



# Crop Production

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Released March 11, 2003, 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 Virtually Unchanged from February

**The U.S. all orange** March 1 forecast for the 2002-03 crop is 11.4 million tons, virtually unchanged from the February 1 forecast but 9 percent below last season's final utilization. Florida's all orange forecast is unchanged at 199 million boxes (8.96 million tons) but 13 percent below the previous season. Early and midseason varieties in Florida are forecast at 113 million boxes (5.09 million tons), unchanged from last month but 12 percent below the previous season. The harvest of the early and midseason varieties is nearly complete. Florida's Valencia forecast is unchanged at 86.0 million boxes (3.87 million tons) but 16 percent below last season's final utilization. Average fruit size is the largest on record since 1960. Loss from droppage remains above the 10 season average.

California's all orange forecast is 62.0 million boxes (2.33 million tons), up 2 percent from the January forecast and 11 percent above last season. Valencia oranges are forecast at 22.0 million boxes (825,000 tons), up 5 percent from the January forecast but unchanged from last season's final utilization. California conducted an objective measurement survey and a grower survey for the March 1 forecast. The Arizona and Texas all orange and California's navel orange production forecasts are carried forward from the January forecasts.

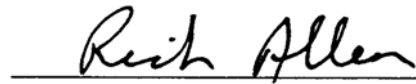
**Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ)** yield projection is lowered from 1.57 to 1.55 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix. The early and midseason portion is projected at 1.49 gallons per box, down from 1.50 in February. The Valencia portion was lowered to 1.65 gallons per box from 1.67. All projections of yield assume that the processing relationships this year will be similar to those of the past several years.

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This report was approved on March 11, 2003.



Acting Secretary of  
Agriculture  
James R. Moseley



Agricultural Statistics Board  
Chairperson  
Rich Allen

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**Sugarcane: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production  
by Use, State, and United States, 2001-2002**

Use and State	Area Harvested		Yield <sup>1</sup>		Production <sup>1</sup>	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	<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	445.0	441.0	35.1	38.4	15,620	16,934
HI <sup>2</sup>	19.3	23.6	97.3	94.3	1,878	2,225
LA <sup>2</sup>	460.0	465.0	29.0	29.0	13,340	13,485
TX <sup>2</sup>	46.0	43.8	42.1	37.7	1,937	1,651
US	970.3	973.4	33.8	35.2	32,775	34,295
For Seed						
FL	20.0	20.0	35.9	38.3	718	766
HI <sup>2</sup>	1.5	1.5	36.2	39.1	54	59
LA <sup>2</sup>	35.0	30.0	29.0	29.0	1,015	870
TX <sup>2</sup>	1.0	1.2	25.0	30.0	25	36
US	57.5	52.7	31.5	32.8	1,812	1,731
For Sugar and Seed						
FL	465.0	461.0	35.1	38.4	16,338	17,700
HI <sup>2</sup>	20.8	25.1	92.9	91.0	1,932	2,284
LA <sup>2</sup>	495.0	495.0	29.0	29.0	14,355	14,355
TX <sup>2</sup>	47.0	45.0	41.7	37.5	1,962	1,687
US	1,027.8	1,026.1	33.7	35.1	34,587	36,026

<sup>1</sup> Net tons.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates are carried forward from the 2002 Crop Production Summary.

**Papayas: Area and Fresh Production, by Month, Hawaii, 2002-2003**

Month	Area				Fresh Production <sup>1</sup>	
	Total in Crop		Harvested		2002	2003
	2002	2003	2002	2003		
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Jan	2,575	2,080	1,830	1,505	3,345	3,865
Feb	2,555	2,085	1,925	1,510	3,310	3,775

<sup>1</sup> Utilized fresh production.

**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,  
2000-2001, 2001-2002 and Forecasted March 1, 2003 <sup>1</sup>**

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 Boxes <sup>2</sup></i>	<i>1,000 Boxes <sup>2</sup></i>	<i>1,000 Boxes <sup>2</sup></i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel <sup>3</sup>						
AZ <sup>4</sup>	480	270	200	18	10	8
CA <sup>4</sup>	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 <sup>4</sup>	2,000	1,530	1,500	85	65	64
US	165,980	163,800	154,700	7,194	7,110	6,657
Valencia						
AZ <sup>4</sup>	420	250	250	16	9	9
CA	19,000	22,000	22,000	713	825	825
FL	95,300	102,000	86,000	4,288	4,590	3,870
TX <sup>4</sup>	235	210	180	10	9	8
US	114,955	124,460	108,430	5,027	5,433	4,712
All						
AZ <sup>4</sup>	900	520	450	34	19	17
CA	54,500	56,000	62,000	2,044	2,100	2,325
FL	223,300	230,000	199,000	10,048	10,350	8,955
TX <sup>4</sup>	2,235	1,740	1,680	95	74	72
US	280,935	288,260	263,130	12,221	12,543	11,369
Temples						
FL	1,250	1,550	1,400	56	70	63
Grapefruit						
White Seedless <sup>5</sup>						
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 <sup>4</sup>	250	160	100	8	5	3
CA <sup>4</sup>	6,300	6,000	5,600	211	201	188
FL	46,000	46,700	40,000	1,955	1,985	1,700
TX <sup>4</sup>	7,200	5,900	5,600	288	236	224
US	59,750	58,760	51,300	2,462	2,427	2,115
Tangerines						
AZ <sup>4 6</sup>	650	620	450	24	23	17
CA <sup>4 6</sup>	2,200	2,200	2,500	83	83	94
FL <sup>7</sup>	5,600	6,600	5,000	266	314	238
US	8,450	9,420	7,950	373	420	349
Lemons <sup>4</sup>						
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 <sup>8</sup>						
FL	40	30		2	1	

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

<sup>4</sup> Estimates for current year carried forward from previous forecast.

<sup>5</sup> Includes seedy.

<sup>6</sup> Includes tangelos and tangors.

<sup>7</sup> 2000-01 through 2001-02 includes Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, Dancy, and Honey varieties; 2002-03 includes Fallglo, Sunburst, and Honey varieties only.

<sup>8</sup> Estimates discontinued as of the 2002-03 crop.

**Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2002-2003**  
(Domestic Units) <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>2</sup>	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 <sup>2</sup>	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) <sup>3</sup>			0.4	

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Area planted for all purposes.

<sup>3</sup> Area is total acres in crop, not harvested acreage.

**Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 2002-2003**  
(Domestic Units) <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>2</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	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 <sup>2</sup>	Bale	663		17,145.0	
Upland <sup>2</sup>	"	651		16,496.0	
Amer-Pima <sup>2</sup>	"	1,286		649.0	
Sugarbeets	Ton	20.2		27,550	
Sugarcane	"	35.1		36,026	
Tobacco	Lb	2,068		889,632	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils					
Austrian Winter Peas <sup>2</sup>	Cwt	1,414		164	
Dry Edible Beans <sup>2</sup>	"	1,736		29,974	
Dry Edible Peas <sup>2</sup>	"	1,517		4,242	
Lentils <sup>2</sup>	"	1,200		2,508	
Wrinkled Seed Peas <sup>3</sup>	"			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) <sup>3</sup>	Lb			6,100	

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> Yield is not estimated.

**Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2001-2003**  
(Domestic Units) <sup>1</sup>

Crop	Unit	Production		
		2001	2002	2003
		<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Citrus <sup>2</sup>				
Grapefruit	Ton	2,462	2,427	2,115
K-Early Citrus (FL) <sup>3</sup>	"	2	1	
Lemons	"	996	828	980
Oranges	"	12,221	12,543	11,369
Tangelos (FL)	"	95	97	108
Tangerines	"	373	420	349
Temples (FL)	"	56	70	63
Noncitrus				
Apples	1,000 Lbs	9,428.7	8,592.1	
Apricots	Ton	82.5	90.1	
Bananas (HI)	Lb	28,000.0	19,000.0	
Grapes	Ton	6,569.6	7,144.0	
Olives (CA)	"	134.0	99.0	
Papayas (HI)	Lbs	55,000.0	45,500.0	
Peaches	1,000 Lbs	2,433.3	2,575.4	
Pears	Ton	1,001.8	911.5	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	"	150.0	158.0	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	"	21.2	15.9	
Nuts & Misc.				
Almonds (CA)	Lb	830,000	1,060,000	
Hazelnuts	Ton	49.5	18.0	
Pecans	Lb	338,500	178,400	
Pistachios (CA)	"	161,000	300,000	
Walnuts (CA)	Ton	305.0	282.0	
Maple Syrup	Gal	1,049	1,356	

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Production years are 2000-2001, 2001-2002, and 2002-2003.

<sup>3</sup> Estimates discontinued as of the 2002-03 crop.



**Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2002-2003**  
(Metric Units) <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>2</sup>	31,992,360		28,050,280	
Corn for Silage			3,031,130	
Hay, All <sup>3</sup>			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 <sup>2</sup>	3,876,930		2,953,830	
Sorghum for Silage			142,450	
Wheat, All <sup>3</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	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) <sup>4</sup>			170	

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Area planted for all purposes.

<sup>3</sup> Total may not add due to rounding.

<sup>4</sup> Area is total hectares in crop, not harvested hectares.

**Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 2002-2003**  
(Metric Units)<sup>1</sup>

Crop	Yield		Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>
<b>Grains &amp; Hay</b>				
Barley	2.95		4,939,580	
Corn for Grain	8.16		228,805,080	
Corn for Silage	31.42		95,235,350	
Hay, All <sup>2</sup>	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 <sup>2</sup>	2.37		43,992,310	
Winter	2.59		31,101,970	
Durum	1.98		2,162,270	
Other Spring	1.97		10,728,070	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola	1.36		704,210	
Cottonseed <sup>3</sup>			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	
<b>Cotton, Tobacco &amp; Sugar Crops</b>				
Cotton, All <sup>2</sup>	0.74		3,732,880	
Upland	0.73		3,591,580	
Amer-Pima	1.44		141,300	
Sugarbeets	45.38		24,992,940	
Sugarcane	78.70		32,682,240	
Tobacco	2.32		403,530	
<b>Dry Beans, Peas &amp; Lentils</b>				
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 <sup>3</sup>			20,730	
<b>Potatoes &amp; Misc.</b>				
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 <sup>2</sup>	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) <sup>3</sup>			2,770	

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> Yield is not estimated.

**Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2001-2003**  
(Metric Units) <sup>1</sup>

Crop	Production		
	2001	2002	2003
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>
Citrus <sup>2</sup>			
Grapefruit	2,233,490	2,201,740	1,918,700
K-Early Citrus (FL) <sup>3</sup>	1,810	910	
Lemons	903,560	751,150	889,040
Oranges	11,086,700	11,378,820	10,313,780
Tangelos (FL)	86,180	88,000	97,980
Tangerines	338,380	381,020	316,610
Temples (FL)	50,800	63,500	57,150
Noncitrus			
Apples	4,276,790	3,897,310	
Apricots	74,810	81,770	
Bananas (HI)	12,700	8,620	
Grapes	5,959,840	6,480,930	
Olives (CA)	121,560	89,810	
Papayas (HI)	24,950	20,640	
Peaches	1,103,730	1,168,180	
Pears	908,800	826,850	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	136,080	143,340	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	19,230	14,380	
Nuts & Misc.			
Almonds (CA)	376,480	480,810	
Hazelnuts	44,910	16,330	
Pecans	153,540	80,920	
Pistachios (CA)	73,030	136,080	
Walnuts (CA)	276,690	255,830	
Maple Syrup	5,240	6,780	

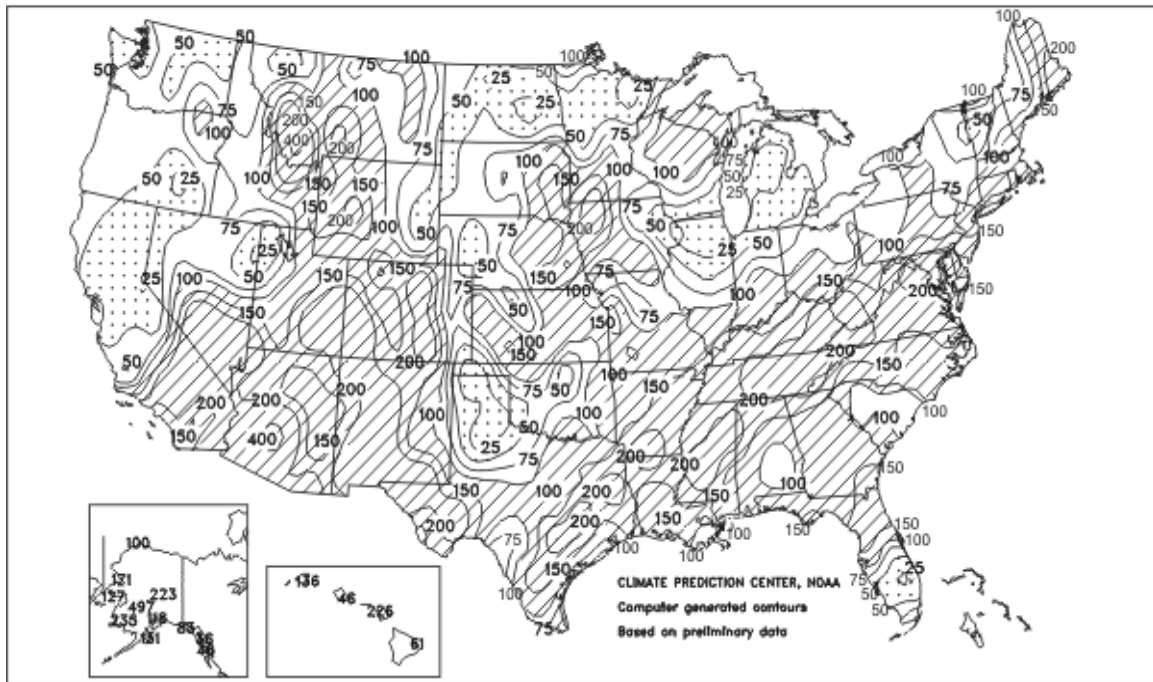
<sup>1</sup> Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2003 crop year.

<sup>2</sup> Production years are 2000-2001, 2001-2002, and 2002-2003.

<sup>3</sup> Estimates discontinued as of the 2002-03 crop.

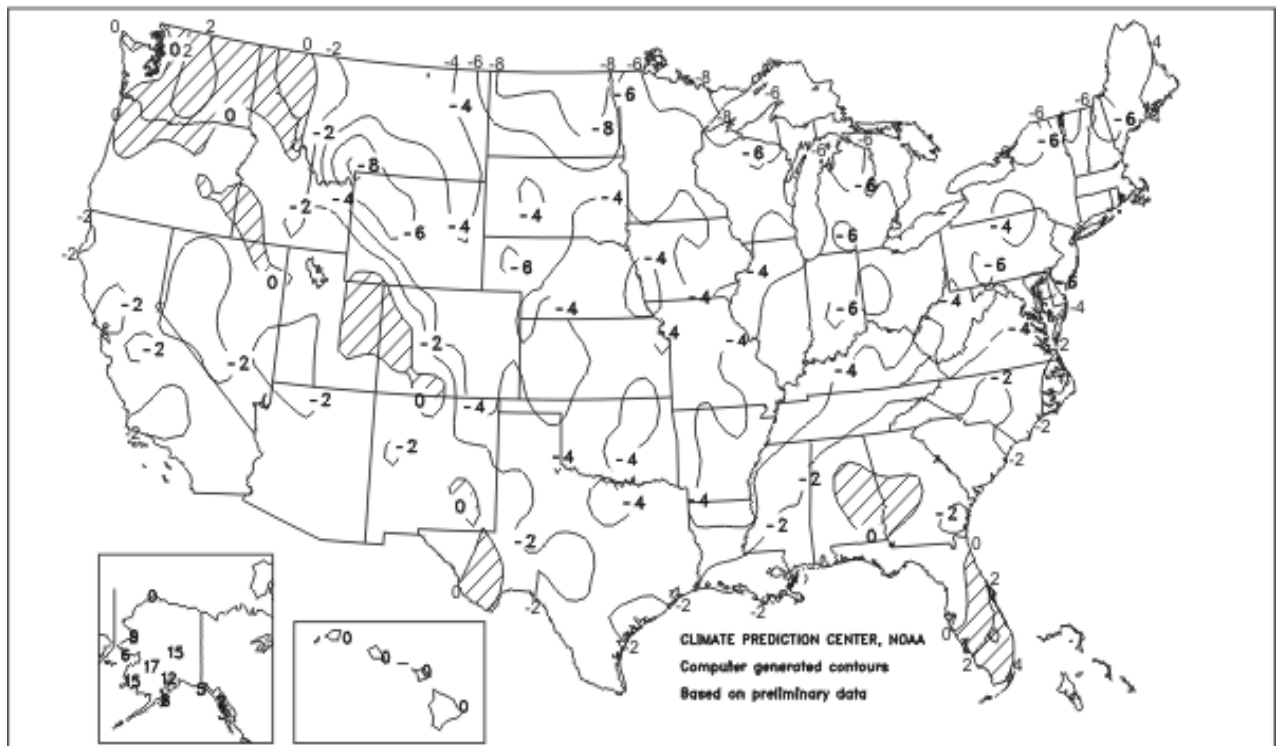
# Percent Of Normal Precipitation

February 2003



# Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

February 2003



## February Weather and Crop Summary

Following an uncharacteristically tranquil January, much of the Nation experienced a return to stormy weather in February. Specifically, wet weather redeveloped across the South (excluding southern Florida and portions of the southern High Plains), while some locations from the Ohio Valley to the northern Mid-Atlantic States and southern New England endured record-setting snowfall totals. Southern wetness slowed or halted spring planting preparations from the western Gulf Coast region to the southern Atlantic States, including the Delta. Farther north, however, drought gradually intensified in parts of the Midwest, primarily from northern Missouri to Lower Michigan. Meanwhile, the Plains received varying amounts of precipitation. Dryness persisted across northern Texas, but late-month snowfall on the central Plains boosted soil moisture reserves and insulated the winter wheat crop from a late-season cold snap. On the northern Plains, however, only a shallow snow cover protected wheat from temperatures as low as -30 degrees F. Elsewhere, areas from the Southwest to the Rockies received beneficial precipitation that boosted topsoil moisture and mountain snow packs, but provided only limited relief from long-term drought. Much of the West faces water-supply concerns due to the combination of already low reservoir levels, near to below normal snow packs, and poor spring and summer runoff prospects.

Monthly temperatures were within a few degrees of normal west of the Rockies and up to 4 degrees F above normal in southern Florida, but significantly below normal elsewhere. The coldest areas, the Plains, Midwest, and Northeast, where monthly readings ranged from 2 to 10 degrees F below normal maintained stress on livestock.

### February Crop Summary

Seasonally heavy precipitation in the Pacific Northwest alleviated dry soil conditions in some areas, but were not as helpful in others. Soil moisture was generally adequate throughout California with some growers supplementing with irrigation. Abnormally dry soil conditions remained throughout much of the Southwest, Rocky Mountains, and Great Plains regions. Snowpack measurements generally were greater than during 2002, but still ranged from below normal to significantly below normal in most locations. Low reservoir levels and water shortages remain a concern. Soil moisture was adequate to surplus across a wide swath from Texas, through the Tennessee Valley, to New England.

Winter wheat emergence was aided by warmer temperatures and adequate rainfall in eastern Washington, while some western fields were flooded by heavy precipitation. Continued mild weather allowed some winter wheat to emerge from dormancy in Idaho. By mid-month, rainfall in California restricted fieldwork, but was beneficial to wheat, barley, oats, and alfalfa. The season's first cutting of alfalfa hay took place in early February. Rainfall late in the month slowed the picking of citrus fruit, which helped packinghouses clear inventories. Winter pastures were in good condition throughout the month with the best conditions reported in the northern half of the State. Vegetable planting was active, and many fields thrived in the warm weather.

Cool weather in Florida slowed the development of vegetables and pastures while dry, windy conditions lowered soil moisture supplies early in the month. Significant rains fell around the middle and end of the month, replenishing soil moisture in some areas. The citrus harvest was active for early and midseason oranges. Sugarcane harvesting continued in the Everglades.

Very dry subsoil conditions remain across the northern Corn Belt. Rainfall in the southern Corn Belt helped alleviate soil moisture deficits, with most locations now rated dry to adequate. Iowa reported an average of 1 inch of snowcover. Illinois and Indiana experienced extreme cold weather mid-month.

In the Valley region of Texas, harvest of sugarcane, citrus, and vegetables occurred, and planting began for cotton, corn, and sorghum. Deep-breaking occurred in some areas, but fieldwork was nonexistent in much of the State due to a barrage of snow, rain, and ice. Corn producers were delayed in land preparation and planting was well behind average. The adverse conditions have stressed livestock in Texas and Oklahoma, forcing farmers and ranchers to feed extra amounts of hay.

In South Dakota, February brought some periods of cold weather and snowfall, but most of the State experienced continuing mild winter weather. With dry soil conditions and little snowcover, there was concern for the condition of winter crops. Minnesota conditions have been relatively mild with some cold weather and minimal snowcover.

In North Carolina, wet and cold weather, combined with poor pasture conditions, increased hay and feed grain demands for livestock operations. Onion planting in Georgia was behind schedule due to continued wet weather.

**Sugarcane:** Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed for 2002 is estimated at 36.0 million tons, up slightly from the February forecast and 4 percent above last year's estimate. Acres harvested and to be harvested for sugar and seed are estimated at 1.03 million for the 2002 crop year, slightly less than last year's harvested area. Yield is estimated at 35.1 tons per acre, 1.4 tons above 2001. In Florida, acres harvested and to be harvested for sugar and seed are down 1 percent from last year's record high acreage. Recent rains in Florida caused only minor harvesting delays.

**Papayas:** Hawaii fresh papaya utilization is estimated at 3.78 million pounds for February, down 2 percent from last month but up 14 percent from February 2002. Area in crop totaled 2,085 acres and area harvested totaled 1,510 acres, both virtually unchanged from last month but down 18 and 22 percent from last year, respectively. Weather conditions were variable over the papaya producing areas. Rainfall during February replenished soil moisture levels in non-irrigated orchards.

**Grapefruit:** The forecast of the 2002-03 U.S. grapefruit crop is 2.12 million tons, unchanged from the February 1 forecast but 13 percent lower than the previous season. The Florida grapefruit forecast remains unchanged at 40.0 million boxes (1.70 million tons) but 14 percent below last season. The all white grapefruit forecast remains at 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. Fruit size is average, unchanged from February. Fresh utilization is ahead of the previous 2 seasons for colored grapefruit but behind for white. Movement was more than 1 million boxes per week during February for processed fruit (packinghouse eliminations and direct to processor). Arizona, California, and Texas grapefruit forecasts are carried forward from the January forecasts.

**Tangelos:** Florida's 2002-03 tangelo forecast is 2.40 million boxes (108,000 tons), unchanged from the previous month but 12 percent more than last season's utilized production. Fresh shipments continue to decline from previous seasons, while processed utilization is increasing.

**Tangerines:** The 2002-03 U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at 349,000 tons, unchanged from the February 1 forecast but 17 percent below last season's utilization of 420,000 tons. Florida's tangerine crop forecast is unchanged at 5.00 million boxes (238,000 tons) but 24 percent lower than last season's utilization. Harvest of the early varieties is virtually complete. Harvest continues for the late season Honey variety. Fruit sizes remain at the 10 season average. Droppage is below average. 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. Arizona and California tangerine forecasts are carried forward from the January forecasts.

**Temples:** Florida's Temples are forecast at 1.40 million boxes (63,000 tons) for the 2002-03 season, unchanged from February 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 exceed the previous 10 season series. Fruit droppage is above average. Fresh shipments are at the lowest level on record. Most of the remaining fruit will be harvested for processing use.

**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 been discontinued.

**Florida Citrus:** February was generally very dry with mild temperatures. Most areas reported half of their normal rainfall. Growers and caretakers irrigated to keep groves and trees in good condition. During the last two weeks of February, new growth and buds started showing on younger trees. Older trees were also showing buds. Harvest of early and midseason oranges declined during the month with very little of the early fruit remaining. Harvesting of Valencia oranges for both fresh and processing began. Some growers moved into Valencia groves to keep pickers active. Fresh grapefruit and Honey tangerine shipments were down the first of the month but became more active. Tangelo and early tangerine harvests are virtually complete. Caretakers have been very busy cutting cover crops for fire protection and to help generate new growth for the

up coming bloom cycle. Hedging and topping in harvested groves were being reported for all areas. Dead trees are being removed and burned in all areas. Pre-bloom fertilizing and spraying are almost complete.

**California Citrus:** Navel orange harvest continued throughout February. Fungicides were applied in some areas. Harvest of early variety Valencia oranges began mid February in some groves. Grapefruit harvest was ongoing in the desert and in the San Joaquin Valley. Lemons and Minneola tangelos were 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. Bee hives were in place for pollination but were only active as weather conditions allowed. Bloom in peach, plum, nectarine, and apricot orchards became more widespread due to plentiful sunshine and warm daytime temperatures. To date no damage from cold overnight temperatures has been reported. Bloom spray applications began in a few early variety stone fruit orchards. Peach orchards were treated for San Jose scale. Orchard and vineyard removal continued while brush was shredded and disced in active orchards. Stumps and brush were piled for burning or chipping. Open ground was prepared for planting of new tree fruit orchards. Strawberry plants were progressing well and nearly ready to bloom in some locations by month's end. Some blueberry plantings were covered with plastic to induce bud break and earlier blooming. Cherry buds started to swell by the end of the month. Almond orchards were in bloom. Fungicides were applied to protect the blossoms from disease and insect pests.

## 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. California also conducts objective measurement surveys in September for navel oranges and in March for Valencia oranges.

**Estimating Procedures:** State level objective yield estimates for Florida oranges were reviewed for errors, reasonableness, and consistency with historical estimates. Reports from growers 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 3.3 percent. However, if you exclude the five freeze seasons, the "Root Mean Square Error" is 3.0 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current orange production forecast will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.3 percent, or 3.0 percent excluding freeze seasons. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.7 percent, or 5.3 percent excluding freeze seasons.

Changes between the March 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 234,000 tons (220,000 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 5 times and above 10 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

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Roy Karkosh - Barley, Sorghum, Sugar Crops	(202) 690-8140
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The next "Crop Production" report will be released at 8:30 a.m. ET on April 10, 2003.

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