



Crop Production

Released April 8, 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.

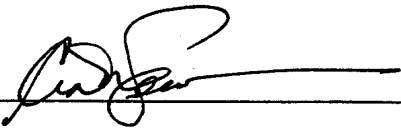
All Orange Production Virtually Unchanged from March

The U.S. all orange April 1 forecast for the 2003-04 crop is 13.1 million tons, down less than 1 percent from the March 1 forecast but 14 percent above last season's final revised utilization. Florida's all orange forecast, at 245 million boxes (11.0 million tons), is down less than 1 percent from the previous forecast but 21 percent above the previous season. Early and midseason varieties in Florida are forecast at 126 million boxes (5.67 million tons), down 1 percent from last month but 13 percent above the previous season. Harvest of the early and midseason varieties is complete. Florida's Valencia forecast is 119 million boxes (5.36 million tons), unchanged from the March forecast but 31 percent above last season's final utilization. Citrus trees in Florida groves are in excellent condition with irrigation being used extensively as trees reached peak bloom in mid to late March.

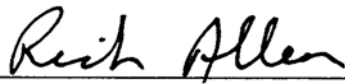
California's all orange forecast, at 54.0 million boxes (2.03 million tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but 12 percent below the previous season's revised utilization. Harvesting of navel oranges was active throughout March. Navel and Valencia oranges are unchanged at 39.0 million boxes (1.46 million tons), and 15.0 million boxes (563,000 tons), respectively. Harvesting of the Valencia crop is well underway with no major problems reported. However, bearing acreage reductions continue in both the Central Valley and southern areas. Overall quality of the harvested crop is good in both districts. Much of the Central Valley Valencia crop is being packed for export at this point. The Texas all orange forecast is 1.68 million boxes (72,000 tons), up 10 percent from the January 1 forecast and 7 percent more than last season's utilized production. Harvest is well underway with excellent fruit quality and size reported. Arizona's all orange utilization is forecast at 540,000 boxes (21,000 tons), an increase of 15 percent from both the previous forecast and the 2002-03 season. Small size fruit with good quality are being reported.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield projection is increased from 1.53 to 1.54 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix. The early and midseason portion is final at 1.45 gallons per box. The Valencia portion is raised to 1.64 gallons per box from 1.62 with processors reporting excellent Valencia internal qualities. 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 8, 2004.



Secretary of
Agriculture
Ann M. Veneman



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Rich Allen

Contents

	Page
Citrus	4
Crop Comments	14
Crop Summary	6
Information Contacts	18
Papayas	5
Potatoes	5
Reliability	17
Weather Maps	12
Weather Summary	13

**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
2001-2002, 2002-2003 and Forecasted April 1, 2004 ^{1 2}**

Crop and State	Utilized Production Boxes			Utilized Production Ton Equivalent		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
	<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	270	200	260	10	8	10
CA	32,000	41,000	39,000	1,200	1,538	1,463
FL	128,000	112,000	126,000	5,760	5,040	5,670
TX	1,530	1,350	1,450	65	57	62
US	161,800	154,550	166,710	7,035	6,643	7,205
Valencia						
AZ	250	270	280	9	10	11
CA	19,500	20,500	15,000	731	769	563
FL	102,000	91,000	119,000	4,590	4,095	5,355
TX	210	220	230	9	9	10
US	121,960	111,990	134,510	5,339	4,883	5,939
All						
AZ	520	470	540	19	18	21
CA	51,500	61,500	54,000	1,931	2,307	2,026
FL	230,000	203,000	245,000	10,350	9,135	11,025
TX	1,740	1,570	1,680	74	66	72
US	283,760	266,540	301,220	12,374	11,526	13,144
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	160	130	100	5	4	3
CA	5,900	5,600	5,400	198	188	181
FL	46,700	38,700	40,000	1,985	1,645	1,700
TX	5,900	5,650	5,400	236	226	216
US	58,660	50,080	50,900	2,424	2,063	2,100
Tangerines						
AZ ⁶	620	430	600	23	16	23
CA ⁶	2,200	2,500	2,400	83	94	90
FL ⁷	6,600	5,500	6,300	314	261	299
US	9,420	8,430	9,300	420	371	412
Lemons						
AZ	2,800	3,000	3,000	106	114	114
CA	18,300	24,000	23,000	695	912	874
US	21,100	27,000	26,000	801	1,026	988
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 2002-03 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 & 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 2001-02 includes Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, Dancy, and Honey varieties; 2002-03 through 2003-04 includes Fallglo, Sunburst, and Honey varieties only.

**Potatoes: Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Seasonal Group, State, and United States, 2002-2004**

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
	2003	2004	2003	2004					
	<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	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	310	250	2,430	2,635	2,125
FL	6.1	5.7	5.8	5.5	240	250	1,776	1,392	1,375
Total	14.6	14.2	14.3	14.0	282	250	4,206	4,027	3,500
Spring									
AZ	7.6	7.0	7.6	7.0	275	280	2,106	2,090	1,960
CA	19.0	17.5	19.0	17.5	440	390	7,695	8,360	6,825
FL	30.0	22.8	28.6	22.5	280	249	7,381	8,008	5,605
Hastings	21.5	16.2	20.3	16.0	280	265	5,775	5,684	4,240
Other FL	8.5	6.6	8.3	6.5	280	210	1,606	2,324	1,365
NC	19.0	16.0	17.0	15.0	175	190	3,230	2,975	2,850
TX	13.0	11.0	12.5	10.5	240	230	2,040	3,000	2,415
Total	88.6	74.3	84.7	72.5	288	271	22,452	24,433	19,655
Summer ¹									
AL	3.0		1.8		185		513	333	
CA	7.5		7.2		385		2,628	2,772	
CO	6.8		6.7		380		2,268	2,546	
DE	3.7		3.6		240		1,000	864	
IL	6.5		6.1		360		1,984	2,196	
KS	2.8		2.7		380		986	1,026	
MD	4.7		4.6		240		1,100	1,104	
MO	8.0		7.1		265		1,296	1,882	
NJ	2.8		2.7		250		715	675	
NM	1.9		1.9		280		736	532	
TX	9.0		8.4		420		3,320	3,528	
VA	7.0		6.2		250		1,386	1,550	
Total	63.7		59.0		322		17,932	19,008	

¹ 2003 revised.

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		
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Feb	2,255	2,200	1,510	1,345	3,735	2,815
Mar	2,260	2,110	1,515	1,165	4,215	2,750

¹ Utilized fresh production.

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

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	5,299.0	4,683.0	4,688.0	
Corn for Grain ²	78,736.0	79,004.0	71,139.0	
Corn for Silage			6,528.0	
Hay, All			63,342.0	63,731.0
Alfalfa			23,578.0	
All Other			39,764.0	
Oats	4,601.0	4,312.0	2,224.0	2,067.0
Proso Millet	730.0		620.0	
Rice	3,022.0	3,260.0	2,997.0	
Rye	1,368.0		339.0	
Sorghum for Grain ²	9,420.0	8,600.0	7,798.0	
Sorghum for Silage			343.0	
Wheat, All	61,700.0	59,462.0	52,839.0	
Winter	44,945.0	43,372.0	36,541.0	
Durum	2,915.0	2,757.0	2,869.0	
Other Spring	13,840.0	13,333.0	13,429.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,082.0	965.0	1,068.0	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	595.0		583.0	
Mustard Seed	110.0		107.0	
Peanuts	1,344.0	1,366.0	1,312.0	
Rapeseed	1.3		1.2	
Safflower	221.0		212.0	
Soybeans for Beans	73,404.0	75,411.0	72,321.0	
Sunflowers	2,344.0	2,086.0	2,197.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	13,483.1	14,401.6	12,058.0	
Upland	13,304.0	14,175.0	11,880.0	
Amer-Pima	179.1	226.6	178.0	
Sugarbeets	1,365.4	1,358.6	1,347.9	
Sugarcane			997.8	
Tobacco			416.2	414.6
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	21.1		15.6	
Dry Edible Beans	1,406.1	1,333.0	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	1,274.5		1,250.0	
Winter	14.6	14.2	14.3	14.0
Spring	88.6	74.3	84.7	72.5
Summer	63.7		59.0	
Fall	1,107.6		1,092.0	
Spearmint Oil			15.8	
Sweet Potatoes	95.6	98.3	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
				<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
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		458,854	
Winter	"	282	250	4,027	3,500
Spring	"	288	271	24,433	19,655
Summer	"	322		19,008	
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
		<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Citrus ²				
Grapefruit	Ton	2,424	2,063	2,100
K-Early Citrus (FL) ³	"	1		
Lemons	"	801	1,026	988
Oranges	"	12,374	11,526	13,144
Tangelos (FL)	"	97	106	45
Tangerines	"	420	371	412
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	1,475	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
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	2,144,450	1,895,160	1,897,190	
Corn for Grain ²	31,863,670	31,972,130	28,789,240	
Corn for Silage			2,641,820	
Hay, All ³			25,633,870	25,791,300
Alfalfa			9,541,780	
All Other			16,092,090	
Oats	1,861,980	1,745,020	900,030	836,490
Proso Millet	295,420		250,910	
Rice	1,222,970	1,319,290	1,212,860	
Rye	553,620		137,190	
Sorghum for Grain ²	3,812,180	3,480,330	3,155,770	
Sorghum for Silage			138,810	
Wheat, All ³	24,969,370	24,063,680	21,383,410	
Winter	18,188,790	17,552,210	14,787,780	
Durum	1,179,670	1,115,730	1,161,060	
Other Spring	5,600,910	5,395,730	5,434,580	
Oilseeds				
Canola	437,870	390,530	432,210	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	240,790		235,930	
Mustard Seed	44,520		43,300	
Peanuts	543,900	552,810	530,950	
Rapeseed	530		490	
Safflower	89,440		85,790	
Soybeans for Beans	29,705,860	30,518,080	29,267,590	
Sunflowers	948,590	844,180	889,100	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ³	5,456,480	5,828,180	4,879,750	
Upland	5,384,000	5,736,480	4,807,720	
Amer-Pima	72,480	91,700	72,030	
Sugarbeets	552,560	549,810	545,480	
Sugarcane			403,800	
Tobacco			168,440	167,760
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	8,540		6,310	
Dry Edible Beans	569,030	539,450	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	515,780		505,860	
Winter	5,910	5,750	5,790	5,670
Spring	35,860	30,070	34,280	29,340
Summer	25,780		23,880	
Fall	448,230		441,920	
Spearmint Oil			6,390	
Sweet Potatoes	38,690	39,780	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
	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>
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	41.14		20,813,270	
Winter	31.56	28.02	182,660	158,760
Spring	32.33	30.39	1,108,260	891,540
Summer	36.11		862,190	
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
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>
Citrus ²			
Grapefruit	2,199,020	1,871,520	1,905,090
K-Early Citrus (FL) ³	910		
Lemons	726,650	930,770	896,300
Oranges	11,225,500	10,456,210	11,924,040
Tangelos (FL)	88,000	96,160	40,820
Tangerines	381,020	336,570	373,760
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	7,370	6,190	

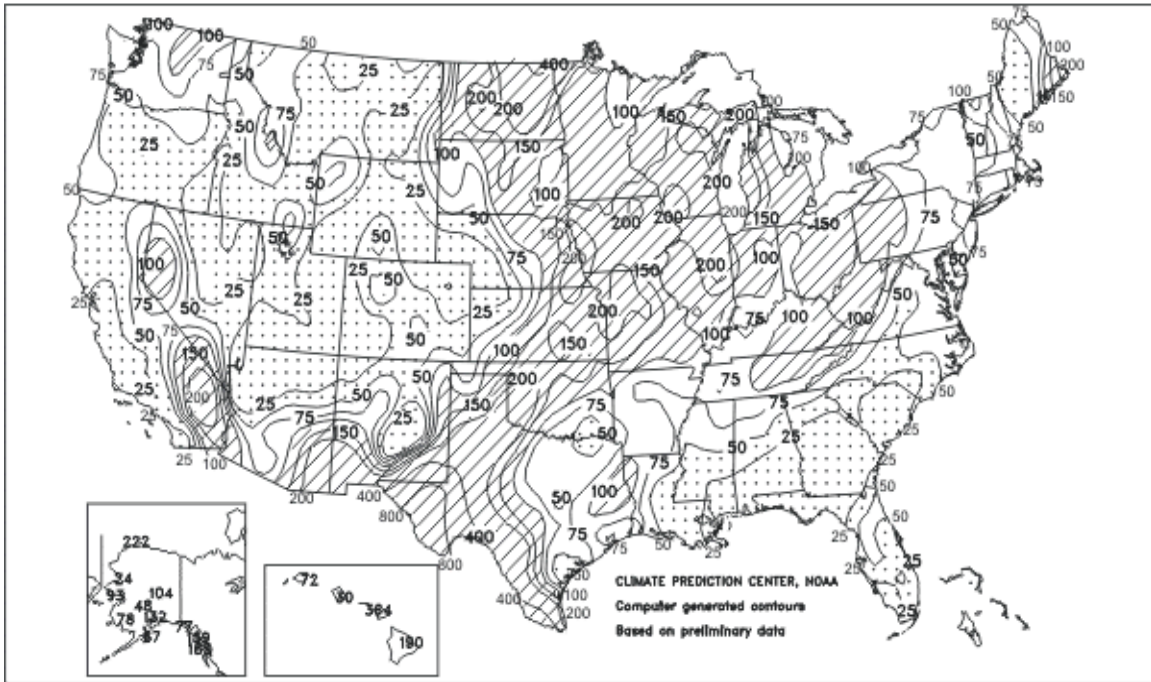
¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports.

² Production years are 2001-02, 2002-03, and 2003-04.

³ Estimates discontinued as of the 2002-03 crop.

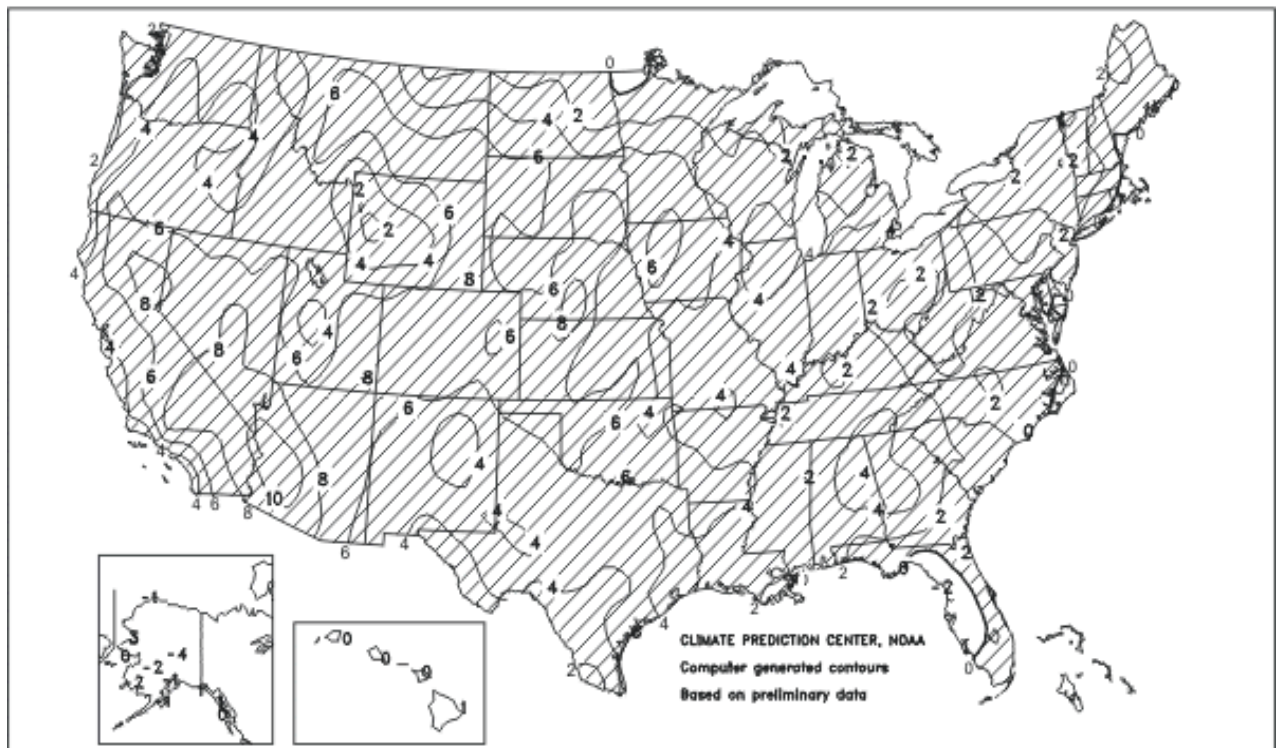
Percent Of Normal Precipitation

March 2004



Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

March 2004



March Weather Summary

The month opened on a cool, stormy note in the West, but starting March 7 most areas from the Rockies westward endured dry weather and record-high temperatures. The warmth promoted spring fieldwork and winter grain development, but caused premature melting of high-elevation Western snow packs. Very warm weather also prevailed on the Plains, accompanied by mostly dry weather from eastern Colorado and northwestern Kansas northward into Montana. In contrast, showery weather aided pastures and winter grains across the southern and eastern Plains. Late in the month, however, heavy rain and melting snow caused lowland flooding in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. Meanwhile, generally wet weather in the Corn Belt slowed fieldwork but boosted soil moisture reserves in preparation for spring planting. Rain and snow eased long-term precipitation deficits across the upper Midwest and maintained adequate to locally excessive soil moisture for winter wheat across the southern and eastern Corn Belt. Farther south, an intensifying, six-month dry spell affected areas from near the mouth of the Mississippi River to the southern Atlantic States. By month's end, dry conditions increased stress on Southeastern pastures, winter grains, and emerging summer crops. In contrast, heavy rainfall eased irrigation demands in the lower Rio Grande Valley.

Monthly temperatures generally averaged 4 to 8 degrees F above normal in the upper Midwest and across the western half of the Nation. Readings were as much as 10 degrees F above normal in parts of California and the Desert Southwest. Temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees F above normal in most locations from the Mississippi River to the Appalachians, but were as much as 2 degrees F below normal along the Atlantic Seaboard. Brief Eastern warm spells during the first week of March and again toward month's end prevented more significant negative temperature departures along the Atlantic Coast.

March Crop Summary

Above-normal temperatures prevailed across the Nation, while precipitation was concentrated in the eastern half of the Nation.

Over 4 inches of rain fell across most of the Corn Belt and Ohio Valley. Most of this precipitation fell toward the beginning and end of the month, with mostly dry conditions prevailing around mid-month. Though temperatures were above normal across the region, the highest temperatures were in the western portion of the region. The rainfall was beneficial for winter wheat, but field preparation for summer crops was hampered by wet conditions.

After a brief continuation of February's wet weather early in the month, the Southeast and Mississippi Delta remained mostly dry during the rest of March. Temperatures were above normal across most of the region, except for Florida's Gulf Coast, where temperatures averaged slightly below normal. However, temperatures were not low enough to damage citrus crops, which had reached full bloom by the end of the month. Dry soils across the Southeast delayed row crop planting.

Across the Great Plains, temperatures were well above normal through most of the month. Precipitation was scarce in the northern and central parts of the region, causing winter wheat condition to deteriorate. In the southern part of the region, moderate to heavy rainfall early in the month helped small grains recover from moisture stress earlier in the winter.

Precipitation was light to moderate in the Northeast and Middle Atlantic Coast States, with the highest totals in coastal areas. Light snow fell across parts of the region toward mid-month but melted quickly. Despite cold weather during that period, temperatures averaged slightly above normal across the region.

After cold weather early in the month, temperatures well above normal prevailed across the Rocky Mountains through the end of the month. Precipitation was widely scattered across the region. A few areas received over 2 inches of rain, but most of the region remained dry.

In the Pacific Northwest, precipitation was heavy in coastal areas, but lighter in the crop-producing areas farther inland, where most areas received 1 to 2 inches. Winter wheat condition improved with beneficial rains in the first and last weeks of the month. Temperatures were below normal during the first week, but remained above normal thereafter.

Conditions in the Great Basin were very mild and dry, with monthly average temperatures ranging from 6 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. Precipitation was very light and limited to the early part of the month. Similar conditions prevailed across the Southwest, although locally heavy showers temporarily relieved drought conditions in some areas.

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 2003-04 U.S. grapefruit crop is 2.10 million tons, up 1 percent from the March 1 forecast and 2 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. If realized, this will be the third smallest crop in the past 20 seasons. The white grapefruit forecast is unchanged at 16.0 million boxes (680,000 tons) but 1 percent below last season. The colored grapefruit forecast, at 24.0 million boxes (1.02 million tons), remains unchanged but 7 percent above last season's final utilization. About 80 percent of Florida's grapefruit crop has been picked. California's grapefruit forecast, at 5.40 million boxes (181,000 tons), is up 4 percent from the previous forecast but 4 percent less than last season's final utilization. Exterior color is fair with good interior quality. Texture is smooth for all sizes. Flavor and eating quality are excellent. The Texas grapefruit forecast is 5.40 million boxes (216,000 tons), 2 percent above the previous forecast but 4 percent lower than last season. Arizona's grapefruit forecast remains unchanged from January at 100,000 boxes (3,000 tons) but is 23 percent less than last season's final utilization. Decreasing demand and land development are contributing factors to the production decline when compared to the previous season. Good size and quality are expected.

Tangerines: The 2003-04 U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at 412,000 tons, up 4 percent from the March 1 forecast and 11 percent above last season's final utilization of 371,000 tons. Florida's tangerine crop, at 6.30 million boxes (299,000 tons), is up 7 percent from last month and 15 percent above last season's utilization. Harvest of the early tangerine varieties is complete while the late season Honey variety harvest continued with good demand reported.

California's forecast of tangerine production at 2.40 million boxes (90,000 tons), is down 4 percent from both the January 1 forecast and last season's utilized production. Fruit quality is reported as very good to excellent. The Arizona tangerine forecast of 600,000 boxes (23,000 tons) is unchanged from the previous forecast but 40 percent above last season. Fruit size is small with good quality expected.

Lemons: The 2003-04 U.S. lemon crop is 988,000 tons, down 1 percent from the January 1 forecast and 4 percent below last season's final utilization. California production is forecast at 23.0 million boxes (874,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but 4 percent below the 2002-03 season. Harvest is progressing well in the South Coastal area, while coming to an end in the Central Valley and desert region. Reported quality is excellent. Arizona's 2003-04 lemon forecast, at 3.00 million boxes (114,000 tons), is down 6 percent from the previous forecast but unchanged from the previous season. Small size fruit of good quality are being reported.

Tangelos: Florida's 2003-04 tangelo forecast is final at 1.00 million boxes (45,000 tons), unchanged from March but 57 percent less than last season's utilized production. This is the smallest crop since the 1964-65 season.

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

Florida Citrus: March weather in the citrus growing areas was mostly dry with cool nighttime temperatures and moderate to warm days. Several cold fronts passed through the State bringing overnight temperatures into the upper 30's in some northern locations. Daytime highs reached the mid 80's. The cold fronts brought very little rainfall with virtually none reported the first two weeks of the month. Rainfall during the third week brought up to two inches in some upper interior areas. Weather during the last month was cloudy and windy with very light amounts of coastal showers reported. Citrus trees in all areas are in excellent condition following the favorable weather of the past several months. By mid-month, lower interior and coastal area trees were in full bloom, followed by those in the upper interior area later in the month.

Early-midseason harvest is mostly over as the season nears completion. Valencia oranges are beginning to be harvested with good demand reported for fresh shipments. Weekly harvest by the last of the month was up to

7 million boxes. Grapefruit harvest for fresh shipments increased during the month with harvest for processing also heavy. Honey tangerine harvest is strong with good demand reported. Temple harvest is complete for the season.

Texas Citrus: Harvest is well underway for the 2003-04 season for most crops. Water supply in the Rio Grande Valley is abundant. Fruit quality and size are excellent. Some problems are being reported with Rust Mite and Blackfly.

California Citrus: Irrigation, pruning, soil amendment, and foliar nutrient applications were underway in some harvested citrus orchards. Navel orange harvesting was ongoing throughout the month, though quality continued to deteriorate due to the warm weather. Early variety Valencia oranges were harvested in some areas of the Central Valley. Rio Red grapefruit were harvested in the desert areas, while the Pummelo harvest neared completion in the Central Valley. Tangelos were picked and packed. Lemon harvest continued in the South Coastal region throughout March, and was virtually complete in the Central Valley.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: Treatments to control diseases, weeds, and insect pests continued in many tree fruit orchards, along with irrigation and cultivation. Weather conditions during March were excellent for pollination as California experienced many days of record high temperatures. By mid-month, late stone fruit orchards were still in bloom, but most were well into the petal fall stage and leafing out. By month's end, the bloom period had ended in most stone fruit orchards. The fruit set for early nectarine and peach varieties appears to be good. Apple, cherry, and pear orchards in the Central Valley were blooming by the end of March. Late pruning of cherry trees continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Rainfall during the last week of March slowed orchard work in some parts of the Sacramento Valley. Strawberries were blooming, with berries beginning to form in many fields by month's end. Some strawberry stands opened in Kern County. Prune orchards were treated for weeds. Swelling buds and newly opened green shoots appeared in many grape vineyards as vines responded to the warm, sunny weather. Cane training was ongoing in a few grape vineyards but pruning and tying were essentially completed for the season. Most almond orchards were fully leafed and developing well by month's end. Walnut and pistachio orchards were breaking dormancy. Walnut trees were pruned and treated for blight. Buds began to appear on pistachio trees.

Winter Potatoes: The 2004 U.S. winter potato crop in California and Florida combined is forecast at 3.50 million cwt, 9 percent below the January forecast and 13 percent less than last year. Area for harvest, at 14,000 acres, is unchanged from January but down 2 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 250 cwt per acre is down 24 cwt from January and 32 cwt below a year ago.

California's average yield is forecast at 250 cwt per acre, 40 cwt per acre below the January forecast. This reduced yield was caused by a freeze during the growing season in the Imperial Valley. The Florida forecast remains unchanged from January. Florida's Southern Peninsula producers have encountered no significant problems during harvest.

Spring Potatoes: Spring production in 2004 is forecast at 19.7 million cwt, down 20 percent from last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 72,500 acres, 14 percent below 2003. The average yield is forecast at 271 cwt per acre, down 17 cwt from a year ago.

Spring potato production in Florida is forecast at 5.61 million cwt, down 30 percent from a year ago. Total spring harvested acreage decreased 21 percent and average yield is 31 cwt per acre below last year. Both planted and harvested acreage declined due to a reduction in contracted acres. Mild conditions in February and March helped crop development although heavy showers in March reduced yield potential in some areas. North Carolina's spring potato crop is forecast at 2.85 million cwt, down 4 percent from last year. Area for harvest is expected to be down 12 percent from a year ago, due in part to a reduction in contracts for processing. Average yield is expected to increase 15 cwt per acre from a year ago. Some early planted fields have emerged.

California's spring potato production forecast, at 6.83 million cwt, is 18 percent below last year. Area for harvest is down 8 percent and yield is down 50 cwt per acre. Generally poor market conditions prompted growers to reduce acreage. In some areas, frost affected the crop resulting in lower yields. Texas spring potato production is forecast at 2.42 million cwt, 19 percent below last season. Acreage for harvest has decreased 16 percent and the average yield is expected to decline 10 cwt per acre from a year ago. Producers

report potatoes look good and weather conditions were holding constant. Arizona's production is forecast at 1.96 million cwt, down 6 percent from last year. Growers report a 8 percent decrease in acreage for harvest but expect a 5 cwt per acre yield increase over last year.

Summer Potatoes, 2003 Revisions: The final estimate of 2003 summer potato crop production is 19.0 million cwt, down 1 percent from the preliminary estimate in the January *Crop Production 2003 Summary* but 6 percent above 2002. Harvested area covered 59,000 acres, down 1 percent from the January estimate and down less than 1 percent from 2002. The average yield of 322 cwt per acre is down 2 cwt from the January preliminary estimate.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya utilization is estimated at 2.75 million pounds for March, 2 percent lower than February and 35 percent below March 2003. Area in crop totaled 2,110 acres, 4 percent below last month and 7 percent less than a year ago. Harvested area totaled 1,165 acres, 13 percent lower than February and 23 percent less than a year ago. Weather conditions were mostly wet during March. Soil moisture has been ample in non-irrigated orchards. Abundant rainfall throughout the month increased humidity levels resulting in favorable conditions for diseases such as Black spot and Phytophthora. These diseases adversely affect papaya leaves and roots, and reduce production.

Reliability of April 1 Orange Forecast

Survey Procedures: The orange objective yield survey for the April 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 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 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 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 two out of three that the current orange production forecast will not be above or below the final estimates by more than 3.0 percent. Chances are nine out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.3 percent.

Changes between the April 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 191,000 tons, ranging from 1,000 tons to 716,000 tons. The April 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 7 times and above 13 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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The next *Crop Production* report will be released at 8:30 a.m. ET on May 12, 2004.

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