



Crop Production

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All Orange Production Down Less Than 1 Percent.

The U.S. all orange April 1 forecast for the 2002-03 crop is 11.3 million tons, virtually unchanged from the March forecast but down 9 percent from last season's revised final utilization. Florida's all orange forecast, at 198 million boxes (8.91 million tons), is down 1 percent from the previous forecast and 14 percent below last season. Early and midseason varieties in Florida are forecast at 112 boxes (5.04 million tons), 1 percent below the previous forecast and 12 percent less than last season's final utilization. Harvest is complete. Florida's Valencia forecast is unchanged at 86.0 million boxes (3.87 million tons) but 16 percent below the previous season.

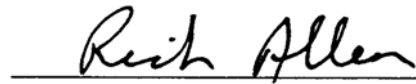
The all orange forecast for California, at 62.0 million boxes, is unchanged from the previous forecast but 14 percent above the previous season's revised utilization. Navel and Valencia oranges are unchanged at 40.0 million boxes (1.50 million tons) and 22.0 million boxes (825,000 tons), respectively. The Texas all orange forecast is 1.58 million boxes (68,000 tons), down 100,000 boxes from the January forecast and 160,000 boxes less than last season's utilized production. Arizona's all orange utilization is forecast at 400,000 boxes (16,000 tons), a decrease of 50,000 boxes from the previous forecast and 120,000 boxes below the 2001-02 utilization. If realized, this will be the sixth consecutive season of declining utilization for Arizona.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield projection is unchanged from last month at 1.55 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix. The early and midseason portion is projected at 1.49 gallons per box. The Valencia portion remains at 1.65 gallons per box. 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 April 10, 2003.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
James R. Moseley



Agricultural Statistics Board
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**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
2000-2001, 2001-2002 and Forecasted April 1, 2003 ^{1 2}**

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 ³</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes ³</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes ³</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel ⁴						
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	112,000	5,760	5,760	5,040
TX	2,000	1,530	1,400	85	65	60
US	165,980	163,800	153,600	7,194	7,110	6,608
Valencia						
AZ	420	250	200	16	9	8
CA	19,000	20,500	22,000	713	769	825
FL	95,300	102,000	86,000	4,288	4,590	3,870
TX	235	210	180	10	9	8
US	114,955	122,960	108,380	5,027	5,377	4,711
All						
AZ	900	520	400	34	19	16
CA	54,500	54,500	62,000	2,044	2,044	2,325
FL	223,300	230,000	198,000	10,048	10,350	8,910
TX	2,235	1,740	1,580	95	74	68
US	280,935	286,760	261,980	12,221	12,487	11,319
Temples						
FL	1,250	1,550	1,300	56	70	59
Grapefruit						
White Seedless ⁵						
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	5,500	288	236	220
US	59,750	58,760	51,200	2,462	2,427	2,111
Tangerines						
AZ ⁶	650	620	400	24	23	15
CA ⁶	2,200	2,200	2,500	83	83	94
FL ⁷	5,600	6,600	5,200	266	314	247
US	8,450	9,420	8,100	373	420	356
Lemons						
AZ	3,600	2,800	2,900	137	106	110
CA	22,600	19,000	23,000	859	722	874
US	26,200	21,800	25,900	996	828	984
Tangelos						
FL	2,100	2,150	2,350	95	97	106
K-Early Citrus ⁸						
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 2001-02 Revised.

³ 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.

⁴ Navel and miscellaneous varieties in AZ and CA. Early (including Navel) and midseason varieties in FL and TX. Small quantities of tangerines in TX.

⁵ Includes seedy.

⁶ Includes tangelos and tangors.

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

⁸ Estimates discontinued as of the 2002-03 crop.

**Potatoes: Area Planted and 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	310	2,790	2,430	2,790
FL	6.8	6.0	6.7	5.8	265	235	1,325	1,776	1,363
Total	15.8	15.0	15.7	14.8	268	281	4,115	4,206	4,153
Spring									
AZ	7.8	8.0	7.8	8.0	270	280	2,214	2,106	2,240
CA	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0	405	410	6,045	7,695	7,790
FL	27.0	28.0	26.3	27.3	300	286	7,970	7,883	7,817
Hastings	19.5	19.5	19.0	19.0	315	300	5,940	5,985	5,700
Other FL	7.5	8.5	7.3	8.3	260	255	2,030	1,898	2,117
NC	21.5	18.0	21.0	17.0	170	165	3,515	3,570	2,805
TX	12.5	13.0	12.0	12.5	170	240	2,070	2,040	3,000
Total	87.8	86.0	86.1	83.8	271	282	21,814	23,294	23,652
Summer ¹									
AL	3.1		3.0		185		624	555	
CA	7.3		7.3		360		2,840	2,628	
CO	6.4		6.3		360		2,016	2,268	
DE	3.7		3.6		260		1,161	936	
IL	6.5		6.4		310		1,855	1,984	
KS	3.0		2.9		340		720	986	
MD	4.8		4.7		250		1,175	1,175	
MO	7.0		5.4		240		1,904	1,296	
NJ	2.6		2.6		275		638	715	
NM	2.5		2.3		320		770	736	
TX	8.8		8.3		400		3,120	3,320	
VA	6.5		6.3		220		1,386	1,386	
Total	62.2		59.1		304		18,209	17,985	

¹ 2002 revised.

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

Month	Area				Fresh Production ¹	
	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>
Feb	2,555	2,085	1,925	1,510	3,310	3,775
Mar	2,490	2,255	1,930	1,735	3,375	4,015

¹ Utilized fresh production.

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	5,379.0	4,135.0	
Corn for Grain ²	79,054.0	79,022.0	69,313.0	
Corn for Silage			7,490.0	
Hay, All			64,497.0	63,552.0
Alfalfa			23,135.0	
All Other			41,362.0	
Oats	5,005.0	4,828.0	2,098.0	2,204.0
Proso Millet	450.0		220.0	
Rice	3,240.0	3,038.0	3,207.0	
Rye	1,395.0		286.0	
Sorghum for Grain ²	9,580.0	9,451.0	7,299.0	
Sorghum for Silage			352.0	
Wheat, All	60,358.0	61,697.0	45,817.0	
Winter	41,735.0	44,308.0	29,651.0	
Durum	2,909.0	2,833.0	2,703.0	
Other Spring	15,714.0	14,556.0	13,463.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,459.0	1,249.0	1,275.0	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	785.0		704.0	
Mustard Seed	191.0		175.0	
Peanuts	1,358.0	1,244.0	1,296.7	
Rapeseed	3.4		3.1	
Safflower	219.0		196.0	
Soybeans for Beans	73,758.0	73,182.0	72,160.0	
Sunflowers	2,585.0	2,517.0	2,205.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	13,962.6	14,253.0	12,413.3	
Upland	13,719.0	14,053.0	12,171.0	
Amer-Pima	243.6	200.0	242.3	
Sugarbeets	1,427.9	1,399.3	1,361.0	
Sugarcane			1,026.1	
Tobacco			430.3	417.5
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	21.5		11.6	
Dry Edible Beans	1,922.1	1,522.8	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	1,310.0		1,275.7	
Winter	15.8	15.0	15.7	14.8
Spring	87.8	86.0	86.1	83.8
Summer	62.2		59.1	
Fall	1,144.2		1,114.8	
Spearmint Oil			18.0	
Sweet Potatoes	97.2	93.5	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	"	35.1		36,026	
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		462,713	
Winter	"	268	281	4,206	4,153
Spring	"	271	282	23,294	23,652
Summer	"	304		17,985	
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	2,111
K-Early Citrus (FL) ³	"	2	1	
Lemons	"	996	828	984
Oranges	"	12,221	12,487	11,319
Tangelos (FL)	"	95	97	106
Tangerines	"	373	420	356
Temples (FL)	"	56	70	59
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	

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	2,176,830	1,673,390	
Corn for Grain ²	31,992,360	31,979,410	28,050,280	
Corn for Silage			3,031,130	
Hay, All ³			26,101,290	25,718,860
Alfalfa			9,362,500	
All Other			16,738,790	
Oats	2,025,470	1,953,840	849,040	891,940
Proso Millet	182,110		89,030	
Rice	1,311,200	1,229,450	1,297,840	
Rye	564,540		115,740	
Sorghum for Grain ²	3,876,930	3,824,730	2,953,830	
Sorghum for Silage			142,450	
Wheat, All ³	24,426,280	24,968,160	18,541,680	
Winter	16,889,740	17,931,000	11,999,460	
Durum	1,177,240	1,146,490	1,093,880	
Other Spring	6,359,300	5,890,670	5,448,340	
Oilseeds				
Canola	590,440	505,460	515,980	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	317,680		284,900	
Mustard Seed	77,300		70,820	
Peanuts	549,570	503,430	524,760	
Rapeseed	1,380		1,250	
Safflower	88,630		79,320	
Soybeans for Beans	29,849,130	29,616,020	29,202,430	
Sunflowers	1,046,120	1,018,600	892,340	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ³	5,650,520	5,768,050	5,023,540	
Upland	5,551,940	5,687,110	4,925,480	
Amer-Pima	98,580	80,940	98,060	
Sugarbeets	577,860	566,280	550,780	
Sugarcane			415,250	
Tobacco			174,130	168,960
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	8,700		4,690	
Dry Edible Beans	777,850	616,260	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	530,140		516,260	
Winter	6,390	6,070	6,350	5,990
Spring	35,530	34,800	34,840	33,910
Summer	25,170		23,920	
Fall	463,050		451,150	
Spearmint Oil			7,280	
Sweet Potatoes	39,340	37,840	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	78.70		32,682,240	
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	40.65		20,988,310	
Winter	30.03	31.45	190,780	188,380
Spring	30.32	31.63	1,056,600	1,072,840
Summer	34.11		815,790	
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	1,915,070
K-Early Citrus (FL) ³	1,810	910	
Lemons	903,560	751,150	892,670
Oranges	11,086,700	11,328,020	10,268,420
Tangelos (FL)	86,180	88,000	96,160
Tangerines	338,380	381,020	322,960
Temples (FL)	50,800	63,500	53,520
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	

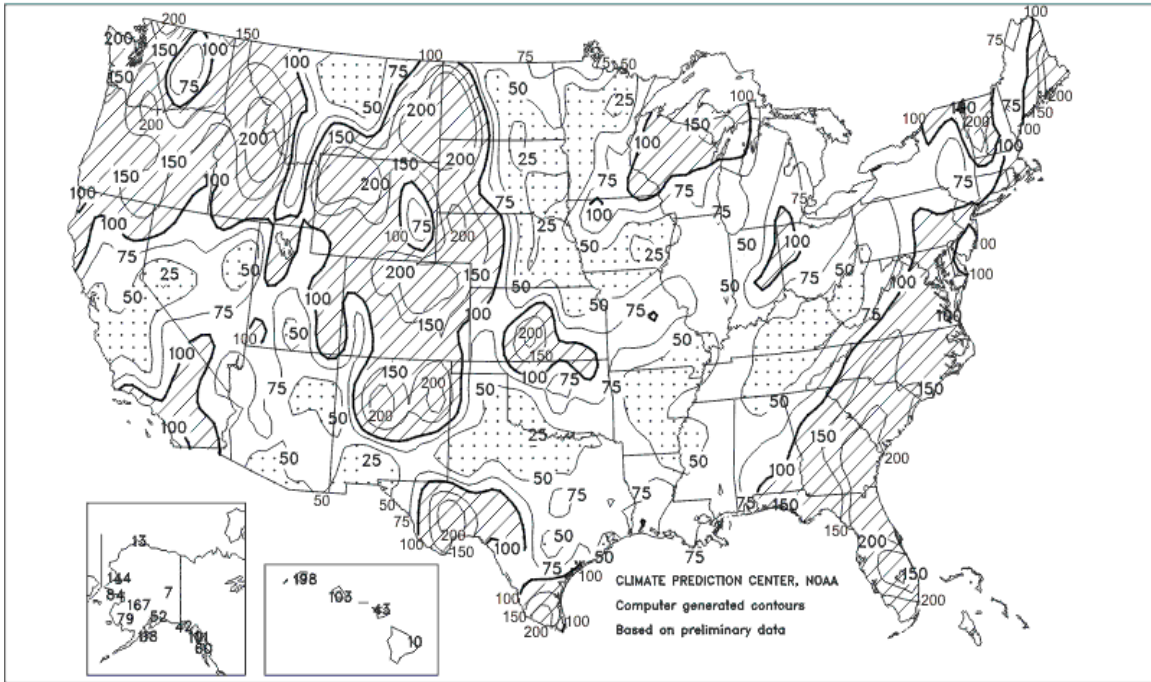
¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2003 crop year.

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

³ Estimates discontinued as of the 2002-03 crop.

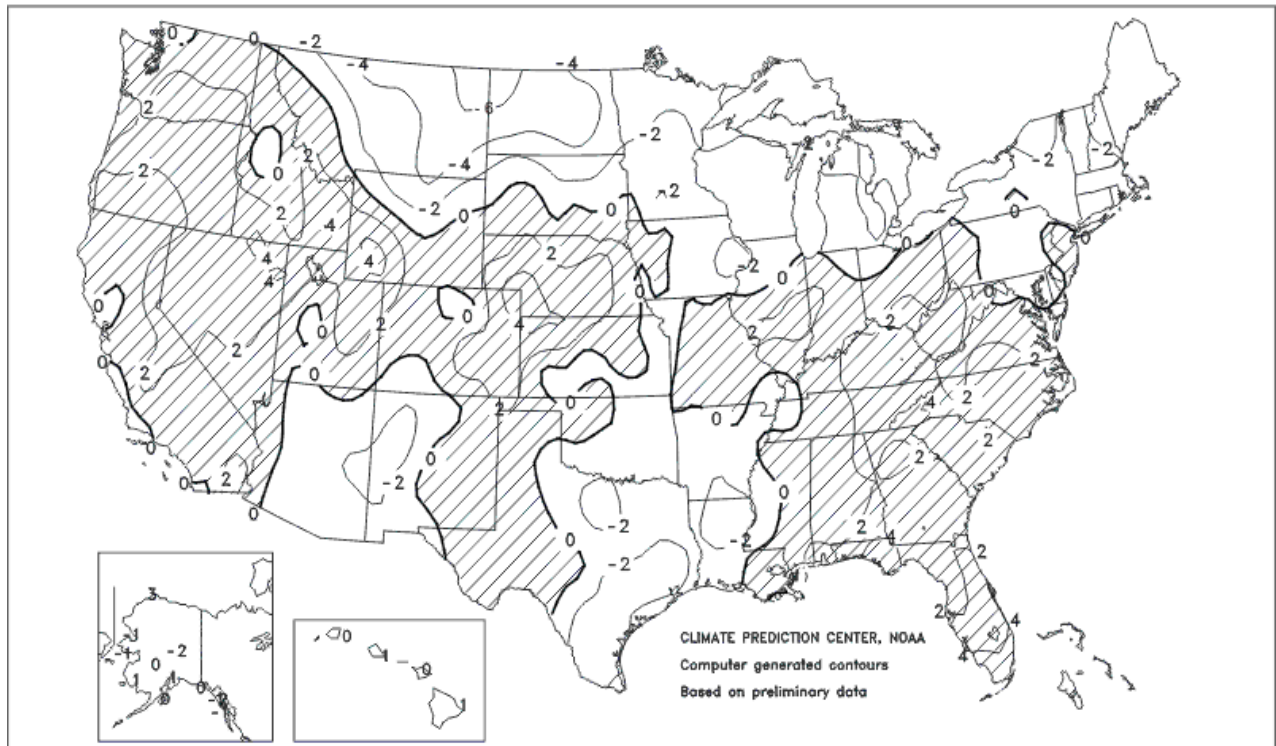
Percent Of Normal Precipitation

March 2003



Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

March 2003



March Weather Summary

Stormy weather across much of the West boosted soil moisture reserves and improved high-elevation snow packs. Perhaps most noteworthy was the tremendous, but fairly localized, storm system that struck the central Rockies and adjacent High Plains from March 17-19. Nevertheless, Western water-supply concerns persisted due to the combination of near- to below-normal reservoir levels and prospects for below-normal spring and summer runoff in most watersheds. Farther east, a variety of conditions existed on the Plains. In winter wheat areas on the southern Plains, short-term precipitation deficits (3 months or less) were superimposed on mostly favorable long-term moisture conditions. As a result, topsoil moisture depletion was apparent in parts of northern Texas and western and central Oklahoma, although subsoil moisture remained generally adequate. Meanwhile, long-term drought persisted on the northern and central High Plains, despite near- to above-normal precipitation during March. Similar variability was noted in the Midwest. Drier-than-normal weather in the Ohio Valley followed previously wet conditions, while late-month precipitation elsewhere in the Corn Belt moistened topsoils but failed to reverse long-term precipitation deficits. By month's end, Midwestern drought was most severe in a band from northern Missouri and southern Iowa to Lower Michigan, but was also worsening across parts of the upper Midwest. Farther south, drier-than-normal weather favored an acceleration of spring planting operations from the western Gulf Coast region to the Tennessee Valley, including the Delta. In contrast, frequently heavy showers slowed fieldwork and caused lowland flooding in the southern Atlantic States.

Significantly cooler-than-normal March weather (as much as 7 degrees F below normal) was confined to the Nation's northern tier from Montana to Maine. In contrast, monthly temperatures generally ranged from 3 to 7 degrees F above normal in Florida, where near-record to record warmth prevailed. Elsewhere, March temperatures were slightly above normal in the Southeast and in a broad area from the West Coast to the central High Plains, but near to slightly below normal from the Southwest to the Delta.

March Crop Summary

Temperatures fluctuated across the Nation during March, with record highs and record lows reported. Temperatures in the northern Rockies, northern Great Plains, Great Lakes region, and Northeast were generally below normal while temperatures in the rest of the country ranged from near to slightly above normal. Periods of warmer than usual weather across much of the country were followed by ice storms in the southern Great Plains, and snow storms in the Rockies, Great Plains, Ohio Valley, and Northeast. Seasonally heavy precipitation in the low, coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest alleviated dry soil conditions. Abnormally dry soil conditions remained across much of the Southwest, Rocky Mountains, and Great Plains regions. Snowpack measurements were below normal in most locations, even though a significant mid-March storm greatly increased snowpack measurements in the central Rocky Mountains.

The northern and central Great Plains, upper and middle Mississippi Valley, and western Great Lakes region experienced drier than normal conditions with little snowcover. Due to the lack of snowcover, winter wheat and alfalfa in the northern and central Great Plains were exposed to wind-blown soil and extreme temperature fluctuations. In the Corn Belt, conditions were warmer than average. Precipitation was below normal across most of the Corn Belt, the Ohio Valley, and eastern Great Lakes region. Precipitation was above normal in Florida and the Southeast.

In California, warm weather and ample moisture supplies stimulated development of crops. Field and orchard work progressed with few interruptions. Pastures were in good overall condition, with the best conditions reported in the northern half of the State. Many Florida citrus growers irrigated on a rotating basis to maintain soil moisture and ensure good tree condition during the bloom cycle. Soil moisture supplies were rated mostly adequate to short. In southern Florida, the sugarcane harvest and work in vegetable fields continued with few delays.

The Nation's winter wheat condition was rated as 3 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 8 percent excellent on March 30. Warmer weather and rain showers combined to help the wheat crop begin its spring "green up" in the middle Mississippi Valley. Warm weather in the northern Great Plains allowed the crop to progress ahead of last year's pace.

On March 30, one percent of the oat crop was planted, compared with 3 percent planted at this time last year, and behind the 4 percent 5-year average. Dry weather favored seedbed preparation across the northern Corn Belt and adjacent parts of the Great Plains, but planting was just getting underway.

Seven percent of the rice crop was planted by the end of March, 1 percentage point behind last year and equal to the 5-year average. Rice planting progressed in Louisiana, advancing 16 points during the last week of March. Despite this progress, planting remained behind last year and the 5-year average. Wet weather delayed planting in interior areas of the Mississippi Delta. Planting progressed in Texas, but wet field conditions delayed some producers.

Ten percent of the sorghum acreage was planted, compared with 12 percent at this time last year, and 1 percentage point behind the 5-year average for this date. In Texas, land preparations continued in drier locations, but were slowed in areas where rain fell. Early planted fields continued to emerge and benefit from good moisture levels.

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 2002-03 U.S. grapefruit crop is 2.11 million tons, virtually unchanged from the March forecast but 13 percent lower than the previous season. The Florida grapefruit forecast is estimated at 40.0 million boxes (1.70 million tons), unchanged from the previous forecast 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), unchanged from the previous forecast but 14 percent less than the previous season. Fruit size is average, unchanged from March, but fruit loss from droppage has increased slightly. California's grapefruit forecast remains unchanged at 5.60 million boxes (188,000 tons) but 7 percent less than last season's final utilization. Exterior quality is good with excellent color. Flavor and eating quality are also excellent. The Texas grapefruit forecast is 5.50 million boxes (220,000 boxes), 2 percent less than the previous forecast and 7 percent lower than last season. Harvest is progressing, however, a quarantine on fresh fruit movement has been imposed on areas in the Rio Grande Valley because of the emergence of the Sapote fruit fly. Arizona's grapefruit forecast remains at 100,000 boxes (3,000 tons), 37 percent less than last season's final utilization. Good size and excellent quality are reported.

Tangerines: The 2002-03 U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at 356,000 tons, up 2 percent from the previous forecast but 15 percent below last season's utilization of 420,000 tons. Florida's is up 4 percent, at 5.20 million boxes (247,000 tons) but 21 percent lower than last season's utilization. Harvest of the early varieties is complete while the late season Honey variety harvest continued. 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 forecast of tangerine production at 2.50 million boxes (94,000 tons), is unchanged from the January forecast but 14 percent above last season's utilized production. No major problems have been reported to date. Shape is normal with overall quality and flavor reported as very good. The Arizona tangerine forecast of 400,000 boxes (15,000 tons) is down 11 percent from the previous forecast and 35 percent below last season. Fruit size is average with fair quality reported.

Lemons: The 2002-03 U.S. lemon crop is forecast at 984,000 tons, up less than 1 percent from the previous forecast and 19 percent above last season. California production is forecast at 23.0 million boxes (874,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but 21 percent above the 2001-02 season. Harvest is underway in all areas of the State. Fruit quality is good but quality in some areas has suffered because of wind damage. The 2002-03 Arizona lemon forecast is 2.90 million boxes (110,000 tons), up 4 percent from both the previous forecast and last season. Harvest is continuing with fair quality and large fruit size reported.

Tangelos: Florida's 2002-03 tangelo forecast is final at 2.35 million boxes (106,000 tons), down 2 percent from the previous month but 9 percent more than last season's utilized production. Utilization is higher than the previous three seasons, but below any others since 1968-69.

Temples: Florida's Temples are forecast at 1.30 million boxes (59,000 tons) for the 2002-03 season, down 7 percent from March and 16 percent below last season. If realized, this forecast would be the second lowest

utilization in the series since it began in 1951-52. The 2000-01 utilized production, at 1.25 million boxes, is the smallest crop on record.

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: Rainfall during March was plentiful, resulting in most of Florida's citrus producing counties reporting above average rainfall and excellent surface soil moisture. Virtually all healthy citrus trees are in very good condition. Cold weather in January and February resulted in citrus trees reaching near ideal physical condition for the bloom period. Warm, moist weather launched the bloom cycle into full swing the first two weeks of March with bloom tapering off the latter part of the month. This year's bloom is observed as one of the most prolific blooms in recent history. Harvest of early and midseason oranges is virtually complete. Some picking crews were switched to harvest Valencia oranges for both fresh and processing markets with other crews moved to harvest grapefruit on the lower east coast. Temple and tangelo harvest is virtually complete. Several fresh fruit packinghouses and juice plants closed in early March due to lack of mature fruit. These plants reopened at the end of the month as Valencia oranges became available. Caretakers have been very busy mowing, chopping, and discing cover crops to help generate new growth and bloom during the month. Post bloom nutritional sprays were being applied in groves with complete petal drop. Hedging and topping were reported throughout the State in groves where harvest was complete.

Texas Citrus: Harvest is well underway for all citrus. Fruit quality is good but some oversized fruit is poorly shaped. Postharvest decay is also being reported. Movement of fresh oranges and grapefruit in parts of the Rio Grande Valley is limited due to a quarantine resulting from the discovery of the Sapote fruit fly.

California Citrus: Navel orange harvest continued throughout the month. Quality remained good, but some quality decline occurred due to puff, crease, high color, soft fruit, and rind staining. Harvest of early variety Valencia oranges began in some areas of the Central Valley. Marsh Ruby and Rio Red grapefruit were harvested in the desert areas, while the Pummelo harvest continued in the Central Valley. Lemons were picked throughout the month. Irrigation, pruning, soil amendments, and foliar nutrient applications were underway in some harvested citrus groves.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: Seasonal cultural activities, including fungicide, insecticide, and herbicide applications, irrigation, and cultivation, continued in many tree fruit orchards. Bloom continued throughout March in late variety stone fruit orchards. Developing fruit were visible in many early variety stone fruit orchards by the end of the month. Rainfall in parts of the Central Valley during early March knocked off some blooms. A few growers in the Central Valley began thinning fruit in apricot and plum orchards. Girdling activities were also undertaken in a few plum orchards to improve fruit size. Central Valley apple, cherry, and pear orchards began showing blooms by month's end. Swelling buds and newly opened green shoots appeared in many grape vineyards by mid-month as vines responded to the warm, sunny weather. Many growers cultivated and irrigated vineyards to avoid potential damage from cold nighttime temperatures. Removal of vineyards and planting of new tree fruit orchards continued across the State. Strawberry fields in the Central Valley were in full bloom by month's end. Fruit set appeared good. Pruning and brush shredding continued in olive orchards. Buds were forming in many avocado orchards. Most almond orchards were fully leafed and developing well by month's end. Early variety walnut orchards started to leaf out and develop flower clusters during the last week in March. Blight spray treatments continued in walnut orchards.

Winter Potatoes: Production of 2003 winter potatoes in California and Florida combined for an estimated 4.15 million cwt, the same as the January forecast but 1 percent below last year. Area for harvest, at 14,800 acres, is down 6 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 281 cwt per acre, is up 13 cwt from a year ago.

Since the January forecast, a 15 percent gain in California's yield per acre was offset by fewer acres for harvest and lower yields in Florida. California winter harvest has made normal progress with no setbacks from weather or pests. The Florida acreage estimate was reduced by 700 acres from the January total while March rains contributed to reduced average yield.

Spring Potatoes: Spring production in 2003 is forecast at 23.7 million cwt, up 2 percent from last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 83,800 acres, down 3 percent from 2002. The average yield is forecast at 282 cwt per acre, up 11 cwt from a year ago.

Spring potato production in Florida is forecast at 7.82 million cwt, down 1 percent from a year ago. Total spring harvested acreage is up 4 percent but average yield is 14 cwt per acre below last year. Warm temperatures in February and March helped crop development although frequent March rains have reduced yield potential in some fields. Harvest is expected to begin in 2 to 3 weeks. North Carolina's spring potato crop is forecast at 2.81 million cwt, down 21 percent from last year. Wet soils have delayed planting with about 78 percent of the crop in the ground as of April 6 compared with a 5 year average of 96 percent. Area for harvest is expected to be down 19 percent from a year ago, with yields falling an average of 5 cwt per acre. Some of the early planted fields have emerged.

Texas producers report near perfect weather so far this season. Spring potato production is forecast at 3.00 million cwt, up 47 percent from last season. Acreage for harvest has increased 4 percent and the average yield is expected to gain 70 cwt per acre. Arizona growers report a 3 percent increase in acreage for harvest and expect a 10 cwt per acre yield increase over last year. Production is forecast at 2.24 million cwt, up 6 percent from last year. California's spring production forecast, at 7.79 million cwt, is 1 percent above last year. Yield is forecast at 410 cwt per acre, up 5 cwt from a year ago.

Summer Potatoes, 2002 Revisions: The final estimate of 2002 crop summer potato production is 18.0 million cwt, down 3 percent from the preliminary estimate in the January Annual Crop Production Summary, and 1 percent below 2001. Harvested area covered 59,100 acres, down 1 percent from the January estimate, but up 1 percent from 2001. The average yield of 304 cwt per acre is down 5 cwt from the January preliminary estimate.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya utilization is estimated at 4.02 million pounds for March, up 6 percent from last month and 19 percent above a year ago. Area in crop totaled 2,255 acres, 8 percent above February 2003 but 9 percent below last March. Harvested area totaled 1,735 acres, up 15 percent from last month but 10 percent below March 2002. Weather conditions in March were mostly dry with only light scattered showers occurring.

Reliability of April 1 Orange Forecast

Survey Procedures: The orange objective yield survey for the April 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 April 1 forecast.

Revision Policy: The April 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 April 1 production forecasts, the "Root Mean Square Error," a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the April 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 April 1 orange production forecast 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 3.0 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.2 percent.

Changes between the April 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 184,000 tons, ranging from 1,000 tons to 716,000 tons. The April 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 8 times and above 12 times. The difference does not imply that the April 1 forecasts this year are likely to understate or overstate final production.

Information Contacts

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