NASS
FACT FINDERS FOR AGRICULTURE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Washington, D.C.

Crop Production

Released March 10, 2004, 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.

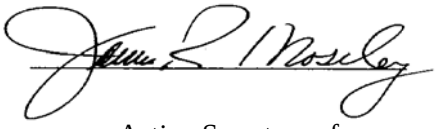
All Orange Production Down 1 Percent from February

The U.S. all orange March forecast for the 2003-04 crop is 13.2 million tons, down 1 percent from the February 1 forecast but 14 percent above last season's final utilization. Florida's all orange forecast is unchanged at 246 million boxes (11.1 million tons) but 21 percent above the previous season. Early and midseason varieties in Florida are forecast at 127 million boxes (5.72 million tons), down 1 percent from last month but 13 percent above the previous season. The harvest of the early and midseason varieties is nearly complete. Florida's Valencia forecast is 119 million boxes (5.36 million tons), up 1 percent from the February forecast and 31 percent above last season's final utilization. Fruit size continues to be above average but not as large as last season. Loss from droppage is at a record low.

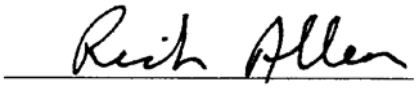
California's all orange forecast is 54.0 million boxes (2.03 million tons), down 7 percent from the January forecast and 13 percent below last season. Valencia oranges are forecast at 15.0 million boxes (563,000 tons) down 21 percent from the January forecast and 29 percent below last season's final utilization. Picking of Valencia oranges is underway in some of the southern growing regions. Overall, sizing appears to be up from the previous year but fruit are not as abundant on the trees. Rapid decreases in Valencia acreage continue in most parts of the State, as growers abandon their orchards or replace their Valencias with more profitable fruit or vegetable crops. California conducted an objective measurement survey and a grower survey for the March 1 forecast. Arizona and Texas orange production forecasts are carried forward from the previous forecasts.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ)) yield projection is unchanged at 1.53 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix. The early and midseason portion is projected at 1.45 gallons per box, down from 1.47 in February. The Valencia portion was raised to 1.62 gallons per box from 1.60. All projections of yield assume that the processing relationships this year will be similar to those of the past several years.

This report was approved on March 10, 2004.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
James R. Moseley



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Rich Allen

Contents

Page

Sugarcane: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by Use, State, and United States, 2002-2003

Use and State	Area Harvested		Yield [1]		Production [1]	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*1,000 Tons*	*1,000 Tons*
For Sugar						
FL	442.0	422.0	38.3	39.7	16,929	16,753
HI [2]	21.3	20.5	99.0	99.2	2,109	2,034
LA [2]	465.0	450.0	28.3	27.0	13,160	12,150
TX [2]	43.6	42.4	39.1	37.0	1,705	1,569
US	971.9	934.9	34.9	34.8	33,903	32,506
For Seed						
FL	19.0	20.0	38.1	40.6	724	812
HI [2]	1.4	1.5	35.5	37.6	50	56
LA [2]	30.0	40.0	28.3	27.0	849	1,080
TX [2]	0.9	1.4	30.0	35.0	27	49
US	51.3	62.9	32.2	31.7	1,650	1,997
For Sugar and Seed						
FL	461.0	442.0	38.3	39.7	17,653	17,565
HI [2]	22.7	22.0	95.1	95.0	2,159	2,090
LA [2]	495.0	490.0	28.3	27.0	14,009	13,230
TX [2]	44.5	43.8	38.9	36.9	1,732	1,618
US	1,023.2	997.8	34.7	34.6	35,553	34,503

[1] Net tons.
[2] Estimates are carried forward from the 2003 Crop Production Summary.

Papayas: Area and Fresh Production, by Month, Hawaii, 2003-2004

Month	Area				Fresh Production [1]	
	Total in Crop		Harvested		2003	2004
	2003	2004	2003	2004		
	Acres	*Acres*	*Acres*	*Acres*	*1,000 Pounds*	*1,000 Pounds*
Jan	2,080	2,210	1,505	1,345	3,935	3,635
Feb	2,255	2,200	1,510	1,345	3,735	2,815

[1] Utilized fresh production.

Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and Forecasted March 1, 2004 [1]

Crop and State	Utilized Production Boxes			Utilized Production Ton Equivalent		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
	1,000 Boxes [2]	*1,000 Boxes [2]*	*1,000 Boxes [2]*	*1,000 Tons*	*1,000 Tons*	*1,000 Tons*
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel [3]						
AZ [4]	270	200	220	10	8	8
CA [4]	32,000	41,000	39,000	1,200	1,538	1,463
FL	128,000	112,000	127,000	5,760	5,040	5,715
TX [4]	1,530	1,350	1,300	65	57	55
US	161,800	154,550	167,520	7,035	6,643	7,241
Valencia						
AZ [4]	250	270	250	9	10	9
CA	19,500	21,000	15,000	731	788	563
FL	102,000	91,000	119,000	4,590	4,095	5,355
TX [4]	210	220	230	9	9	10
US	121,960	112,490	134,480	5,339	4,902	5,937
All						
AZ [4]	520	470	470	19	18	17
CA	51,500	62,000	54,000	1,931	2,326	2,026
FL	230,000	203,000	246,000	10,350	9,135	11,070
TX [4]	1,740	1,570	1,530	74	66	65
US	283,760	267,040	302,000	12,374	11,545	13,178
Temples						
FL	1,550	1,300	1,400	70	59	63
Grapefruit						
White Seedless [5]						
FL	18,900	16,200	16,000	803	689	680
Colored Seedless						
FL	27,800	22,500	24,000	1,182	956	1,020
All						
AZ [4]	160	130	100	5	4	3
CA [4]	5,900	5,600	5,200	198	188	174
FL	46,700	38,700	40,000	1,985	1,645	1,700
TX [4]	5,900	5,650	5,300	236	226	212
US	58,660	50,080	50,600	2,424	2,063	2,089
Tangerines						
AZ [4 6]	620	430	600	23	16	23
CA [4 6]	2,200	2,500	2,500	83	94	94
FL [7]	6,600	5,500	5,900	314	261	280
US	9,420	8,430	9,000	420	371	397
Lemons [4]						
AZ	2,800	3,000	3,200	106	114	122
CA	18,300	24,000	23,000	695	912	874
US	21,100	27,000	26,200	801	1,026	996
Tangelos						
FL	2,150	2,350	1,000	97	106	45

[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 & Temples-90; tangerines-AZ & CA-75, FL-95.
[3] Navel and miscellaneous varieties in AZ and CA. Early (including Navel) and midseason varieties in FL and TX. Small quantities of tangerines in TX.
[4] Estimates for current year carried forward from previous forecast.
[5] Includes seedy.
[6] Includes tangelos and tangors.
[7] 2001-02 includes Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, Dancy, and Honey varieties; 2002-03 through 2003-04 includes Fallglo, Sunburst, and Honey varieties only.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2003-2004
(Domestic Units) [1]

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*
Grains & Hay				
Barley	5,299.0		4,688.0	
Corn for Grain [2]	78,736.0		71,139.0	
Corn for Silage			6,528.0	
Hay, All			63,342.0	
Alfalfa			23,578.0	
All Other			39,764.0	
Oats	4,601.0		2,224.0	
Proso Millet	730.0		620.0	
Rice	3,022.0		2,997.0	
Rye	1,368.0		339.0	
Sorghum for Grain [2]	9,420.0		7,798.0	
Sorghum for Silage			343.0	
Wheat, All	61,700.0		52,839.0	
Winter	44,945.0	43,464.0	36,541.0	
Durum	2,915.0		2,869.0	
Other Spring	13,840.0		13,429.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,082.0		1,068.0	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	595.0		583.0	
Mustard Seed	110.0		107.0	
Peanuts	1,344.0		1,312.0	
Rapeseed	1.3		1.2	
Safflower	221.0		212.0	
Soybeans for Beans	73,404.0		72,321.0	
Sunflowers	2,344.0		2,197.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	13,483.1		12,058.0	
Upland	13,304.0		11,880.0	
Amer-Pima	179.1		178.0	
Sugarbeets	1,365.4		1,347.9	
Sugarcane			997.8	
Tobacco			416.2	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	21.1		15.6	
Dry Edible Beans	1,406.1		1,346.9	
Dry Edible Peas	337.5		328.5	
Lentils	246.0		237.0	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			5.9	
Ginger Root (HI)			0.2	
Hops			28.7	
Peppermint Oil			78.2	
Potatoes, All	1,275.0		1,250.3	
Winter	14.6	14.2	14.3	14.0
Spring	88.6		84.7	
Summer	64.2		59.3	
Fall	1,107.6		1,092.0	
Spearmint Oil			15.8	
Sweet Potatoes	95.6		92.4	
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 2004 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, 2003-2004
(Domestic Units) [1]

Crop	Unit	Yield		Production	
		2003	2004	2003	2004
				1,000	*1,000*
Grains & Hay					
Barley	Bu	58.9		276,087	
Corn for Grain	"	142.2		10,113,887	
Corn for Silage	Ton	16.2		105,864	
Hay, All	"	2.48		157,123	
Alfalfa	"	3.24		76,307	
All Other	"	2.03		80,816	
Oats	Bu	65.0		144,649	
Proso Millet	"	18.5		11,450	
Rice [2]	Cwt	6,645		199,157	
Rye	Bu	27.3		9,254	
Sorghum for Grain	"	52.7		411,237	
Sorghum for Silage	Ton	10.4		3,552	
Wheat, All	Bu	44.2		2,336,526	
Winter	"	46.7		1,707,069	
Durum	"	33.7		96,637	
Other Spring	"	39.7		532,820	
Oilseeds					
Canola	Lb	1,416		1,512,250	
Cottonseed [3]	Ton			6,694.0	
Flaxseed	Bu	17.9		10,426	
Mustard Seed	Lb	723		77,372	
Peanuts	"	3,159		4,144,150	
Rapeseed	"	949		1,139	
Safflower	"	1,286		272,555	
Soybeans for Beans	Bu	33.4		2,417,565	
Sunflower	Lb	1,213		2,665,226	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops					
Cotton, All [2]	Bale	725		18,224.0	
Upland [2]	"	719		17,795.0	
Amer-Pima [2]	"	1,157		429.0	
Sugarbeets	Ton	22.7		30,605	
Sugarcane	"	34.6		34,503	
Tobacco	Lb	1,997		831,204	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils					
Austrian Winter Peas [2]	Cwt	1,115		174	
Dry Edible Beans [2]	"	1,672		22,515	
Dry Edible Peas [2]	"	1,584		5,202	
Lentils [2]	"	1,030		2,442	
Wrinkled Seed Peas [3]	"			673	
Potatoes & Misc.					
Coffee (HI)	Lb	1,470		8,700	
Ginger Root (HI)	"	37,500		6,000	
Hops	"	1,903		54,565.1	
Peppermint Oil	"	89		6,924	
Potatoes, All	Cwt	367		459,045	
Winter	"	282	274	4,027	3,840
Spring	"	288		24,433	
Summer	"	324		19,199	
Fall	"	377		411,386	
Spearmint Oil	Lb	113		1,778	
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt	172		15,921	
Taro (HI) [3]	Lb			5,000	

[1] Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2004 crop year.
[2] Yield in pounds.
[3] Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2002-2004
(Domestic Units) [1]

Crop	Unit	Production		
		2002	2003	2004
		1,000	*1,000*	*1,000*
Citrus [2]				
Grapefruit	Ton	2,424	2,063	2,089
K-Early Citrus (FL) [3]	"	1		
Lemons	"	801	1,026	996
Oranges	"	12,374	11,545	13,178
Tangelos (FL)	"	97	106	45
Tangerines	"	420	371	397
Temples (FL)	"	70	59	63
Noncitrus				
Apples	1,000 Lbs	8,525.4	9,014.6	
Apricots	Ton	90.0	97.9	
Bananas (HI)	Lb	19,500.0	22,000.0	
Grapes	Ton	7,339.0	6,477.9	
Olives (CA)	"	103.0	118.0	
Papayas (HI)	Lbs	45,900.0	43,000.0	
Peaches	1,000 Lbs	2,574.9	2,523.1	
Pears	Ton	868.5	923.1	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	"	172.0	176.0	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	"	15.7	16.9	
Nuts & Misc.				
Almonds (CA)	Lb	1,090,000	1,020,000	
Hazelnuts	Ton	19.5	35.0	
Pecans	Lb	172,900	262,200	
Pistachios (CA)	"	303,000	116,000	
Walnuts (CA)	Ton	282.0	325.0	
Maple Syrup	Gal	1,393	1,239	

[1] Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports.
[2] Production years are 2001-02, 2002-03, and 2003-04.
[3] Estimates discontinued as of the 2002-03 crop.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2003-2004
(Metric Units) [1]

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Hectares	*Hectares*	*Hectares*	*Hectares*
Grains & Hay				
Barley	2,144,450		1,897,190	
Corn for Grain [2]	31,863,670		28,789,240	
Corn for Silage			2,641,820	
Hay, All [3]			25,633,870	
Alfalfa			9,541,780	
All Other			16,092,090	
Oats	1,861,980		900,030	
Proso Millet	295,420		250,910	
Rice	1,222,970		1,212,860	
Rye	553,620		137,190	
Sorghum for Grain [2]	3,812,180		3,155,770	
Sorghum for Silage			138,810	
Wheat, All [3]	24,969,370		21,383,410	
Winter	18,188,790	17,589,450	14,787,780	
Durum	1,179,670		1,161,060	
Other Spring	5,600,910		5,434,580	
Oilseeds				
Canola	437,870		432,210	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	240,790		235,930	
Mustard Seed	44,520		43,300	
Peanuts	543,900		530,950	
Rapeseed	530		490	
Safflower	89,440		85,790	
Soybeans for Beans	29,705,860		29,267,590	
Sunflowers	948,590		889,100	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All [3]	5,456,480		4,879,750	
Upland	5,384,000		4,807,720	
Amer-Pima	72,480		72,030	
Sugarbeets	552,560		545,480	
Sugarcane			403,800	
Tobacco			168,440	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	8,540		6,310	
Dry Edible Beans	569,030		545,080	
Dry Edible Peas	136,580		132,940	
Lentils	99,550		95,910	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			2,390	
Ginger Root (HI)			60	
Hops			11,600	
Peppermint Oil			31,650	
Potatoes, All [3]	515,980		505,980	
Winter	5,910	5,750	5,790	5,670
Spring	35,860		34,280	
Summer	25,980		24,000	
Fall	448,230		441,920	
Spearmint Oil			6,390	
Sweet Potatoes	38,690		37,390	
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 2004 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, 2003-2004
(Metric Units) [1]

Crop	Yield		Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Metric Tons	*Metric Tons*	*Metric Tons*	*Metric Tons*
Grains & Hay				
Barley	3.17		6,011,080	
Corn for Grain	8.92		256,904,560	
Corn for Silage	36.35		96,038,210	
Hay, All [2]	5.56		142,539,590	
Alfalfa	7.25		69,224,550	
All Other	4.56		73,315,040	
Oats	2.33		2,099,570	
Proso Millet	1.03		259,680	
Rice	7.45		9,033,610	
Rye	1.71		235,060	
Sorghum for Grain	3.31		10,445,900	
Sorghum for Silage	23.21		3,222,320	
Wheat, All [2]	2.97		63,589,820	
Winter	3.14		46,458,800	
Durum	2.27		2,630,030	
Other Spring	2.67		14,500,980	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.59		685,950	
Cottonseed [3]			6,072,690	
Flaxseed	1.12		264,830	
Mustard Seed	0.81		35,100	
Peanuts	3.54		1,879,750	
Rapeseed	1.06		520	
Safflower	1.44		123,630	
Soybeans for Beans	2.25		65,795,340	
Sunflowers	1.36		1,208,930	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All [2]	0.81		3,967,810	
Upland	0.81		3,874,400	
Amer-Pima	1.30		93,400	
Sugarbeets	50.90		27,764,390	
Sugarcane	77.52		31,300,600	
Tobacco	2.24		377,030	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	1.25		7,890	
Dry Edible Beans	1.87		1,021,260	
Dry Edible Peas	1.77		235,960	
Lentils	1.15		110,770	
Wrinkled Seed Peas [3]			30,530	
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)	1.65		3,950	
Ginger Root (HI)	42.03		2,720	
Hops	2.13		24,750	
Peppermint Oil	0.10		3,140	
Potatoes, All [2]	41.15		20,821,930	
Winter	31.56	30.74	182,660	174,180
Spring	32.33		1,108,260	
Summer	36.29		870,850	
Fall	42.23		18,660,160	
Spearmint Oil	0.13		810	
Sweet Potatoes	19.31		722,160	
Taro (HI) [3]			2,270	

[1] Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2004 crop year.
[2] Production may not add due to rounding.
[3] Yield is not estimated.

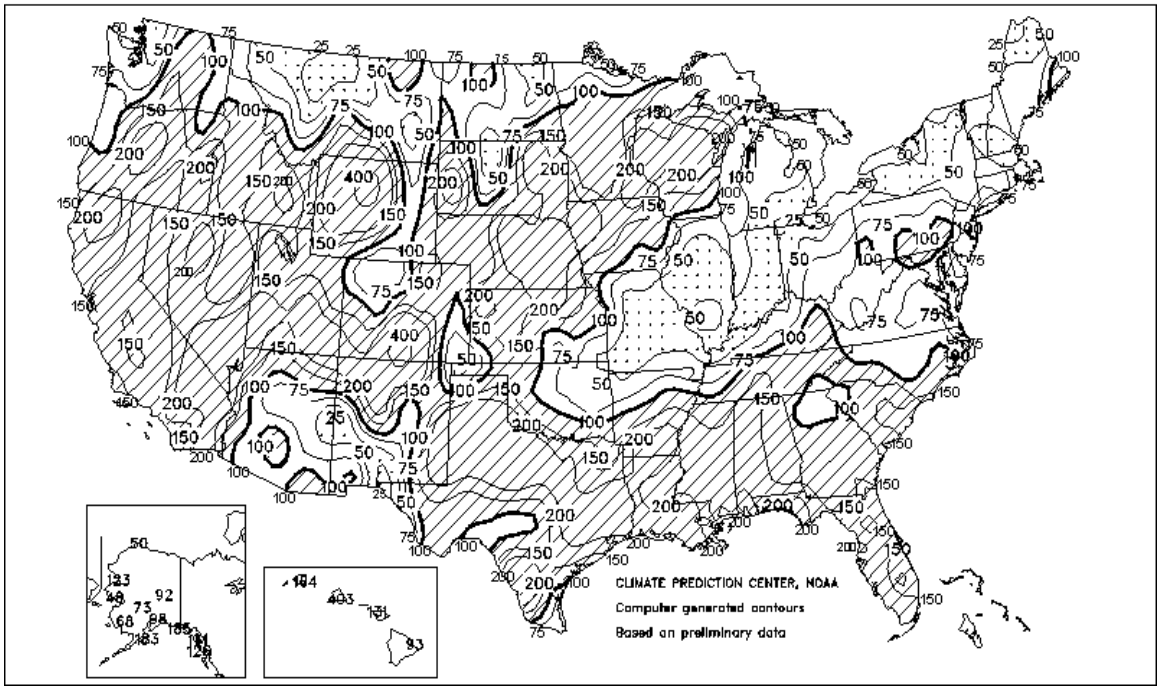
Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2002-2004
(Metric Units) [1]

Crop	Production		
	2002	2003	2004
	Metric tons	*Metric tons*	*Metric tons*
Citrus [2]			
Grapefruit	2,199,020	1,871,520	1,895,110
K-Early Citrus (FL) [3]	910		
Lemons	726,650	930,770	903,560
Oranges	11,225,500	10,473,450	11,954,880
Tangelos (FL)	88,000	96,160	40,820
Tangerines	381,020	336,570	360,150
Temples (FL)	63,500	53,520	57,150
Noncitrus			
Apples	3,867,060	4,088,950	
Apricots	81,680	88,800	
Bananas (HI)	8,850	9,980	
Grapes	6,657,830	5,876,650	
Olives (CA)	93,440	107,050	
Papayas (HI)	20,820	19,500	
Peaches	1,167,960	1,144,460	
Pears	787,840	837,380	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	156,040	159,660	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	14,200	15,330	
Nuts & Misc.			
Almonds (CA)	494,420	462,660	
Hazelnuts	17,690	31,750	
Pecans	78,430	118,930	
Pistachios (CA)	137,440	52,620	
Walnuts (CA)	255,830	294,840	
Maple Syrup	6,960	6,190	

[1] Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports.
[2] Production years are 2001-02, 2002-03, and 2003-04.

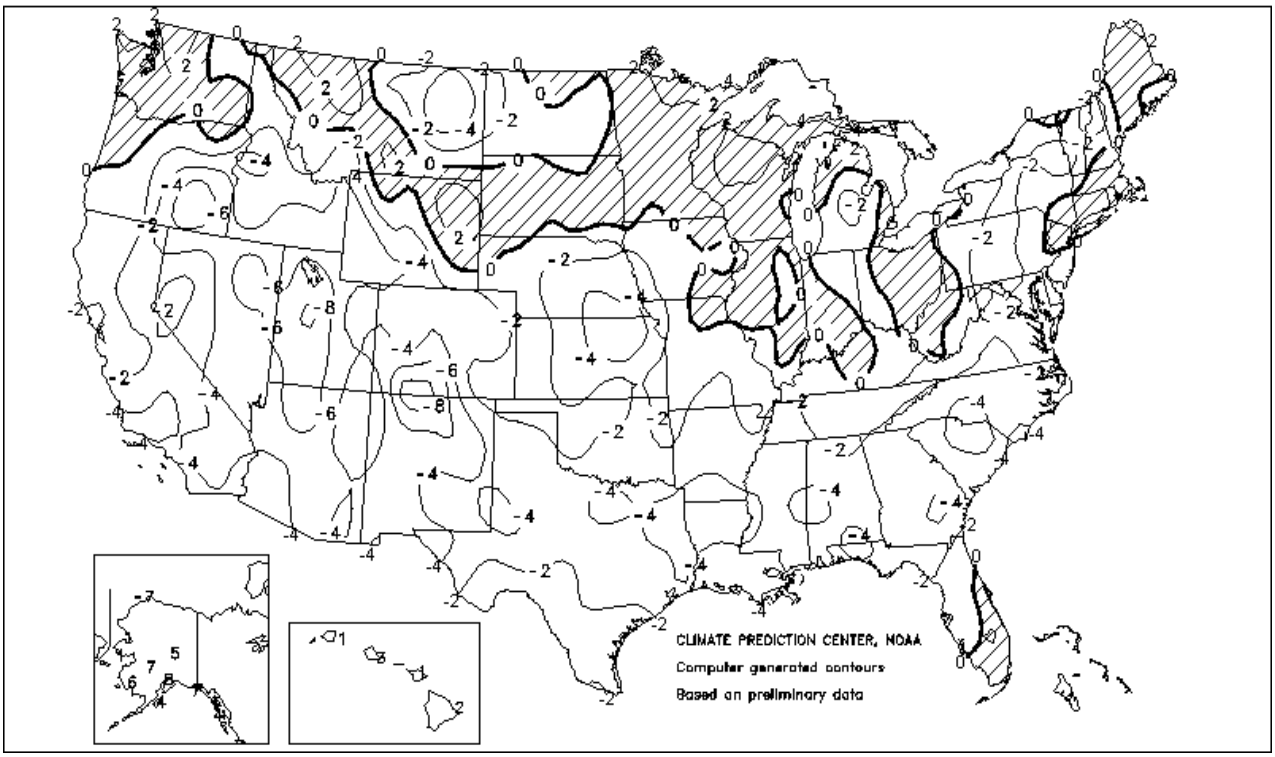
Percent Of Normal Precipitation

February 2004



Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

February 2004



February Weather Summary

Important changes in the Nation's weather pattern provided drought relief across the West, central and southern Plains, and upper Midwest. In addition, heavy precipitation across the South ended a 2-month dry spell. Western storminess boosted high-elevation snow packs and improved spring and summer runoff prospects in the Great Basin, Intermountain West, central and southern Rockies, and Southwest. Meanwhile, water-supply prospects remained favorable in California and the Northwest. Farther east, most winter wheat areas on the Plains benefited from increasingly wet weather, despite underlying subsoil moisture shortages. Some of the heaviest precipitation fell on the southern Plains, where a late-month warming trend promoted some wheat and pasture development. However, pockets of dryness persisted farther north, most notably across parts of Montana and the central High Plains. Elsewhere, the northern and western Corn Belt received substantial rain and snow, reducing long-term precipitation deficits. In contrast, mostly dry weather across the southern and eastern Corn Belt helped to eliminate pockets of excessive wetness. Across the South, a steady procession of storm systems aided pastures and winter grains but slowed pre-planting activities. Fieldwork delays were most pronounced west of the Delta, where monthly precipitation totaled more than 200 percent of normal.

Below-normal temperatures dominated across the southern two-thirds of the Nation, excluding southern Florida, where near-normal readings prevailed. Chilly conditions were most pronounced from the Great Basin to the southern Rockies, where temperatures averaged as much as 8 degrees F below normal. In contrast, near- to slightly above-normal temperatures were observed across the Nation's northern tier. An exception was eastern Montana, where record-high snow depths helped to hold readings as much as 6 degrees F below normal.

February Crop Summary

Heavy rains fell across the Mississippi Delta and Gulf Coast throughout February, with a short respite just after midmonth, and temperatures were below normal. Similar conditions, but with slightly less precipitation, prevailed in the Southeast with some snowfall in northern parts of the region. Producers were getting ready for spring field preparation, but most fields were too muddy to begin fieldwork.

Across the northern and middle Atlantic Coast States and Ohio Valley, snow and ice early in the month gave way to mostly dry conditions, with some light, scattered precipitation from the middle to the end of the month. Average temperatures were near normal.

Except for snow early in the month, the western and central Corn Belts were mostly dry throughout the month with only light, scattered precipitation. Temperatures were mostly below normal. In the northern Corn Belt, snowfall was heavier and more frequent, despite above-normal temperatures for the month. Across most of the Corn Belt, snow cover provided adequate protection for winter wheat during the coldest part of the month and provided much-needed moisture as it melted later in the month.

In the northern and central Great Plains, conditions remained dry throughout the month, causing moisture stress for winter wheat. Temperatures were well below normal early in the month but yielded to above-normal temperatures after midmonth. Precipitation totals were higher in the southern Great Plains, with light rainfall just before midmonth and moderate precipitation, including some snow, during the last week of the month. Temperatures were below normal in the first half of the month but near normal through month's end. Planting of corn, cotton, and sorghum had begun in southern parts of Texas, but wet conditions limited progress.

Precipitation was light but widespread across the northern and central Rocky Mountains, with some scattered pockets of moderate rainfall. Below-normal temperatures dominated early in the month but gave way to slightly above-normal temperatures toward month's end. In the southern Rocky Mountains, dry conditions prevailed throughout most of the month, although light to moderate rain fell in the region during the last week. Average temperatures for the month were below normal.

Rainfall was heavy along the Pacific Coast, with above-normal temperatures in the extreme northern part of the region but below-normal temperatures in the south. In California, wet conditions in many areas slowed citrus harvest and vegetable planting and harvesting toward month's end. Land preparation for summer crops was active where conditions permitted. In the interior Pacific Northwest, light precipitation fell throughout most of the month and temperatures were near normal. Conditions in the Great Basin and Southwest were mostly dry, although some light precipitation fell during the last week. Temperatures averaged below normal for the month, as weekly average temperatures were over 12 degrees Fahrenheit below normal for a large part of the region just before midmonth. Emergence of small grains was complete in Arizona and heading had begun.

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed for 2003 is estimated at 34.5 million tons, down slightly from last month and 3 percent below last year. Acres harvested and to be harvested for sugar and seed are estimated at 997,800 for the 2003 crop year, 2 percent less than last year's harvested area. Yield is estimated at 34.6 tons per acre, 0.1 ton below February's forecast and the 2002 crop.

Estimates for all states, except Florida, are carried forward from February. In Florida, area harvested and to be harvested for sugar and seed is estimated at 442,000 acres, fractionally above February but 4 percent below 2002. Florida's yield, at 39.7 tons per acre, is 0.3 ton below the February forecast but 1.4 tons above 2002. Production in Florida is forecast at 17.6 million tons for the 2003 crop year, slightly below February and 2002. The crop suffered no damage from the mid-to-late February cold snap.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya utilization is estimated at 2.82 million pounds for February, 23 percent lower than January and 25 percent below February 2003. Area in crop totaled 2,200 acres, less than 1 percent below last month and 2 percent less than a year ago. Harvested area totaled 1,345 acres, unchanged from January but 11 percent lower than a year ago. Weather conditions were variable during the month of February. Soil moisture has been adequate in non-irrigated orchards. The majority of rainfall occurred during the last weeks of the month.

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 2003-04 U.S. grapefruit crop is 2.09 million tons, unchanged from the February 1 forecast but 1 percent above the previous season. Florida's grapefruit forecast remains unchanged at 40.0 million boxes (1.70 million tons) but 3 percent above last season's final utilization. The white grapefruit forecast is unchanged at 16.0 million boxes (680,000 tons) but 1 percent below last season. The size and drop survey indications are final and unchanged from the February forecasts. However, results indicate that fruit size is smaller and droppage is above average when compared to the October indications. The colored grapefruit forecast, at 24.0 million boxes (1.02 million tons), remains unchanged but 7 percent above last season's final utilization. The growth pattern is similar to last season when sizes were above normal early in the season and then leveled off. Droppage rates are above normal levels. Arizona, California, and Texas grapefruit forecasts are carried forward from the previous forecasts.

Tangelos: Florida's 2003-04 tangelo forecast, at 1.00 million boxes (45,000 tons), is down 23 percent from February and 57 percent less than last season's utilized production. This is the smallest crop since the 1964-65 season. Tangelo harvest is complete as of March 1.

Tangerines: The 2003-04 U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at 397,000 tons, unchanged from the February 1 forecast but up 7 percent from last season's final utilization of 371,000 tons. Florida's tangerine crop, at 5.90 million boxes (280,000 tons), remains the same as last month but 7 percent above last season's utilization of 5.50 million boxes. Harvest of the early tangerine varieties is complete. Honey tangerine harvest is underway. Average fruit size is larger than the 10-season average and droppage is expected to be slightly less than average. Arizona and California tangerine forecasts are carried forward from the previous forecast.

Temples: Florida's Temple forecast is 1.40 million boxes (63,000 tons) for the 2003-04 season, unchanged from February but 8 percent above last season's final utilization. If attained, the crop would be the third lowest since the freeze affected 1989-90 season. Fruit droppage and size are below average this season.

Florida Citrus: Florida's weather in the citrus areas during February was beneficial with cool nighttime temperatures and moderate to warm days. Several cold fronts passed through the State bringing overnight temperatures to the mid to upper 30's. Daytime highs reached to the low 80's on several days with some cloudy days near the end of the month. The cold fronts brought varying amounts of rainfall with the most precipitation the last week of the month. Coastal areas received over 2.5 inches while the interior had generally over 2 inches. Citrus trees in all areas are in excellent condition following the good weather of the past several months. New growth was reported mid-month in some southern locations and statewide by the end of the month. Some early orange varieties in the southern groves are near full open bloom, while later blooming varieties like tangerines are showing buds just forming. Upper interior and central area groves are just entering the bloom cycle with swelling buds prevalent on early blooming varieties.

Early-midseason orange harvest is declining as the season nears completion. Navel orange harvest was nearly complete by the first of the month. Valencia oranges are beginning to be harvested, primarily for fresh shipments. Grapefruit harvest for fresh use increased during the month with harvest for processing increasing near the end of the month. Early variety tangerine harvest is complete and Honey tangerine harvest is well under way. Tangelo harvest is complete and Temple harvest for processing is active.

California Citrus: The Navel orange harvest continued throughout February but was slowed by rain during the later part of the month. Puff and crease continued to affect blood variety oranges, while the Cara Cara variety oranges were picked and packed. Lemon harvest continued in the Central Valley and South Coastal regions but was wrapping up in the desert region by the end of the month. Mandarins and tangelos were picked as conditions allowed. The Oroblanco and Pummelo variety grapefruit continue to be harvested in the Central Valley, while the Rio Red variety was being harvested in the Coachella Valley. Snail control in citrus groves was ongoing.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: Seasonal cultural activities such as pruning, grafting, cultivating, irrigating, and dormant spraying continued in orchards and vineyards. Sunny days during the middle of February encouraged more widespread blooming in early variety peach, nectarine, and plum orchards. Rain late in the month posed a potential threat to a good stone fruit set, as bloom and pollination were already in progress. Tree loss from high winds was reported in Sutter County. Pruning, cane tying, and some brush shredding were ongoing in raisin, wine, and table grape vineyards. Tree and vine removal and the planting of new trees and vines were delayed due to muddy conditions. Some grafting of table grapes began in Tulare County. Stumps and brush from orchard and vineyard removal were piled for burning. Almond trees were blooming across the State, but were at varying stages depending on location and weather conditions. High winds and rain blew over some almond trees in the San Joaquin Valley. Dormant sprays and bloom sprays were applied as weather and soil conditions allowed. Pruning in walnut and pistachio orchards continued as weather permitted.

Reliability of March 1 Orange Forecast

Survey Procedures: The orange objective yield survey for the March 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which accounts for nearly 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 the *Citrus Fruits Summary* released in September. 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 two out of three that the current orange production forecast will not be above or below the final estimates by more than 3.3 percent, or 3.0 percent excluding freeze seasons. Chances are nine out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.8 percent, or 5.4 percent excluding freeze seasons.

Changes between the March 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 236,000 tons (221,000 tons, excluding freezes), ranging from 8,000 tons to 713,000 tons (8,000 tons to 713,000 tons, excluding freezes). The March 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 March 1 forecasts this year are likely to understate or overstate final production.

Information Contacts

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

Joe Prusacki, Chief	(202) 720-2127
Field Crops Section	
Greg Thessen, Head	(202) 720-2127
Dave DeWalt - Cotton, Cotton Ginnings	(202) 720-5944
Herman Ellison - Soybeans, Minor Oilseeds	(202) 720-7369
Lance Honig - Wheat, Rye	(202) 720-8068
Darin Jantzi - Corn, Proso Millet, Flaxseed	(202) 720-9526
Troy Joshua - Hay, Oats , Sorghum	(202) 690-3234
Mark R. Miller - Peanuts, Rice	(202) 720-7688
Brian Young - Crop Weather, Barley, Sugar Crops	(202) 720-7621
Fruit, Vegetable & Special Crops Section	
Jim Smith, Head	(202) 720-2127
Cathy Scherrer - Dry Beans, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes	(202) 720-4285
Jorge Garcia-Pratts - 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
Mike Miller - Berries, Grapes, Maple Syrup, Tobacco	(202) 720-7235
Terry O'Connor - Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Cranberries, Plums, Prunes	(202) 720-4288
Kim Ritchie - Hops	(360) 902-1940
Jim Smith - Floriculture, Nursery, Nuts	(202)720-2127
Biz Wallingsford - Fresh and Processing Vegetables, Onions, Strawberries	(202) 720-2157

The next "*Crop Production*" report will be released at 8:30 a.m. ET on April 8, 2004.

ACCESS TO REPORTS!!

For your convenience, there are several ways to obtain NASS reports, data products, and services:

INTERNET ACCESS

All NASS reports are available free of charge on the worldwide Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and go to the NASS Home Page at: **www.usda.gov/nass/**. Select "Today's Reports" or Publications and then Reports Calendar or Publications and then Search, by Title or Subject.

E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION

All NASS reports are available by subscription free of charge direct to your e-mail address. Starting with the NASS Home Page at **www.usda.gov/nass/**, click on **Publications**, then click on the **Subscribe by E-mail** button which takes you to the page describing e-mail delivery of reports. Finally, click on **Go to the Subscription Page** and follow the instructions.

- -

PRINTED REPORTS OR DATA PRODUCTS

CALL OUR TOLL-FREE ORDER DESK: 800-999-6779 (U.S. and Canada)
Other areas, please call 703-605-6220 FAX: 703-605-6900
(Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order acceptable for payment.)

- -

ASSISTANCE

For **assistance** with general agricultural statistics or further information about NASS or its products or services, contact the **Agricultural Statistics Hotline** at **800-727-9540**, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: **nass@nass.usda.gov.**