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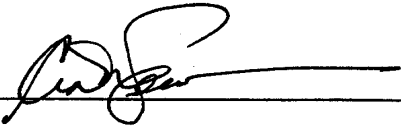
All Orange Production Down 3 Percent

The U.S. all orange January forecast for the 2004-05 season is 9.65 million tons, down 3 percent from the previous forecast and 25 percent below last season's final utilization. Florida's all orange forecast, at 162 million boxes (7.29 million tons), is down 4 percent from the December forecast and 33 percent below the 2003-04 season. The production of early and midseason varieties is reduced 2 million boxes, to 84.0 million boxes (3.78 million tons), 2 percent less than the December forecast. The fruit drop rate at 18 percent is the second highest since 1960 with average fruit size the smallest since the 2000-01 season. Florida's early-mids harvest started late because of the smaller crop and lagging maturity level. Approximately 60 percent of the crop remains to be harvested. The Valencia forecast is decreased 4 million boxes to 78.0 million boxes (3.51 million tons), down 5 percent from the previous forecast. Florida's Valencia average drop rate is projected to reach 20 percent and average fruit size continues to be one of the smallest in the last 20 years.

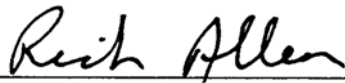
The all orange forecast for California, at 60.5 million boxes (2.27 million tons), is 2 percent less than the October forecast but 16 percent higher than last season's final utilization. The Navel orange forecast is down 2 million boxes from October at 44.0 million boxes (1.65 million tons) but 16 percent above last season. California's Navel orange fruit size is large with some fruit quality problems such as puff observed. The Navels fruit quality problems combined with a higher fruit drop rate caused by cold temperatures have resulted in reduced harvested volumes. California's Valencia orange forecast is increased 500 thousand boxes to 16.5 million boxes (619,000 tons), up 3 percent from the October forecast and 18 percent higher than last season's final estimate. Overall quality for California's Valencia oranges is good and fruit size is larger than last year. The all orange forecast for Texas, at 1.75 million boxes (75,000 tons), is 8 percent less than the October 1 forecast but 6 percent above the 2003-04 season. The early-midseason orange forecast is reduced 150,000 boxes to 1.50 million boxes (64,000 tons). The Valencia orange forecast, at 250,000 boxes, remains unchanged from the October 1 forecast but 9 percent higher than the previous season. Crop condition was reported as good. Arizona's all orange forecast is decreased 10,000 boxes to 430,000 boxes (16,000 tons).

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield for the 2004-05 season is forecast at 1.56 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, unchanged from last month's projection. This is also the same as last season's final estimate of 1.56 gallons per box as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association. The early-midseason portion is projected to yield 1.50 gallons, up from 1.45 gallons for the 2003-04 crop. Valencia's are projected to yield 1.63 gallons compared to 1.69 gallons for last season. All projections of yield assume that the processing relationship this year will be similar to those of the past several years.

This report was approved on January 12, 2005.



Secretary of
Agriculture
Ann M. Veneman



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Rich Allen

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**Potatoes: Area Planted, Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Seasonal Group, State, and United States, 2003-2005**

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
	2004	2005	2004	2005					
	<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	13.0	14.0	13.0	14.0	250	225	2,635	3,250	3,150
FL	5.7	6.0	5.5	5.8	285	260	1,392	1,568	1,508
Total	18.7	20.0	18.5	19.8	260	235	4,027	4,818	4,658
Spring ¹									
AZ	6.2		6.2		285		2,090	1,767	
CA	17.5		17.5		475		8,360	8,313	
FL	24.8		24.5		313		8,008	7,678	
Hastings	18.2		18.0		320		5,684	5,760	
Other FL	6.6		6.5		295		2,324	1,918	
NC	17.0		13.5		200		2,975	2,700	
TX	11.0		10.5		210		3,000	2,205	
Total	76.5		72.2		314		24,433	22,663	

¹ 2004 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>
Nov	2,210	2,100	1,580	1,365	3,105	2,665
Dec	2,210	2,230	1,350	1,395	3,115	3,050

¹ Utilized fresh production.

**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
2002-2003, 2003-2004 and Forecasted January 1, 2005 ¹**

Crop and State	Utilized Production Boxes			Utilized Production Ton Equivalent		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
	<i>1,000 Boxes ²</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes ²</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes ²</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel ³						
AZ	200	300	240	8	12	9
CA	42,000	38,000	44,000	1,575	1,426	1,650
FL	112,000	126,000	84,000	5,040	5,670	3,780
TX	1,350	1,420	1,500	57	60	64
US	155,550	165,720	129,740	6,680	7,168	5,503
Valencia						
AZ	270	170	190	10	6	7
CA	20,000	14,000	16,500	751	526	619
FL	91,000	116,000	78,000	4,095	5,220	3,510
TX	220	230	250	9	10	11
US	111,490	130,400	94,940	4,865	5,762	4,147
All						
AZ	470	470	430	18	18	16
CA	62,000	52,000	60,500	2,326	1,952	2,269
FL	203,000	242,000	162,000	9,135	10,890	7,290
TX	1,570	1,650	1,750	66	70	75
US	267,040	296,120	224,680	11,545	12,930	9,650
Temples						
FL	1,300	1,400	700	59	63	32
Grapefruit						
White Seedless ⁴						
FL	16,200	15,900	3,000	689	675	128
Colored Seedless						
FL	22,500	25,000	10,000	957	1,063	425
All						
AZ	130	140	180	4	5	6
CA	5,600	5,400	5,300	187	181	178
FL	38,700	40,900	13,000	1,646	1,738	553
TX	5,650	5,700	6,200	226	228	248
US	50,080	52,140	24,680	2,063	2,152	985
Tangerines						
AZ ⁵	430	690	450	16	25	17
CA ⁵	2,800	2,700	2,900	105	101	109
FL	5,500	6,500	4,500	261	309	214
US	8,730	9,890	7,850	382	435	340
Lemons						
AZ	3,000	3,000	2,400	114	114	91
CA	24,000	18,000	19,500	912	684	741
US	27,000	21,000	21,900	1,026	798	832
Tangelos						
FL	2,350	1,000	1,100	105	45	50

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 Includes seedy.

⁵ Includes tangelos and tangors.

**Hay: Stocks on Farms by State and United States,
December 1 and May 1, 2002-2004**

State	Dec 1			May 1	
	2002	2003 ¹	2004	2003	2004 ¹
	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
AL	1,750	1,764	1,965	254	487
AZ	203	280	250	45	55
AR	2,755	2,700	3,200	588	600
CA	1,840	2,086	1,724	200	306
CO	1,548	1,841	2,527	360	610
CT	73	83	73	14	14
DE	9	12	25	4	4
FL	475	434	410	80	52
GA	1,295	1,494	1,345	230	342
ID	2,824	2,772	2,782	635	445
IL	1,370	1,797	1,613	285	408
IN	1,037	1,561	1,704	96	253
IA	3,900	3,695	4,368	1,100	605
KS	4,800	5,600	6,304	1,150	1,400
KY	3,975	5,035	4,742	513	1,466
LA	662	937	910	173	115
ME	161	164	189	39	33
MD	274	377	348	55	60
MA	77	72	95	21	15
MI	2,024	1,872	1,893	462	250
MN	4,183	3,567	4,127	815	575
MS	1,631	1,125	1,159	249	244
MO	6,897	7,148	8,101	1,083	1,462
MT	4,086	3,986	4,427	953	790
NE	3,278	5,244	4,175	870	1,596
NV	882	857	741	167	121
NH	55	60	53	9	11
NJ	61	96	161	11	40
NM	550	525	545	98	115
NY	2,169	2,430	1,895	520	552
NC	934	1,625	1,545	50	405
ND	4,300	4,690	3,923	940	828
OH	1,666	2,504	2,250	215	556
OK	5,357	4,244	5,186	1,190	1,275
OR	2,550	2,357	2,366	340	371
PA	2,138	2,440	2,700	380	570
RI	10	10	12	1	2
SC	413	601	557	65	186
SD	5,825	7,210	6,939	1,154	1,515
TN	3,318	3,830	4,199	504	1,182
TX	10,460	9,910	10,451	3,888	2,849
UT	1,210	1,495	1,383	175	279
VT	240	332	276	80	86
VA	2,329	2,515	2,716	272	758
WA	1,600	1,620	1,560	285	470
WV	934	957	1,030	95	191
WI	3,600	3,110	3,532	1,100	920
WY	1,250	1,963	1,818	200	478
US	102,978	111,027	114,294	22,013	25,947

¹ Revised.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2004-2005
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	4,527.0		4,021.0	
Corn for Grain ²	80,930.0		73,632.0	
Corn for Silage			6,103.0	
Hay, All			61,916.0	
Alfalfa			21,707.0	
All Other			40,209.0	
Oats	4,085.0		1,792.0	
Proso Millet	710.0		595.0	
Rice	3,347.0		3,325.0	
Rye	1,380.0		320.0	
Sorghum for Grain ²	7,486.0		6,517.0	
Sorghum for Silage			352.0	
Wheat, All	59,674.0		49,999.0	
Winter	43,350.0	41,567.0	34,462.0	
Durum	2,561.0		2,363.0	
Other Spring	13,763.0		13,174.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	865.0		828.0	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	523.0		516.0	
Mustard Seed	73.0		68.7	
Peanuts	1,430.0		1,394.0	
Rapeseed	8.7		7.8	
Safflower	175.0		159.0	
Soybeans for Beans	75,208.0		73,958.0	
Sunflower	1,873.0		1,711.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	13,658.6		13,057.0	
Upland	13,409.0		12,809.0	
Amer-Pima	249.6		248.0	
Sugarbeets	1,346.0		1,306.7	
Sugarcane			952.1	
Tobacco			409.1	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	30.5		21.5	
Dry Edible Beans	1,354.3		1,219.3	
Dry Edible Peas	530.0		507.8	
Lentils	345.0		329.0	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			5.8	
Ginger Root (HI)			0.2	
Hops			27.7	
Peppermint Oil			77.7	
Potatoes, All	1,194.0		1,168.1	
Winter	18.7	20.0	18.5	19.8
Spring	76.5		72.2	
Summer	59.1		54.6	
Fall	1,039.7		1,022.8	
Spearmint Oil			15.1	
Sweet Potatoes	97.4		93.3	
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 2005 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, 2004-2005
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Unit	Yield		Production	
		2004	2005	2004	2005
				<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Grains & Hay					
Barley	Bu	69.4		279,253	
Corn for Grain	"	160.4		11,807,217	
Corn for Silage	Ton	17.6		107,336	
Hay, All	"	2.55		157,774	
Alfalfa	"	3.47		75,383	
All Other	"	2.05		82,391	
Oats	Bu	64.7		115,935	
Proso Millet	"	25.3		15,065	
Rice ²	Cwt	6,942		230,818	
Rye	Bu	26.9		8,615	
Sorghum for Grain	"	69.8		454,899	
Sorghum for Silage	Ton	13.5		4,763	
Wheat, All	Bu	43.2		2,158,245	
Winter	"	43.5		1,499,434	
Durum	"	38.0		89,893	
Other Spring	"	43.2		568,918	
Oilseeds					
Canola	Lb	1,618		1,339,530	
Cottonseed ³	Ton			8,411.0	
Flaxseed	Bu	20.3		10,471	
Mustard Seed	Lb	819		56,290	
Peanuts	"	3,057		4,261,700	
Rapeseed	"	1,394		10,875	
Safflower	"	1,105		175,765	
Soybeans for Beans	Bu	42.5		3,140,996	
Sunflower	Lb	1,197		2,047,863	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops					
Cotton, All ²	Bale	846		23,006.0	
Upland ²	"	835		22,270.0	
Amer-Pima ²	"	1,425		736.0	
Sugarbeets	Ton	22.9		29,932	
Sugarcane	"	30.8		29,295	
Tobacco	Lb	2,159		883,171	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils					
Austrian Winter Peas ²	Cwt	1,228		264	
Dry Edible Beans ²	"	1,460		17,799	
Dry Edible Peas ²	"	2,249		11,419	
Lentils ²	"	1,271		4,182	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³	"			899	
Potatoes & Misc.					
Coffee (HI)	Lb	1,220		7,100	
Ginger Root (HI)	"	40,000		6,000	
Hops	"	1,990		55,203.9	
Peppermint Oil	"	92		7,146	
Potatoes, All	Cwt	391		456,362	
Winter	"	260	235	4,818	4,658
Spring	"	314		22,663	
Summer	"	345		18,858	
Fall	"	401		410,023	
Spearmint Oil	Lb	116		1,746	
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt	176		16,399	
Taro (HI) ³	Lb			5,200	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2005 crop year.

² Yield in pounds.

³ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2003-2005
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Unit	Production		
		2003	2004	2005
		<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Citrus ²				
Grapefruit	Ton	2,063	2,152	985
Lemons	"	1,026	798	832
Oranges	"	11,545	12,930	9,650
Tangelos (FL)	"	105	45	50
Tangerines	"	382	435	340
Temples (FL)	"	59	63	32
Noncitrus				
Apples	1,000 Lbs	8,613.3	9,458.9	
Apricots	Ton	97.6	95.6	
Bananas (HI)	Lb	22,500.0		
Grapes	Ton	6,572.7	6,073.0	
Olives (CA)	"	118.0	85.0	
Papayas (HI)	Lbs	42,600.0		
Peaches	Ton	1,259.5	1,299.2	
Pears	Ton	928.1	908.0	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	"	181.0	70.0	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	"	16.3	24.5	
Nuts & Misc.				
Almonds (CA)	Lb	1,040,000	1,080,000	
Hazelnuts	Ton	37.9	44.0	
Pecans	Lb	282,100	177,300	
Pistachios (CA) ³	"	119,000		
Walnuts (CA)	Ton	326.0	325.0	
Maple Syrup	Gal	1,260	1,507	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2005 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2004-05 season.

² Production years are 2002-2003, 2003-2004, and 2004-2005.

³ September 1 forecast discontinued in 2004. Preliminary production estimate will be published in the "Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts 2004 Preliminary Summary" to be released on January 25, 2005.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2004-2005
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	1,832,030		1,627,260	
Corn for Grain ²	32,751,560		29,798,130	
Corn for Silage			2,469,820	
Hay, All ³			25,056,790	
Alfalfa			8,784,610	
All Other			16,272,180	
Oats	1,653,160		725,200	
Proso Millet	287,330		240,790	
Rice	1,354,500		1,345,590	
Rye	558,470		129,500	
Sorghum for Grain ²	3,029,510		2,637,360	
Sorghum for Silage			142,450	
Wheat, All ³	24,149,470		20,234,100	
Winter	17,543,310	16,821,750	13,946,430	
Durum	1,036,410		956,280	
Other Spring	5,569,750		5,331,390	
Oilseeds				
Canola	350,060		335,080	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	211,650		208,820	
Mustard Seed	29,540		27,800	
Peanuts	578,710		564,140	
Rapeseed	3,520		3,160	
Safflower	70,820		64,350	
Soybeans for Beans	30,435,930		29,930,060	
Sunflower	757,980		692,420	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ³	5,527,500		5,284,040	
Upland	5,426,490		5,183,670	
Amer-Pima	101,010		100,360	
Sugarbeets	544,710		528,810	
Sugarcane			385,310	
Tobacco			165,540	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	12,340		8,700	
Dry Edible Beans	548,070		493,440	
Dry Edible Peas	214,490		205,500	
Lentils	139,620		133,140	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			2,350	
Ginger Root (HI)			60	
Hops			11,230	
Peppermint Oil			31,440	
Potatoes, All ³	483,200		472,720	
Winter	7,570	8,090	7,490	8,010
Spring	30,960		29,220	
Summer	23,920		22,100	
Fall	420,760		413,920	
Spearmint Oil			6,110	
Sweet Potatoes	39,420		37,760	
Taro (HI) ⁴			150	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2005 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, 2004-2005
(Metric Units)¹

Crop	Yield		Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	3.74		6,080,020	
Corn for Grain	10.06		299,917,130	
Corn for Silage	39.43		97,373,580	
Hay, All ²	5.71		143,130,170	
Alfalfa	7.78		68,386,310	
All Other	4.59		74,743,860	
Oats	2.32		1,682,790	
Proso Millet	1.42		341,670	
Rice	7.78		10,469,730	
Rye	1.69		218,830	
Sorghum for Grain	4.38		11,554,970	
Sorghum for Silage	30.33		4,320,920	
Wheat, All ²	2.90		58,737,800	
Winter	2.93		40,807,910	
Durum	2.56		2,446,490	
Other Spring	2.90		15,483,410	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.81		607,600	
Cottonseed ³			7,630,330	
Flaxseed	1.27		265,980	
Mustard Seed	0.92		25,530	
Peanuts	3.43		1,933,070	
Rapeseed	1.56		4,930	
Safflower	1.24		79,730	
Soybeans for Beans	2.86		85,483,900	
Sunflower	1.34		928,900	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ²	0.95		5,008,970	
Upland	0.94		4,848,720	
Amer-Pima	1.60		160,250	
Sugarbeets	51.35		27,153,850	
Sugarcane	68.97		26,575,980	
Tobacco	2.42		400,600	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	1.38		11,970	
Dry Edible Beans	1.64		807,350	
Dry Edible Peas	2.52		517,960	
Lentils	1.42		189,690	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³			40,780	
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)	1.37		3,220	
Ginger Root (HI)	44.83		2,720	
Hops	2.23		25,040	
Peppermint Oil	0.10		3,240	
Potatoes, All ²	43.79		20,700,230	
Winter	29.19	26.37	218,540	211,280
Spring	35.18		1,027,980	
Summer	38.71		855,380	
Fall	44.93		18,598,330	
Spearmint Oil	0.13		790	
Sweet Potatoes	19.70		743,850	
Taro (HI) ³			2,360	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2005 crop year.

² Production may not add due to rounding.

³ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2003-2005
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Production		
	2003	2004	2005
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>
Citrus ²			
Grapefruit	1,871,520	1,952,260	893,580
Lemons	930,770	723,930	754,780
Oranges	10,473,450	11,729,900	8,754,330
Tangelos (FL)	95,250	40,820	45,360
Tangerines	346,540	394,630	308,440
Temples (FL)	53,520	57,150	29,030
Noncitrus			
Apples	3,906,930	4,290,490	
Apricots	88,520	86,680	
Bananas (HI)	10,210		
Grapes	5,962,680	5,509,330	
Olives (CA)	107,050	77,110	
Papayas (HI)	19,320		
Peaches	1,142,600	1,178,610	
Pears	841,910	823,760	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	164,200	63,500	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	14,790	22,230	
Nuts & Misc.			
Almonds (CA)	471,740	489,880	
Hazelnuts	34,380	39,920	
Pecans	127,960	80,420	
Pistachios (CA) ³	53,980		
Walnuts (CA)	295,740	294,840	
Maple Syrup	6,300	7,530	

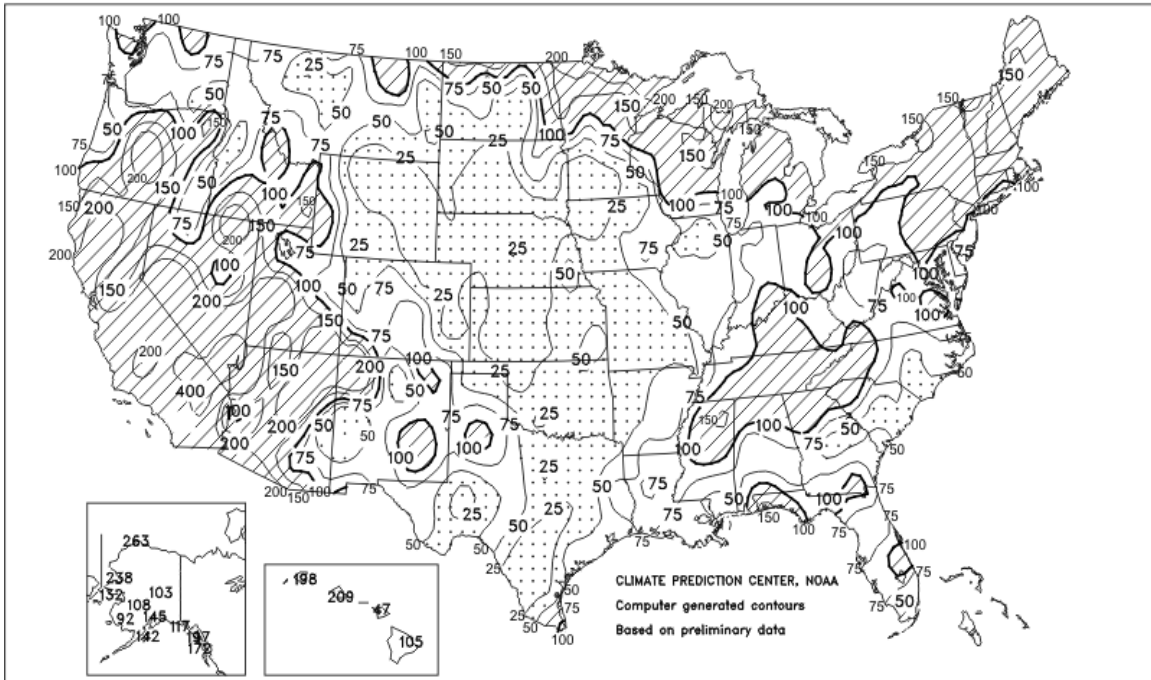
¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2005 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2004-05 season.

² Production years are 2002-2003, 2003-2004, and 2004-2005.

³ September 1 forecast discontinued in 2004. Preliminary production estimate will be published in the "Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts 2004 Preliminary Summary" to be released on January 25, 2005.

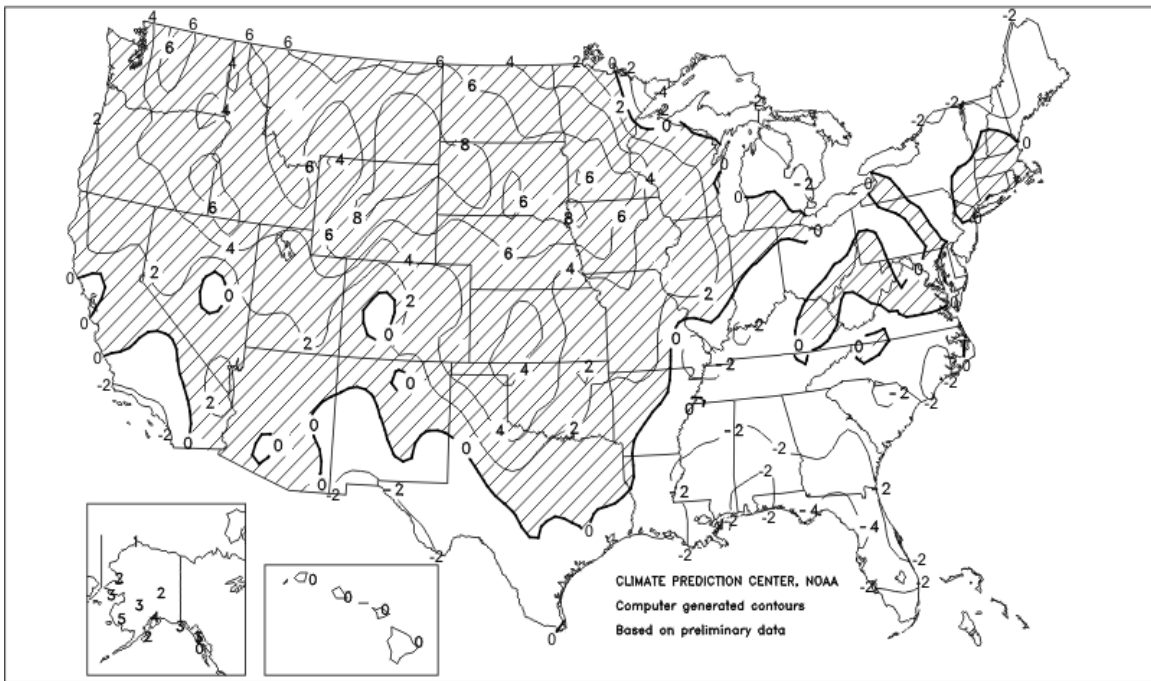
Percent Of Normal Precipitation

December 2004



Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

December 2004



December Weather Summary

December featured some brief but historically snowy, cold weather across the South. Ironically, wet snow—Deep South Texas' first accumulation in more than a century—helped to insulate citrus, sugarcane, and winter vegetables from a Christmas Day freeze. Meanwhile, warmer- and drier-than-normal weather prevailed in most areas from the High Plains to the Mississippi River, providing generally favorable conditions for overwintering grains. Somewhat wetter conditions were observed in the Great Lakes and Northeastern States, although much of the rain and snow fell early in the month. Farther south, a major snow and ice storm affected parts of the Ohio Valley and interior South on December 22-23. Toward the end of December, stormy weather returned to California, the Great Basin, and the Southwest, following nearly a month-long respite. The Western precipitation caused local flooding and mudslides, but padded high-elevation snow packs and further eased long-term drought. Farther north, however, snow packs remained mostly below normal for this time of year across the northern Rockies and northern Intermountain West.

There were also some wild temperature swings in all parts of the United States. Although monthly temperatures averaged as much as 8 degrees F above normal on the northern Plains, readings briefly dipped to -20 degrees F or lower in some locations on December 23. Two days later, the high-pressure system responsible for Montana's cold snap reached the Deep South, where southern Texas noted a hard freeze (temperatures of 28 degrees F or lower). However, cool conditions were most persistent in the Southeast, where monthly temperatures averaged as much as 4 degrees F below normal. Nevertheless, Florida's winter agricultural areas avoided a significant freeze, although temperatures flirted with the freezing mark (32 degrees F) in the State's northern citrus belt on December 15. Meanwhile, monthly temperatures were mostly above normal in the West, despite cool spells in early December and again after mid-month. The Northwest was especially warm, relative to normal.

December Crop Summary

Conditions were warm and mostly dry across the Great Plains and Corn Belt, encouraging final harvest of summer crops in the northernmost parts of the regions, where cool summer weather had previously delayed maturation and harvest. However, some scattered fields of corn and soybeans remained to be harvested. Snow accumulation was below normal across most northern areas, leaving winter wheat vulnerable to freeze damage.

Below-normal temperatures prevailed in the Delta and Southeast, with moderate to heavy precipitation. On Christmas morning, many areas along the western Gulf Coast, from New Orleans to the Rio Grande, were blanketed with snow -- for the first time in over 100 years for some locations. However, most crops in the area escaped serious damage, as temperatures fell below the critical 28 degrees Fahrenheit for only a few hours. Temperatures remained above freezing in Florida's citrus-producing area.

In the Ohio Valley and central Atlantic Coast States, temperatures averaged near normal for the month. Just after midmonth, an arctic blast dropped temperatures in the area and brought up to 2 feet of snow to some areas. However, warm weather after Christmas quickly melted accumulated snowfall. A few corn and soybean fields remained unharvested.

Both temperatures and precipitation were below normal in the Rocky Mountains. Though heavy snow fell in northern areas of the region toward month's end, snow accumulation remained well below normal, leaving winter wheat vulnerable to the cold.

Further west, above-normal temperatures prevailed along the Pacific Coast, encouraging winter wheat emergence. Heavy precipitation in the area replenished soil moisture and improved crop condition. However, snow accumulation was below average in most winter wheat-producing areas and was mostly insufficient to protect the crop from extreme cold weather.

Winter Potatoes: Production for 2005 is forecast at 4.66 million cwt, down 3 percent from a year ago but 16 percent above 2003. Harvested acreage in the two winter potato States (California and Florida) is estimated at 19,800 acres, up 7 percent from 2004, while the average yield is forecast at 235 cwt per acre, 25 cwt below last year. Harvest is underway in California's Kern County and proceeding normally. There have been no reports that the recent cold, wet weather has seriously affected the quality of the potatoes. In

Florida, mostly mild, dry fall weather provided good conditions for planting and crop development. Most acreage escaped damage from the cold, wet weather in late December.

Spring Potatoes: Production for 2004 is revised to 22.7 million cwt, up 19 percent from the May forecast but 7 percent below 2003. Harvested area totaled 72,200 acres, down 15 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 314 cwt per acre increased 26 cwt from 2003 and is a record high, 14 cwt above the previous record set in 1999.

Spring potato production in Texas decreased 26 percent from 2003 and 15 percent in Arizona. Production in North Carolina is down 9 percent from the previous year and Florida's crop is 4 percent below 2003. California's crop decreased 1 percent from last year. Record high yields in California partially offset an 8 percent decrease in harvested acres.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya utilization is estimated at 3.05 million pounds for December, 14 percent higher than last month but 2 percent lower than a year ago. Area in crop totaled 2,230 acres, 6 percent higher than last month and up 1 percent from a year ago. Harvested area totaled 1,395 acres, up 2 percent from last month and 3 percent above December 2003. Weather conditions were variable during December with a mix of showers and sunny periods. Soil moisture in non-irrigated orchards has been adequate.

Grapefruit: The U.S. grapefruit forecast is 985,000 tons, up 2 percent from the previous forecast but 54 percent below last season's final utilization. Florida's grapefruit forecast, at 13.0 million boxes (553,000 tons), is unchanged from December but 68 percent below last season's final utilization. The white grapefruit forecast is 3.00 million boxes (128,000 tons), unchanged from December but 81 percent below last season. White grapefruit size and drop projections have not changed since November. The colored grapefruit forecast, at 10.0 million boxes (425,000 tons), remains unchanged from December 1 but 60 percent below last season's final utilization.

California's grapefruit production forecast is 5.30 million boxes (178,000 tons), 2 percent above the October forecast but 2 percent below the 2003-04 season. Market conditions continue to be very strong as a result of the extensive losses in Florida. Pummelos were harvested in the Central Valley and Rio Red variety in the desert region. Quality is reported as fair to excellent. The forecast for Texas grapefruit is 6.20 million boxes (248,000 tons), 5 percent above the previous forecast and 9 percent greater than last season. Harvest is underway with favorable prices reported. Minimal damage resulted from the Christmas Eve snowstorm. Arizona's grapefruit forecast is 180,000 boxes (6,000 tons), 10 percent below the October 1 forecast but 29 percent above the 2003-04 season.

Lemons: The forecast for the 2004-05 U.S. lemon crop, at 832,000 tons, is unchanged from the October 1 forecast but up 4 percent from last season. California production is forecast at 19.5 million boxes (741,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but 8 percent above the 2003-04 season. Harvest is active in all three growing districts but it has been disrupted by rain. A light crop was reported in the Desert region due to a hot spell last March that affected the bloom, causing trees to shed fruit. Quality is reported as good. Arizona's 2004-05 lemon forecast, at 2.40 million boxes (91,000 tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but 20 percent below the previous season. Arizona's lemon harvest is underway but behind schedule as a result of the negative impact of high temperatures and lack of precipitation during the lemon bloom period.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast, at 1.10 million boxes (50,000 tons), is unchanged from December 1 but 10 percent more than last season's utilized production. Harvest of early varieties for fresh market is virtually complete. Harvest for processing is increasing weekly.

Tangerines: The 2004-05 U.S. tangerine crop forecast is 340,000 tons, down 1 percent from the previous forecast and 22 percent below last season's final utilization of 435,000 tons. Florida's tangerine crop, at 4.50 million boxes (214,000 tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but 31 percent below last season's utilization of 6.50 million boxes. Harvest of Florida's Fallglo tangerines is complete. Sunburst harvest is underway. The Honey variety average fruit size remains small and unchanged from last month but fruit drop rate has increased from 40 percent to 50 percent. The California tangerine forecast, at 2.90 million boxes (94,000 tons), is unchanged from October but up 7 percent from last season's final utilization. Harvest is underway but has been slowed by rain. Overall yield and fruit maturity were reported as good. Arizona's

forecast is 450,000 boxes (17,000 tons), down 10 percent from the previous estimate and 35 percent below last season.

Temples: Florida's Temples January 1 forecast, at 700,000 boxes (32,000 tons) for the 2004-05 season, is down 12 percent from December and 50 percent below last season's final utilization of 1.40 million boxes. Fruit drop rate, at 17 percent, is up 2 percent from the December forecast. If attained, this drop rate will be higher than any of the past 10 years. Average fruit size is small and slightly below the median when compared to the last 10 years.

Florida Citrus: Florida's citrus growing areas experienced mostly dry weather with moderate temperatures during most of December. Near the end of the month, temperatures reached the low 30's in some northern and central locations for very short durations. No damage or loss was reported. Most stations reported variable amounts of rainfall, from trace amounts to several inches. Most rainfall fell during the third week of the month. Some growers returned to irrigation on an irregular basis while others stopped irrigation to induce light tree stress to protect from any later cold weather. Citrus crops and trees in all areas are making good progress with no major problems reported. Fruit sizes are reported small for all types. Growers are conducting typical winter cultural practices including weed and cover crop control, dead tree removal and replacement, and hedging in southern areas. Clean up of groves affected by the hurricanes continues, including removal of blown over and split trees, and ditch and furrow maintenance. Several fresh fruit packinghouses did not open this season but others were packing Navel, Hamlin, and Pineapple oranges; Temples; limited amounts of white and colored grapefruit; and Sunburst and Honey tangerines. All processors are open to receive packinghouse eliminations and field run early oranges. Harvest labor has been slow to come to the State with spot shortages reported.

Arizona Citrus: Citrus growers in Yuma county reported approximately 70 percent of the lemon crop has been harvested at this time. Lemon harvest is behind schedule this year due to high temperatures the last two weeks of March hurting the lemon crop bloom. This, combined with no precipitation in August, contributed to lemons being nearly 20 percent lighter than last year. Nearly 10 percent of the grapefruit and tangerine/tangelo crop has also been harvested at this time. Harvest of these citrus crops is also behind schedule. In Maricopa county, approximately 63 percent of the navel and sweet oranges crop has been harvested. Lemons are 49 percent harvested and tangerines/tangelos are 15 percent harvested at this time. Citrus groves and quality of fruit are in good condition.

Texas Citrus: Rio Grande Valley producers continue to benefit from adequate water supplies. Both Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs are at adequate levels due to excess rain in the Trans Pecos region. A rare snowfall occurred in the Valley on Christmas Eve night and into the early morning of Christmas Day. Snow depths of 1 to 4 inches were common in many groves. According to several thermometer readings in the region, the lowest temperature was 26 to 27 degrees for 2 or 3 hours, with temperatures quickly rising above freezing. Reports show very little damage to fruit, with only small grapefruit and oranges on the top of trees in northwest corners of groves revealing any freeze damage. Nursery and young trees did have browning leaves from the freeze but are expected to make a full recovery. Price still remained favorable due to supply shortages. Very little was expected to be left in groves as producers are picking all they can. A majority of fruit still remained to be harvested by year's end.

California Citrus: Citrus growers applied pre-emergent herbicides and white wash in citrus groves. Citrus crops harvested included Navel oranges, Rio Red grapefruit, Satsuma mandarins, lemons, pummelos, tangerines, and clementines. The Navel crop was found to have some internal frost damage after it was received in the packing sheds. Some Navel trees began to exhibit fruit drop as a result of recent freezing temperatures followed by rain. Citrus fruit maturity and external color were excellent.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: Fruit growers continued seasonal cultural activities in tree fruit orchards and grape vineyards, but wet weather at the end of the month slowed activities in some areas. Field work included pruning, shredding, and applying pre-emergent herbicides and dormant sprays. Trees and vines in older orchards and vineyards were pushed out, stacked, and burned, and the land was prepared for new plantings. Trees that blew down during the fall storms were removed from productive orchards. Harvesting of pomegranates continued into December, but in most locations it was completed by the end of the first week of December. Persimmons were harvested throughout the month of December, but harvest was near completion by month's end. Strawberry, caneberry, and bareroot nursery stock digging was

underway. Avocado harvesting was also ongoing during December. Olive orchards were pruned and brush was shredded. Growers continued pruning, shredding, and pre-emergent herbicide applications in nut orchards. Removal of non-productive orchards and trees that blew down during recent storms also continued. Walnut orchards were fumigated. Hulling and shelling of stockpiled nuts were complete by the end of December.

Hay Stocks on Farms: Stocks of all hay stored on farms totaled 114 million tons on December 1, 2004, up 3 percent from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from May 2004 - December 2004 totaled 69.4 million tons, compared to 68.6 million tons for the same period a year ago.

Hay stocks increased in most of the southern Great Plains States. In some areas, the improvement of range and pasture conditions resulted in a decrease of supplemental feeding of hay. Stocks decreased compared to last year in many of the western States. In California, an increased demand by dairy producers resulted in reduced grower supply on hand late in the year.

Reliability of January 1 Orange Forecast

Survey Procedures: The orange objective yield survey for the January 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which produces about 75 percent of the U.S. production. In July and August, the number of bearing trees and the number of fruit per tree were determined. In subsequent months, fruit size measurement and fruit droppage surveys are conducted to develop the current forecast of production. Arizona, California, and Texas conduct grower and packer surveys on a quarterly basis in October, January, April, and July. California conducts an objective measurement survey 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 January 1 forecast.

Revision Policy: The January 1 production forecasts will not be revised. A new forecast will be made each month throughout the growing season. End-of-season estimates will be published in 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 January 1 production forecasts, the "Root Mean Square Error," a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the January 1 production forecast and the final estimate is expressed as a percentage of the final estimate. The average of squared percentage deviations for the latest 20-year period is computed. The square root of the average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error." Probability statements can be made concerning expected differences in the current forecast relative to the final end-of-season estimate, assuming that factors affecting this year's forecast are not different from those influencing recent years.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1 orange production forecast is 5.8 percent. However, if you exclude the five freeze seasons, the "Root Mean Square Error" is 4.1 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 5.8 percent, or 4.1 percent excluding freeze seasons. Chances are nine out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 10.0 percent, or 7.2 percent excluding freeze seasons.

Changes between the January 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 429,000 tons (378,000 tons, excluding freezes), ranging from 16,000 tons to 1.13 million tons (16,000 tons to 739,000 tons, excluding freezes). The January 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 6 times and above 14 times (below 6 times and above 9 times, excluding freeze seasons). The difference does not imply that the January 1 forecasts this year are likely to understate or overstate final production.

Information Contacts

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