



Crop Production

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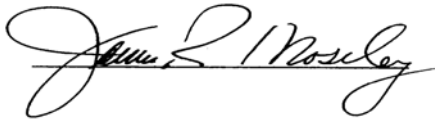
All Orange Production Down 1 Percent from December

The U.S. all orange January forecast for the 2002-03 crop is 11.2 million tons, down 1 percent from the previous forecast and 10 percent below last season's final utilization. Florida's all orange forecast remains unchanged at 197 million boxes (8.87 million tons), 14 percent less than the previous season. Abundant rainfall occurred across the State with some areas receiving excessive amounts. Colder temperatures were more prevalent than normal. The early and midseason varieties forecast remains unchanged at 113 million boxes (5.09 million tons) but 12 percent below last season. Fruit continued to grow in size. However, droppage is at the second highest level in the current 10-year series. Row count surveys indicate over 52 percent of fruit harvested, the highest rate of the previous ten seasons. Florida's Valencia forecast is unchanged at 84.0 million boxes (3.78 million tons) but is 18 percent below last season. Fruit size continues to increase at an above average rate. Droppage continues at above average levels.

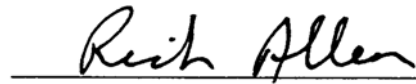
The all orange forecast for California, at 61.0 million boxes (2.29 million tons), is 3 percent less than the October 1 forecast but 9 percent higher than last season. Recent rains slowed harvesting of California Navel oranges but enhanced fruit size. Overall fruit quality is good. The Texas all orange forecast, at 1.68 million boxes (72,000 tons), is up 6 percent from the October 1 forecast but 3 percent less than last season's final utilization. Harvest is underway and fruit quality and size are reported as excellent. Arizona's all orange utilization is forecast at 450,000 boxes (17,000 tons), unchanged from the October 1 forecast but 13 percent lower than the previous season. If realized, it will be the sixth consecutive season of declining utilization.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield for the 2002-03 season is forecast at 1.57 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix. This is unchanged from last month's projection. The early and midseason portion is projected at 1.52 gallons per box and the late season Valencia oranges at 1.67 gallons. These projections are very similar to last season's final estimates. 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 January 10, 2003.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
James R. Moseley



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Rich Allen

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**Potatoes: Area Planted, Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Seasonal Group, State, and United States, 2001-2003**

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
	2002	2003	2002	2003					
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
Winter									
CA	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	270	270	2,790	2,430	2,430
FL	6.8	6.6	6.7	6.5	265	265	1,325	1,776	1,723
Total	15.8	15.6	15.7	15.5	268	268	4,115	4,206	4,153
Spring ¹									
AZ	7.8		7.8		270		2,214	2,106	
CA	19.0		19.0		405		6,045	7,695	
FL	27.0		26.3		300		7,970	7,883	
Hastings	19.5		19.0		315		5,940	5,985	
Other FL	7.5		7.3		260		2,030	1,898	
NC	21.5		21.0		170		3,515	3,570	
TX	12.5		12.0		170		2,070	2,040	
Total	87.8		86.1		271		21,814	23,294	

¹ 2002 revised.

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>
Nov	2,710	2,155	1,920	1,495	4,330	4,055
Dec	2,575	2,075	1,825	1,495	3,225	3,685

¹ Utilized fresh production.

**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
2000-2001, 2001-2002 and Forecasted January 1, 2003¹**

Crop and State	Utilized Production Boxes			Utilized Production Ton Equivalent		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	<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	480	270	200	18	10	8
CA	35,500	34,000	40,000	1,331	1,275	1,500
FL	128,000	128,000	113,000	5,760	5,760	5,085
TX	2,000	1,530	1,500	85	65	64
US	165,980	163,800	154,700	7,194	7,110	6,657
Valencia						
AZ	420	250	250	16	9	9
CA	19,000	22,000	21,000	713	825	788
FL	95,300	102,000	84,000	4,288	4,590	3,780
TX	235	210	180	10	9	8
US	114,955	124,460	105,430	5,027	5,433	4,585
All						
AZ	900	520	450	34	19	17
CA	54,500	56,000	61,000	2,044	2,100	2,288
FL	223,300	230,000	197,000	10,048	10,350	8,865
TX	2,235	1,740	1,680	95	74	72
US	280,935	288,260	260,130	12,221	12,543	11,242
Temples						
FL	1,250	1,550	1,400	56	70	63
Grapefruit						
White Seedless ⁴						
FL	18,700	18,900	16,000	795	803	680
Colored Seedless						
FL	27,300	27,800	24,000	1,160	1,182	1,020
All						
AZ	250	160	100	8	5	3
CA	6,300	6,000	5,600	211	201	188
FL	46,000	46,700	40,000	1,955	1,985	1,700
TX	7,200	5,900	5,600	288	236	224
US	59,750	58,760	51,300	2,462	2,427	2,115
Tangerines						
AZ ⁵	650	620	450	24	23	17
CA ⁵	2,200	2,200	2,500	83	83	94
FL ⁶	5,600	6,600	5,100	266	314	242
US	8,450	9,420	8,050	373	420	353
Lemons						
AZ	3,600	2,800	2,800	137	106	106
CA	22,600	19,000	23,000	859	722	874
US	26,200	21,800	25,800	996	828	980
Tangelos						
FL	2,100	2,150	2,400	95	97	108
K-Early Citrus ⁷						
FL	40	30		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 Includes seedy.

⁵ Includes tangelos and tangors.

⁶ 2000-01 through 2001-02 includes Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, Dancy, and Honey varieties; 2002-03 includes Fallglo, Sunburst, and Honey varieties only.

⁷ Estimates discontinued as of the 2002-03 crop.

**Hay: Stocks on Farms by State and United States,
December 1 and May 1, 2000-2002**

State	Dec 1			May 1	
	2000	2001	2002	2001	2002
	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
AL	1,000	2,100	1,700	100	650
AZ	250	223	203	33	28
AR	2,150	2,280	3,000	270	280
CA	1,954	1,961	2,235	180	232
CO	1,770	1,990	1,560	286	535
CT	82	59	61	21	9
DE	29	16	10	4	5
FL	450	510	475	25	90
GA	950	1,599	1,464	190	350
ID	2,857	2,568	2,972	265	444
IL	1,700	1,600	1,400	340	355
IN	1,629	1,311	1,021	342	287
IA	4,500	4,300	3,900	700	1,050
KS	4,500	5,600	4,800	500	1,040
KY	5,316	4,214	4,085	1,439	943
LA	415	1,096	709	30	200
ME	145	137	140	40	25
MD	525	355	264	61	62
MA	108	105	90	30	31
MI	3,460	3,450	2,109	1,000	811
MN	4,446	4,213	4,759	960	680
MS	850	1,833	1,631	45	390
MO	5,392	6,989	6,350	799	1,021
MT	3,168	3,600	4,019	427	845
NE	3,500	4,800	3,400	500	1,280
NV	801	776	881	112	111
NH	66	50	48	14	9
NJ	156	90	55	47	15
NM	600	600	620	75	65
NY	2,280	2,250	2,236	625	600
NC	1,300	1,215	785	277	158
ND	5,212	5,020	4,300	1,120	1,050
OH	3,390	3,591	1,832	835	551
OK	3,700	3,300	4,500	450	500
OR	1,766	1,901	2,550	241	183
PA	2,800	2,100	2,200	1,200	550
RI	11	8	9	2	2
SC	518	448	400	100	110
SD	8,200	8,235	5,800	1,550	1,900
TN	3,405	4,140	3,566	804	809
TX	7,104	7,477	10,803	1,450	1,625
UT	1,150	1,470	1,200	200	210
VT	280	288	281	70	87
VA	2,900	2,384	1,929	745	411
WA	1,303	1,513	1,620	195	170
WV	1,144	939	934	276	205
WI	4,800	4,300	3,600	1,980	1,350
WY	1,550	1,506	1,250	151	180
US	105,582	110,510	103,756	21,106	22,494

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2002-2003
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	5,073.0		4,135.0	
Corn for Grain ²	79,054.0		69,313.0	
Corn for Silage			7,490.0	
Hay, All			64,497.0	
Alfalfa			23,135.0	
All Other			41,362.0	
Oats	5,005.0		2,098.0	
Proso Millet	450.0		220.0	
Rice	3,240.0		3,207.0	
Rye	1,395.0		286.0	
Sorghum for Grain ²	9,580.0		7,299.0	
Sorghum for Silage			352.0	
Wheat, All	60,358.0		45,817.0	
Winter	41,735.0	44,246.0	29,651.0	
Durum	2,909.0		2,703.0	
Other Spring	15,714.0		13,463.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,459.0		1,275.0	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	785.0		704.0	
Mustard Seed	191.0		175.0	
Peanuts	1,358.0		1,296.7	
Rapeseed	3.4		3.1	
Safflower	219.0		196.0	
Soybeans for Beans	73,758.0		72,160.0	
Sunflowers	2,585.0		2,205.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	13,962.6		12,413.3	
Upland	13,719.0		12,171.0	
Amer-Pima	243.6		242.3	
Sugarbeets	1,427.9		1,361.0	
Sugarcane			1,026.1	
Tobacco			430.3	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	21.5		11.6	
Dry Edible Beans	1,922.1		1,726.9	
Dry Edible Peas	302.7		279.7	
Lentils	221.0		209.0	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			6.2	
Ginger Root (HI)			0.3	
Hops			29.3	
Peppermint Oil			80.2	
Potatoes, All	1,310.8		1,276.5	
Winter	15.8	15.6	15.7	15.5
Spring	87.8		86.1	
Summer	63.0		59.9	
Fall	1,144.2		1,114.8	
Spearmint Oil			18.0	
Sweet Potatoes	97.2		83.3	
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 2003 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, 2002-2003
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Unit	Yield		Production	
		2002	2003	2002	2003
				<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Grains & Hay					
Barley	Bu	54.9		226,873	
Corn for Grain	"	130.0		9,007,659	
Corn for Silage	Ton	14.0		104,979	
Hay, All	"	2.34		150,962	
Alfalfa	"	3.19		73,824	
All Other	"	1.86		77,138	
Oats	Bu	56.8		119,132	
Proso Millet	"	12.5		2,755	
Rice ²	Cwt	6,578		210,960	
Rye	Bu	24.4		6,985	
Sorghum for Grain	"	50.7		369,758	
Sorghum for Silage	Ton	9.5		3,360	
Wheat, All	Bu	35.3		1,616,441	
Winter	"	38.5		1,142,802	
Durum	"	29.4		79,450	
Other Spring	"	29.3		394,189	
Oilseeds					
Canola	Lb	1,218		1,552,520	
Cottonseed ³	Ton			6,419.3	
Flaxseed	Bu	17.9		12,569	
Mustard Seed	Lb	705		123,450	
Peanuts	"	2,561		3,320,490	
Rapeseed	"	1,461		4,530	
Safflower	"	1,520		297,980	
Soybeans for Beans	Bu	37.8		2,729,709	
Sunflower	Lb	1,133		2,497,236	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops					
Cotton, All ²	Bale	663		17,145.0	
Upland ²	"	651		16,496.0	
Amer-Pima ²	"	1,286		649.0	
Sugarbeets	Ton	20.2		27,550	
Sugarcane	"	35.0		35,932	
Tobacco	Lb	2,068		889,632	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils					
Austrian Winter Peas ²	Cwt	1,414		164	
Dry Edible Beans ²	"	1,736		29,974	
Dry Edible Peas ²	"	1,517		4,242	
Lentils ²	"	1,200		2,508	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³	"			457	
Potatoes & Misc.					
Coffee (HI)	Lb	1,370		8,500	
Ginger Root (HI)	"	45,000		14,400	
Hops	"	1,990		58,336.6	
Peppermint Oil	"	85		6,818	
Potatoes, All	Cwt	363		463,214	
Winter	"	268	268	4,206	4,153
Spring	"	271		23,294	
Summer	"	309		18,486	
Fall	"	374		417,228	
Spearmint Oil	Lb	108		1,942	
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt	150		12,498	
Taro (HI) ³	Lb			6,100	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2003 crop year.

² Yield in pounds.

³ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2001-2003
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Unit	Production		
		2001	2002	2003
		<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Citrus ²				
Grapefruit	Ton	2,462	2,427	2,115
K-Early Citrus (FL) ³	"	2	1	
Lemons	"	996	828	980
Oranges	"	12,221	12,543	11,242
Tangelos (FL)	"	95	97	108
Tangerines	"	373	420	353
Temples (FL)	"	56	70	63
Noncitrus				
Apples	1,000 Lbs	9,629.1	8,910.6	
Apricots	Ton	82.5	89.7	
Bananas (HI)	Lb	28,000.0		
Grapes	Ton	6,552.5	7,269.3	
Olives (CA)	"	134.0	90.0	
Papayas (HI)	Lbs	55,000.0		
Peaches	1,000 Lbs	2,441.4	2,531.7	
Pears	Ton	1,005.8	944.6	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	"	150.0	155.0	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	"	21.2	15.2	
Nuts & Misc.				
Almonds (CA)	Lb	830,000	980,000	
Hazelnuts	Ton	49.5	18.0	
Pecans	Lb	338,500	175,700	
Pistachios (CA)	"	161,000	280,000	
Walnuts (CA)	Ton	305.0	275.0	
Maple Syrup	Gal	1,049	1,356	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2003 crop year.

² Production years are 2000-2001, 2001-2002, and 2002-2003.

³ Estimates discontinued as of the 2002-03 crop.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2002-2003
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	2,052,990		1,673,390	
Corn for Grain ²	31,992,360		28,050,280	
Corn for Silage			3,031,130	
Hay, All ³			26,101,290	
Alfalfa			9,362,500	
All Other			16,738,790	
Oats	2,025,470		849,040	
Proso Millet	182,110		89,030	
Rice	1,311,200		1,297,840	
Rye	564,540		115,740	
Sorghum for Grain ²	3,876,930		2,953,830	
Sorghum for Silage			142,450	
Wheat, All ³	24,426,280		18,541,680	
Winter	16,889,740	17,905,910	11,999,460	
Durum	1,177,240		1,093,880	
Other Spring	6,359,300		5,448,340	
Oilseeds				
Canola	590,440		515,980	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	317,680		284,900	
Mustard Seed	77,300		70,820	
Peanuts	549,570		524,760	
Rapeseed	1,380		1,250	
Safflower	88,630		79,320	
Soybeans for Beans	29,849,130		29,202,430	
Sunflowers	1,046,120		892,340	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ³	5,650,520		5,023,540	
Upland	5,551,940		4,925,480	
Amer-Pima	98,580		98,060	
Sugarbeets	577,860		550,780	
Sugarcane			415,250	
Tobacco			174,130	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	8,700		4,690	
Dry Edible Beans	777,850		698,860	
Dry Edible Peas	122,500		113,190	
Lentils	89,440		84,580	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			2,510	
Ginger Root (HI)			130	
Hops			11,860	
Peppermint Oil			32,460	
Potatoes, All ³	530,470		516,590	
Winter	6,390	6,310	6,350	6,270
Spring	35,530		34,840	
Summer	25,500		24,240	
Fall	463,050		451,150	
Spearmint Oil			7,280	
Sweet Potatoes	39,340		33,710	
Taro (HI) ⁴			170	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2003 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, 2002-2003
(Metric Units)¹

Crop	Yield		Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	2.95		4,939,580	
Corn for Grain	8.16		228,805,080	
Corn for Silage	31.42		95,235,350	
Hay, All ²	5.25		136,950,420	
Alfalfa	7.15		66,972,010	
All Other	4.18		69,978,420	
Oats	2.04		1,729,200	
Proso Millet	0.70		62,480	
Rice	7.37		9,568,990	
Rye	1.53		177,430	
Sorghum for Grain	3.18		9,392,290	
Sorghum for Silage	21.40		3,048,140	
Wheat, All ²	2.37		43,992,310	
Winter	2.59		31,101,970	
Durum	1.98		2,162,270	
Other Spring	1.97		10,728,070	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.36		704,210	
Cottonseed ³			5,823,490	
Flaxseed	1.12		319,270	
Mustard Seed	0.79		56,000	
Peanuts	2.87		1,506,150	
Rapeseed	1.64		2,050	
Safflower	1.70		135,160	
Soybeans for Beans	2.54		74,290,500	
Sunflowers	1.27		1,132,730	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ²	0.74		3,732,880	
Upland	0.73		3,591,580	
Amer-Pima	1.44		141,300	
Sugarbeets	45.38		24,992,940	
Sugarcane	78.50		32,596,960	
Tobacco	2.32		403,530	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	1.58		7,440	
Dry Edible Beans	1.95		1,359,600	
Dry Edible Peas	1.70		192,410	
Lentils	1.35		113,760	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³			20,730	
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)	1.54		3,860	
Ginger Root (HI)	50.44		6,530	
Hops	2.23		26,460	
Peppermint Oil	0.10		3,090	
Potatoes, All ²	40.67		21,011,030	
Winter	30.03	30.03	190,780	188,380
Spring	30.32		1,056,600	
Summer	34.59		838,510	
Fall	41.95		18,925,140	
Spearmint Oil	0.12		880	
Sweet Potatoes	16.82		566,900	
Taro (HI) ³			2,770	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2003 crop year.

² Production may not add due to rounding.

³ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2001-2003
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Production		
	2001	2002	2003
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>
Citrus ²			
Grapefruit	2,233,490	2,201,740	1,918,700
K-Early Citrus (FL) ³	1,810	910	
Lemons	903,560	751,150	889,040
Oranges	11,086,700	11,378,820	10,198,570
Tangelos (FL)	86,180	88,000	97,980
Tangerines	338,380	381,020	320,240
Temples (FL)	50,800	63,500	57,150
Noncitrus			
Apples	4,367,690	4,041,780	
Apricots	74,810	81,370	
Bananas (HI)	12,700		
Grapes	5,944,350	6,594,600	
Olives (CA)	121,560	81,650	
Papayas (HI)	24,950		
Peaches	1,107,400	1,148,360	
Pears	912,460	856,880	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	136,080	140,610	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	19,230	13,790	
Nuts & Misc.			
Almonds (CA)	376,480	444,520	
Hazelnuts	44,910	16,330	
Pecans	153,540	79,700	
Pistachios (CA)	73,030	127,010	
Walnuts (CA)	276,690	249,480	
Maple Syrup	5,240	6,780	

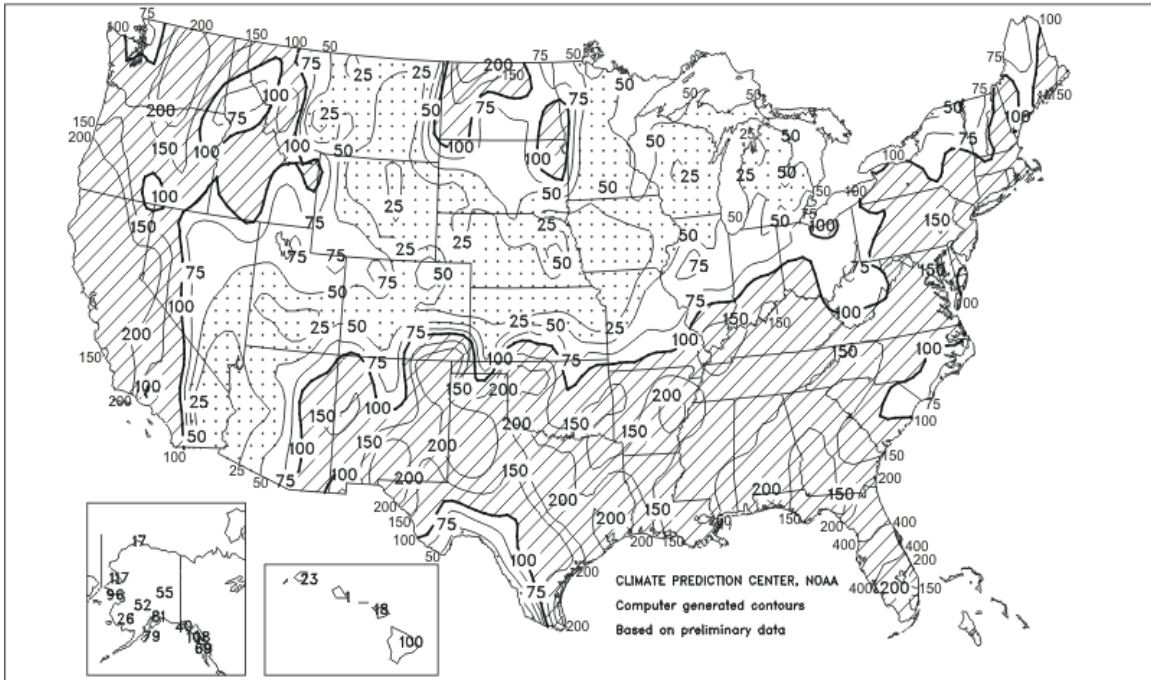
¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2003 crop year.

² Production years are 2000-2001, 2001-2002, and 2002-2003.

³ Estimates discontinued as of the 2002-03 crop.

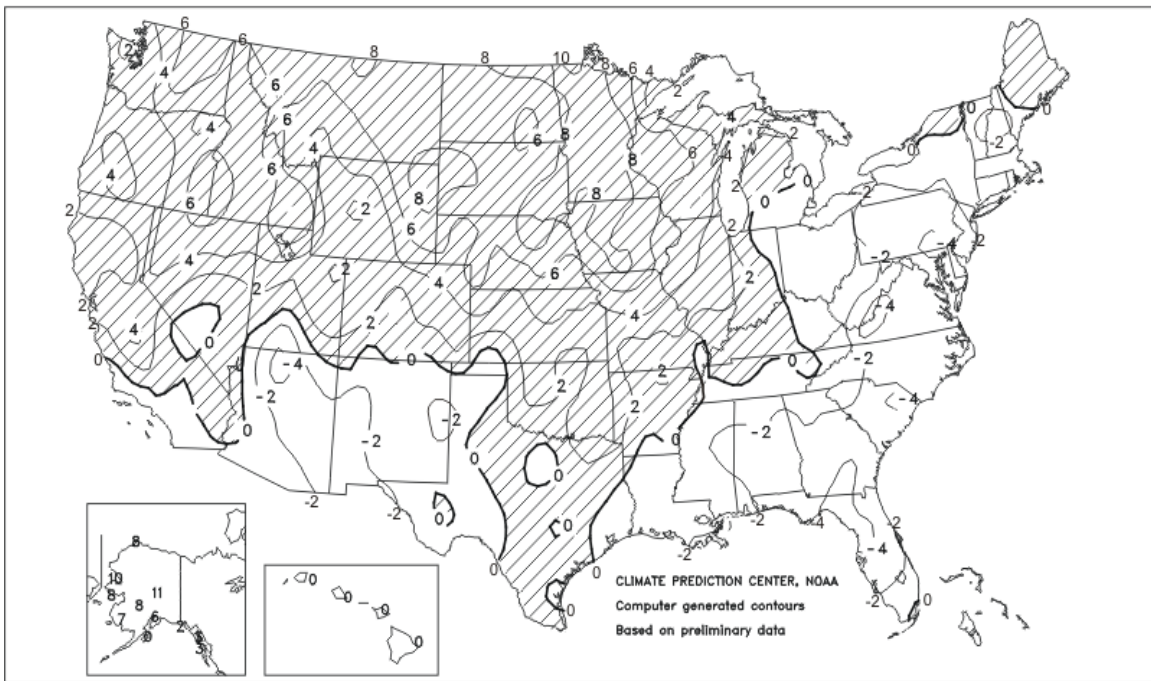
Percent Of Normal Precipitation

December 2002



Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

December 2002



December Weather Summary

An El Niño-driven weather pattern featured heavy precipitation in the West Coast States and across the South, but mild, mostly dry weather from the northern half of the Plains to the upper Great Lakes region. Although precipitation aided winter grains and boosted high-elevation snow packs across northern California and the Northwest, mostly dry weather persisted in drought-affected areas from the Southwest to the central Rockies. Meanwhile, mild weather on the Plains benefited the dormant winter wheat crop. Rain and snow boosted soil moisture reserves on the southern Plains, but dry weather depleted soil moisture and left wheat exposed to potential weather extremes on the northern and central High Plains. In the Corn Belt, mild, dry weather favored off-season fieldwork across the upper Midwest, while rain and snow replenished soil moisture from the Ohio Valley to the lower Great Lakes region. Persistent rains across the South caused fieldwork delays, triggered lowland flooding, and left some winter grains in standing water. Meanwhile, rain and snow eradicated lingering long-term drought in the Atlantic Coast States.

Below-normal temperatures were confined to the South and East, where readings averaged as much as 5 degrees F below normal. In contrast, warmer-than-normal weather prevailed from the Northwest to the upper Midwest, boosting temperatures as much as 10 degrees F above normal. Little or no moisture accompanied the mild weather across the northern Plains and upper Midwest, but at least 8 to 12 inches of precipitation soaked many locations in northern California, the Pacific Northwest, the central part of Florida's peninsula, and areas from eastern Texas to the southern Appalachians.

December Crop Summary

A stormy weather pattern developed in the Pacific Northwest, delivering frequent rain to low-lying coastal areas and significant snowfall to coastal mountain ranges. Precipitation was much lighter in the mountains and valleys of the interior Pacific Northwest, but precipitation was above-normal in many areas and well above-normal in some areas. The wet weather pattern eliminated drought conditions along the coast and significantly reduced moisture shortages along the foothills of the coastal ranges. In the interior valleys, topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies improved, but long-term moisture deficits remained moderate to severe.

The storms bypassed the northern and central Great Plains, leaving little moisture for parched soils and virtually no snow to protect winter wheat fields from potentially damaging cold temperatures. However, strong root development and abnormally warm weather reduced the threat of heaving and winter kill, despite the lack of a protective layer of snow.

Storms repeatedly redeveloped over the southern Great Plains and spread a variety of severe weather north and eastward across the Mississippi Delta, Ohio Valley, Southeast, and Atlantic Coast States. One early-month storm produced a mixture of wintry precipitation that limited fieldwork and delayed cotton harvest in the southern Great Plains and lower Mississippi Valley. Above-normal temperatures and precipitation produced vigorous winter wheat growth and supplied adequate forage for livestock in Texas.

The Southeast received frequent, widespread precipitation, but heavy rainfall was scattered and harvest and fieldwork delays were usually brief. In Florida, rain interrupted vegetable planting and picking and reduced the quality of some crops. Heavy rain also saturated citrus groves, forcing producers with bedded trees to pump excessive water from their groves.

Wet weather also frequently interrupted field and orchard work in California's central and northern valleys, but the moisture, combined with above-normal temperatures, contributed to vigorous crop growth. In addition, heavy snow boosted irrigation reserves in the Sierra Mountains.

Above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation prevailed in the Corn Belt. Soil moisture supplies were adequate, however, and afternoon temperatures were warm enough to support vegetative growth and root development of winter wheat in the eastern Corn Belt early in the month. However, above-ground growth was mostly undetectable.

Winter Potatoes: Production for 2003 is forecast at 4.15 million cwt, down 1 percent from a year ago but 1 percent above 2001. Harvested acreage in the two winter potato States (California and Florida) is estimated at 15,500 acres, down 1 percent from 2002, while the average yield is forecast at 268 cwt per acre, the same

as last year. Harvest is underway in California's Kern County and will move south as the season progresses. In Florida, fall rains slowed some planting but most fields were planted on schedule.

Spring Potatoes: Production for 2002 is revised to 23.3 million cwt, up 7 percent from both the May forecast and last year. Harvested area totaled 86,100 acres, up 13 percent from last year, while the average yield of 271 cwt per acre decreased 15 cwt from a year ago.

Spring potato production in California jumped 27 percent from a year ago to 7.70 million cwt on the strength of increased acreage and higher average yield. North Carolina's crop of 3.57 million cwt gained 2 percent from 2001. Florida and Texas are each down 1 percent and Arizona's potato production is 5 percent below a year ago.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya utilization is estimated at 3.69 million pounds for December, down 9 percent from last month but 14 percent above last year. Area in crop totaled 2,075 acres, down 4 percent from November and 19 percent below last December. Harvested area totaled 1,495 acres, unchanged from last month but 18 percent less than December 2001. December weather conditions were mostly favorable over major papaya production areas. Soil moisture was adequate in non-irrigated orchards.

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 2002-03 U.S. grapefruit crop is 2.12 million tons, down 1 percent from the December 1 forecast and 13 percent less than the previous season. The Florida grapefruit forecast is unchanged at 40.0 million boxes (1.70 million tons). If realized, Florida's utilized production will be 14 percent below last season and the smallest since the 35.6 million boxes harvested in the 1989-90 freeze affected season. The all white grapefruit forecast is 16.0 million boxes (680,000 tons), 15 percent below last season. The colored grapefruit utilization is forecast at 24.0 million boxes (1.02 million tons), 14 percent less than the previous season. Compared to the previous 10 season series, this year's fruit size is exceeded only by the extremely large sizes in the 1995-96 season. Droppage is slightly less than the 10-year season average.

Grapefruit production in Texas is unchanged from the October 1 forecast of 5.60 million boxes (224,000 tons) but is down 5 percent from last season's utilized production. Harvest is underway. Fruit quality and size are reported as excellent. California's grapefruit production is forecast at 5.60 million boxes (188,000 tons), 10 percent lower than the October 1 forecast and down 7 percent from last season. Harvest is underway and the crop is reported in good condition. The Arizona grapefruit forecast remains at 100,000 boxes (3,000 tons), 37 percent less than last season's utilization. Harvest is underway with large fruit sizes and fair quality being reported.

Lemons: The 2002-03 U.S. lemon crop is 980,000 tons, up 18 percent from last season. California production is forecast at 23.0 million boxes (874,000 tons), 21 percent above the 2001-02 season. Harvest is underway in all areas of the State. Fruit quality is good. The 2002-03 Arizona lemon forecast is 2.80 million boxes (106,000 tons), unchanged from both the previous forecast and last season. Harvest is just underway. Quality is mostly good but some wind-scarring has occurred. Average fruit size is larger than last season.

Tangelos: Florida's 2002-03 tangelo forecast is unchanged at 2.40 million boxes (108,000 tons). This is 12 percent more than last season's utilized production. Average fruit size is the second largest of the 10 season series and loss from droppage is expected to be below average, similar to the December 1 forecast. If the forecast is realized, it will be the largest crop of the past three seasons.

Tangerines: The 2002-03 U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at 353,000 tons, up 1 percent from the December 1 forecast but down 16 percent from last season's utilization of 420,000 tons. Florida's tangerine crop forecast, at 5.10 million boxes (242,000 tons), is down 2 percent from last month and 23 percent lower than last season's utilization. Harvest of Fallglo and Sunburst tangerines is almost complete. Harvest of Honey tangerines has just begun. Fruit size is above the 10-season average but much smaller than the record large size of last season. The 2002-03 Florida tangerine forecast only includes the Fallglo, Sunburst, and Honey tangerines. It does not include the Robinson and Dancy varieties as in previous seasons. This program change was implemented because of the declassification of Robinson and Dancy tangerines by the Florida Citrus Commission.

California's tangerine forecast is 2.50 million boxes (94,000 tons), up 9 percent from the October 1 forecast and 14 percent above last season's utilization. There are no reports of any major problems. Shape is normal

and fruit quality was reported as very good. Arizona's tangerine forecast remains unchanged at 450,000 boxes (17,000 tons) but is 27 percent below last season's utilized production. Harvest is off to a good start.

Temples: Florida's Temples are forecast at 1.40 million boxes (63,000 tons) for the 2002-03 season, unchanged from December but 10 percent below last season. If realized, this forecast would equal the freeze affected 1989-90 crop as the second smallest on record. Average fruit size continues to be the largest in the 10 season series. Fruit per tree is down and droppage is projected to be slightly above average.

K-Early Citrus: K-Early citrus has been dropped from the citrus estimation program. This fruit type has been declassified by the Florida Citrus Commission and forecasts have ceased.

Florida Citrus: December was a very wet and cold month in Florida. Rainfall averaged two to four times the normal rate. Caretakers were busy discing and deep plowing grove middles to help drain excess water away from tree root systems. Pumps were also utilized to drain ditches and canals away from groves. Low temperatures were in the mid to upper 30's during early December. During the latter part of the month, low temperatures were in the 40's. There was no damage to citrus trees or fruit.

Fresh fruit harvesting crews were very busy on dry days picking citrus for the Christmas markets and for fund raising projects. Virtually all of the processors were busy trying to process the field run fruit on the same day delivered. Caretakers were mowing and chopping cover crops for fire prevention. Dead trees continue to be removed and burned. A few resets were planted in the southern districts. Some spraying was applied to late season crops.

Texas Citrus: Harvest is underway for most citrus. Frequent rains in the last several months have helped production but did slow harvest on occasion. Fruit quality and size have been excellent this season.

California Citrus: Picking of navel oranges continued throughout December. Rainfall and cool night temperatures helped increase fruit size and enhance exterior color and maturity. Pummelo and Oroblanco grapefruit harvests were active in the desert. Picking of lemons was active in the desert, central valley, and south coast areas. Harvest of Satsuma, Mineola, and Fairchild tangerines was active during December.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: Seasonal cultural activities such as pruning, grafting, brush shredding, cultivating, and dormant spraying continued in orchards and vineyards. Some older variety trees and vines have been removed in preparation for planting replacements. Strong winds and rain during the middle of December contributed to some fruit and nut tree loss in parts of the State. Late picking of Crimson and Emperor table grapes neared completion in the southern areas of the State by the middle of December. Warm, dry weather allowed a few strawberry growers in Fresno and Tulare counties to continue harvesting for local roadside stand sales. Olives were harvested for oil production. Blueberry plantings showed vigorous growth. Fuya and Hachiya persimmons were picked. Walnut orchards were treated for weed control. Almond stockpile hulling was completed by month's end.

Hay Stocks on Farms: Stocks of all hay stored on farms totaled 104 million tons on December 1, 2002, down 6 percent from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from May 2002 - December 2002 totaled 69.7 million tons, compared to 25.1 million tons for the same period a year ago. Disappearance is up from last year, due to dry spring and summer conditions limiting pasture and extending the hay feeding period in the northern and central Great Plains, Southeast, and Rocky Mountain States.

Thirty-three of the 48 reporting States had lower hay stocks than last year. Most of the States reporting a decrease in stocks compared to last year were located in the western Corn Belt, central Rocky Mountains, northern and central Great Plains, and the Southeast. Stocks were significantly higher in Oklahoma and Texas, mainly due to a sharp increase in production during 2002.

Reliability of January 1 Orange Forecast

Survey Procedures: The orange objective yield survey for the January 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 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 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 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 6.0 percent. However, if you exclude the five freeze seasons, the "Root Mean Square Error" is 4.3 percent. This means that chances are two out of three that the current orange production forecast will not be above or below the final estimates by more than 6.0 percent, or 4.3 percent excluding freeze seasons. Chances are nine out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 10.4 percent, or 7.5 percent excluding freeze seasons.

Changes between the January 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 419,000 tons (371,000 tons, excluding freezes), ranging from 16,000 tons to 1.13 million tons (16,000 tons to 739,000 tons, excluding freezes). The January 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 6 times and above 14 times (below 4 times and above 11 times, excluding freeze seasons). The difference does not imply that the January 1 forecasts this year are likely to understate or overstate final production.

Information Contacts

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Lance Honig - Wheat, Rye	(202) 720-8068
Darin Jantzi - Corn, Proso Millet	(202) 720-9526
Troy Joshua - Hay, Oats	(202) 690-3234
Roy Karkosh - Barley, Sorghum, Sugar Crops	(202) 720-8140
Mark E. Miller - Weekly Crop Weather	(202) 720-7621
Mark R. Miller - Peanuts, Rice	(202) 720-7688
Fruit, Vegetable & Special Crops Section	
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Arvin Budge - Dry Beans, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes	(202) 720-4285
Kathy Broussard - Citrus, Tropical Fruits	(202) 720-5412
Debbie Flippin - Austrian Winter Peas, Dry Edible Peas, Lentils, Mint, Mushrooms, Peaches, Pears, Wrinkled Seed Peas	(202) 720-3250
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Kim Ritchie - Hops	(360) 902-1940
Betty Johnston - Floriculture, Nursery, Nuts	(202) 720-4215
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The next "Crop Production" report will be released at 8:30 a.m. ET on February 11, 2003.

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