bloom sprays were applied in a few orchards by month's end. Bloom began in some avocado orchards during the last week of February. Strawberry fields were also blooming in some locations.

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. Reports from growers and packers in Arizona, California, and Texas were also used for setting estimates. These four 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 March 1 forecast.

Revision Policy: The March 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 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 forecasts, 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 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 six freeze seasons, the "Root Mean Square Error" is 3.1 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 3.1 percent excluding freeze seasons. Chances are nine out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.3 percent, or 5.5 percent excluding freeze seasons.

Changes between the March 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 249,000 tons (216,000 tons, excluding freezes), ranging from 8,000 tons to 713,000 tons. The March 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 7 times and above 13 times (below 6 times and above 8 times, excluding freeze seasons). The difference does not imply that the March 1 forecasts this year are likely to understate or overstate final production.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information.

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The next "Crop Production" report will be released at 8:30 a.m. ET on April 10, 2002.

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