



Crop Production

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All Orange Production Down 3 Percent

The U.S. all orange March forecast for the 2004-05 season is 9.38 million tons, down 3 percent from the February 1 forecast and 27 percent below last season's final utilization. Florida's all orange forecast, at 153 million boxes (6.89 million tons), is down 6 percent from last month and 37 percent below the 2003-04 season. Early and midseason varieties in Florida are forecast at 81.0 million boxes (3.65 million tons), down 4 percent from last month and 36 percent below the previous season. The harvest of the early and midseason varieties is nearly complete. The drop rate, at 18 percent, is above the past ten seasons for the early-midseason fruit. Florida's Valencia forecast is 72.0 million boxes (3.24 million tons), down 8 percent from the February forecast and 38 percent below last season's final utilization. Florida's average Valencia drop rate is increased from last month to 24 percent. Although not a record for a non-freeze year, it is the highest drop rate since the 1990-91 season. Valencia fruit size is less than projected last month and is smaller than nine of the last ten seasons.

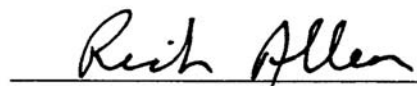
California's all orange forecast is 64.0 million boxes (2.40 million tons), up 6 percent from the January forecast and 23 percent above last season. Valencia oranges are forecast at 20.0 million boxes (750,000 tons), up 21 percent from the January forecast and 43 percent above last season's final utilization. Picking of Valencia oranges is underway in some of the southern growing regions. Overall, sizing appears to be down from the previous year but a significantly higher fruit set (807 fruit per tree compared to last season's fruit set of 392) accounts for the increase in production. Rapid decreases in Valencia acreage continue in most parts of the State, as growers abandon their groves or replace their Valencia trees with more profitable fruit or vegetable crops. California conducted an objective measurement survey for the March 1 forecast. The California navel forecast as well as Arizona and Texas orange production forecasts are carried forward from January.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield for the 2004-05 season, at 1.58 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, is unchanged from last month. The early-midseason portion is increased from 1.52 to 1.53 gallons per box. The Valencia portion remains at 1.66 gallons per box. 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 March 10, 2005.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
J. B. Penn



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Rich Allen

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**Sugarcane: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Use, State, and United States, 2003-2004**

Use and State	Area Harvested		Yield ¹		Production ¹	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
For Sugar						
FL	419.0	403.0	39.3	33.8	16,467	13,621
HI ²	19.9	21.5	102.0	96.0	2,030	2,064
LA ²	450.0	430.0	26.2	24.0	11,790	10,320
TX ²	41.7	42.7	39.7	40.0	1,655	1,708
US	930.6	897.2	34.3	30.9	31,942	27,713
For Seed						
FL	19.0	17.0	40.2	37.3	764	634
HI ²	1.4	1.6	37.3	37.0	52	59
LA ²	40.0	35.0	26.2	24.0	1,048	840
TX ²	1.3	1.3	40.2	38.0	52	49
US	61.7	54.9	31.1	28.8	1,916	1,582
For Sugar and Seed						
FL	438.0	420.0	39.3	33.9	17,231	14,255
HI ²	21.3	23.1	97.7	91.9	2,082	2,123
LA ²	490.0	465.0	26.2	24.0	12,838	11,160
TX ²	43.0	44.0	39.7	39.9	1,707	1,757
US	992.3	952.1	34.1	30.8	33,858	29,295

¹ Net tons.

² Estimates are carried forward from the "Crop Production 2004 Summary."

Papayas: Area and Fresh Production, by Month, Hawaii, 2004-2005

Month	Area				Fresh Production ¹	
	Total in Crop		Harvested		2004	2005
	2004	2005	2004	2005		
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Jan	2,210	2,245	1,340	1,410	3,560	2,540
Feb	2,200	2,250	1,345	1,410	2,775	2,280

¹ Utilized fresh production.

**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
2002-2003, 2003-2004 and Forecasted March 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 ⁴	200	300	240	8	12	9
CA ⁴	42,000	38,000	44,000	1,575	1,426	1,650
FL	112,000	126,000	81,000	5,040	5,670	3,645
TX ⁴	1,350	1,420	1,500	57	60	64
US	155,550	165,720	126,740	6,680	7,168	5,368
Valencia						
AZ ⁴	270	170	190	10	6	7
CA	20,000	14,000	20,000	751	526	750
FL	91,000	116,000	72,000	4,095	5,220	3,240
TX ⁴	220	230	250	9	10	11
US	111,490	130,400	92,440	4,865	5,762	4,008
All						
AZ ⁴	470	470	430	18	18	16
CA	62,000	52,000	64,000	2,326	1,952	2,400
FL	203,000	242,000	153,000	9,135	10,890	6,885
TX ⁴	1,570	1,650	1,750	66	70	75
US	267,040	296,120	219,180	11,545	12,930	9,376
Temples						
FL	1,300	1,400	700	59	63	32
Grapefruit						
White Seedless ⁵						
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 ⁴	130	140	180	4	5	6
CA ⁴	5,600	5,400	5,300	187	181	178
FL	38,700	40,900	13,000	1,646	1,738	553
TX ⁴	5,650	5,700	6,200	226	228	248
US	50,080	52,140	24,680	2,063	2,152	985
Tangerines						
AZ ^{4 6}	430	690	450	16	25	17
CA ^{4 6}	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 ⁴						
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	1,500	105	45	68

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.

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	9,376
Tangelos (FL)	“	105	45	68
Tangerines	“	382	435	340
Temples (FL)	“	59	63	32
Noncitrus				
Apples	1,000 Lbs	8,713.1	10,078.3	
Apricots	Ton	97.6	100.7	
Bananas (HI) ³	Lb	22,500.0		
Grapes	Ton	6,552.5	5,972.5	
Olives (CA)	“	118.0	104.0	
Papayas (HI)	Lb	42,600.0	35,500.0	
Peaches	Ton	1,259.5	1,279.1	
Pears	Ton	928.1	893.3	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	“	181.0	49.0	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	“	16.3	24.9	
Nuts & Misc.				
Almonds (CA)	Lb	1,040,000	1,020,000	
Hazelnuts (OR)	Ton	37.9	37.0	
Pecans	Lb	282,100	181,000	
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 2004 not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

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	8,505,760
Tangelos (FL)	95,250	40,820	61,690
Tangerines	346,540	394,630	308,440
Temples (FL)	53,520	57,150	29,030
Noncitrus			
Apples	3,952,200	4,571,440	
Apricots	88,520	91,380	
Bananas (HI) ³	10,210		
Grapes	5,944,360	5,418,160	
Olives (CA)	107,050	94,350	
Papayas (HI)	19,320	16,100	
Peaches	1,142,600	1,160,390	
Pears	841,910	810,350	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	164,200	44,450	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	14,790	22,590	
Nuts & Misc.			
Almonds (CA)	471,740	462,660	
Hazelnuts (OR)	34,380	33,570	
Pecans	127,960	82,100	
Walnuts (CA)	295,740	294,840	
Maple Syrup	6,300	7,530	

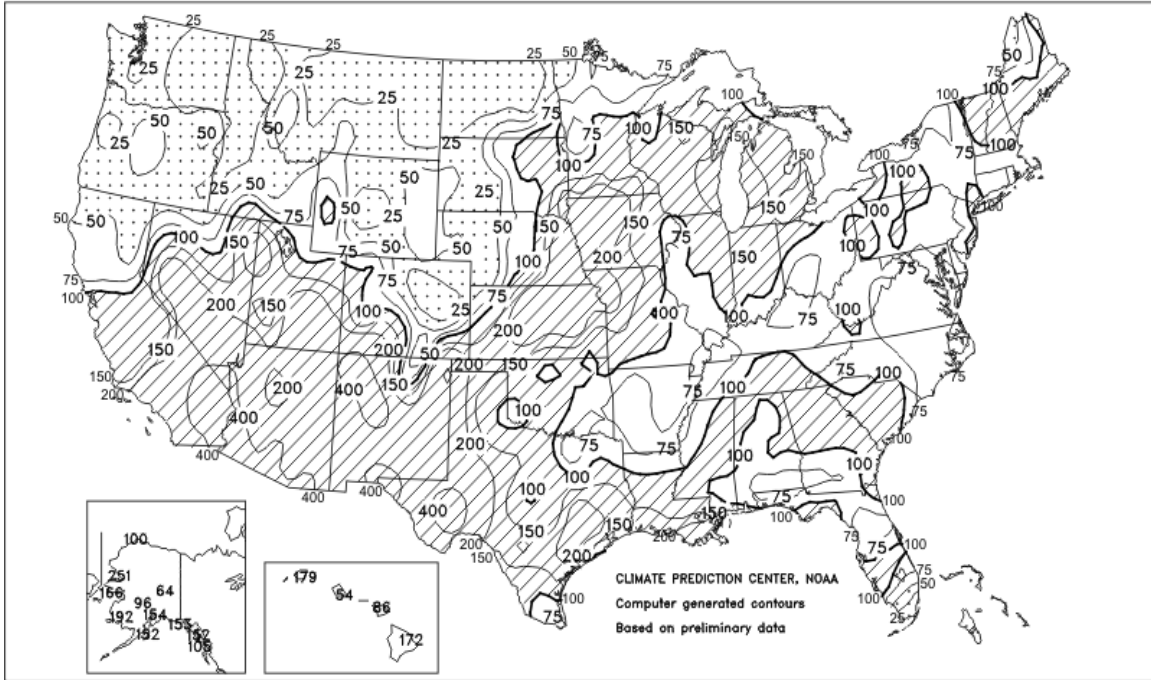
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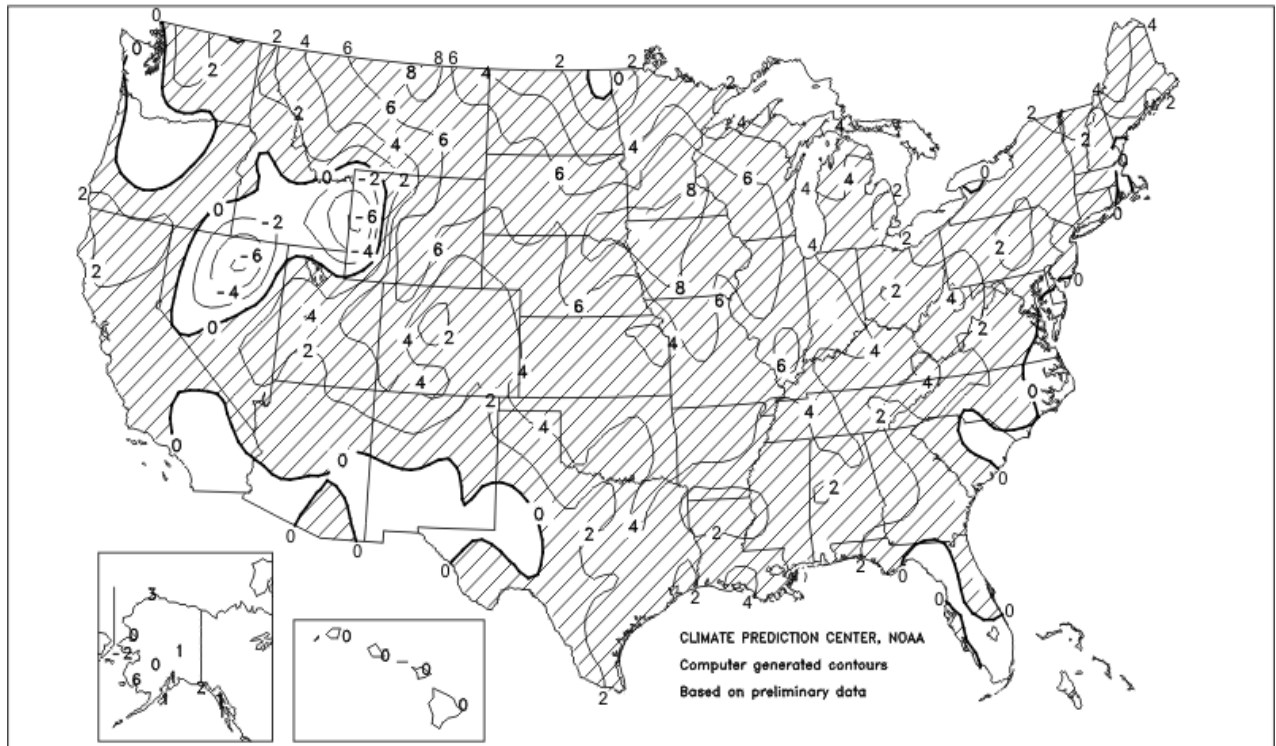
Percent Of Normal Precipitation

February 2005



Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

February 2005



February Weather Summary

Continuing a winter-long trend, unfavorably dry weather in the Northwest contrasted with excessive precipitation in southern California and parts of the Southwest. By the end of February, Northwestern drought-related concerns included diminishing moisture reserves for winter grains, meager high-elevation snow packs, and poor spring and summer runoff prospects. Meanwhile, Southwestern storminess caused flash flooding and mudslides but continued to ease or eradicate long-term drought, although some large reservoirs remained low.

A similar weather pattern prevailed on the Plains, where persistently dry weather across northern areas contrasted with widespread precipitation from southeastern Nebraska and Kansas southward. On the drought-affected northern High Plains, winter wheat-related concerns included soil moisture shortages and the crop's exposure to occasional temperature and wind extremes. By month's end, warm weather prompted winter wheat to begin breaking dormancy as far north as the central Plains.

Farther east, below-normal February precipitation across much of the South promoted late-winter fieldwork but reduced topsoil moisture for pastures and winter grains. However, a pattern change toward month's end produced widespread rain and was especially beneficial across Florida's peninsula, reducing the threat of wildfires and easing citrus irrigation demands.

Elsewhere, snow fell frequently during February across the Great Lakes and Northeastern States, while widespread showers maintained soggy conditions in feedlots and winter wheat fields across the southern and eastern Corn Belt. However, the upper Midwest continued to experience relatively mild winter conditions, with above-normal temperatures and generally light snow.

Above-normal temperatures prevailed nearly nationwide during February, with the warmest weather, relative to normal, affecting the upper Midwest (5 to 10 degrees F above normal). Near-to slightly below-normal temperatures were confined to the Rio Grande Valley, parts of the West, and areas along and near the Atlantic Coast.

February Crop Summary

Conditions were very dry in the northern Great Plains, with little or no precipitation during February. Snow cover in the region remained well below normal and nonexistent in most areas, leaving winter wheat unprotected from cold weather. Temperatures averaged well above normal but occasionally fell below 0 degrees Fahrenheit, causing concern among growers. In contrast, the central and southern Great Plains had abundant precipitation, causing continued delays in fieldwork. The cotton harvest in Texas, usually complete by the end of January, remained incomplete as of February 27.

Moderate precipitation, including occasional snow showers, saturated fields in the southern and eastern Corn Belt. With frequent repetition of the freeze-thaw cycle, soil heaving remained a problem in the region. Elsewhere in the Corn Belt, precipitation was light to moderate, and temperatures were well above normal.

In the Mississippi Delta and Southeast, moderate to heavy precipitation hampered land preparation activities in some areas. Mild temperatures in most areas promoted growth of winter grains and vegetables. Unlike most of the region, cool, dry conditions prevailed in Florida. Temperatures dropped below freezing in the central part of the State but the citrus-growing area avoided freeze damage.

Persistent stormy weather occurred in the Southwest, causing repeated flooding in southern California and some fieldwork delays in citrus groves and vegetable fields. Farther east, however, the precipitation was generally beneficial, increasing soil moisture and recharging reservoirs in the southern and central Rocky Mountains.

Dry conditions prevailed in the northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest, particularly in the interior crop-producing areas. Snow cover in the region remained well below normal throughout the month, leaving most of the winter wheat crop exposed. Temperatures averaged slightly above normal for the month but dropped to as low as 10 degrees Fahrenheit around midmonth.

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2004 is estimated at 29.3 million tons, unchanged from last month but 13 percent below 2003. Area harvested and to be harvested for sugar and seed for the 2004 crop year, at 952,100 acres, is 4 percent less than last year's harvested area. Yield is forecast at 30.8 tons per acre, the same as February but 3.3 tons below the 2003 crop.

Estimates for Hawaii, Louisiana, and Texas are carried forward from January. Though harvest was still ongoing in Florida at month's end, estimates of acreage, yield, and production are unchanged from February's forecast.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya utilization is estimated at 2.28 million pounds for February, 10 percent lower than last month and 18 percent less than a year ago. Area in crop totaled 2,250 acres, virtually unchanged from last month but 2 percent higher than a year ago. Harvested area totaled 1,410 acres, unchanged from last month but 5 percent higher than February 2004. The weather conditions were variable during February with a mix of showers and sunny periods. Cooler temperatures and shorter days have slowed crop progress. Soil moisture in non-irrigated orchards has been irregular but adequate. The erratic precipitation pattern is a contributing factor to February's reduced production.

Grapefruit: The U.S. grapefruit forecast is 985,000 tons, unchanged 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 February but 68 percent below last season's final utilization. If realized, this will be the lowest grapefruit utilization since the 1935-36 season. The white grapefruit forecast is 3.00 million boxes (128,000 tons), unchanged from February but 81 percent below last season. The colored grapefruit forecast, at 10.0 million boxes (425,000 tons), remains unchanged from February 1 but 60 percent below last season's final utilization. Results of the row count survey conducted on March 1-2, in conjunction with utilization through that time, is the primary indicator for the March grapefruit forecast. Results of the size and drop surveys conducted during February indicate projected size is larger and the drop rate is higher for all grapefruit varieties. Arizona, California, and Texas grapefruit forecasts are carried forward from February.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast, at 1.50 million boxes (68,000 tons), is up 7 percent from February 1 and 50 percent more than last season's utilized production. The increase is based primarily on row count data and estimated utilization.

Tangerines: The 2004-05 U.S. tangerine crop forecast is 340,000 tons, unchanged from the previous forecast but 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 continues. The Honey variety fruit drop rate during February increased 14 percentage points from 53 percent to 67 percent. Although not the highest tangerine drop rate on record, this year's drop rate is higher than nine of the last ten seasons. Arizona and California tangerine forecasts are carried forward from February.

Temples: Florida's Temple forecast is 700,000 boxes (32,000 tons) for the 2004-05 season, unchanged from February but 50 percent below last season's final utilization of 1.40 million boxes. Just over 45 percent of the rows have been picked.

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 with temperatures in the upper 30's to low 40's on several mornings. Daytime highs reached to the low 80's on several days. There was no frost reported during the month. Very little rainfall occurred during the first three weeks of February. However, a slow moving cold front during the last weekend of the month dropped much needed rain over the entire citrus producing area. Some coastal areas received over 5 inches of precipitation, while interior areas generally received over 2 inches. Citrus trees in all areas are in good to excellent condition in spite of the relatively dry weather of the past several months. New growth was reported about mid-month in some southern locations and statewide by the end of the month. Some early orange varieties in the southern groves are showing small amounts of open bloom. Later blooming varieties, like tangerines, are starting to show buds forming. Upper interior and central area groves are entering the bloom cycle with swelling buds just beginning to show.

Early-midseason weekly 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 shipments increased during the month with harvest for processing increasing near the end of the month. Early variety tangerine harvest is almost complete and Honey tangerine harvest is well under way. Tangelo harvest is nearly complete and Temple harvest for processing usage is heavy.

California Citrus: Growers were actively applying herbicides and fungicides to citrus groves during February. However, rain the last half of the month caused delays and cancellations in field work. Harvesting of navel oranges continued but pack-outs remained low during February due to rind decay, peel miner, and end splits. Lemon harvesting in the Desert region came to a close but continued in the Central Valley and South Coastal area. Satsumas and Clementines were harvested in the San Joaquin Valley. Fairchild and Minneola tangerines and Rio Red grapefruit were harvested from the Desert region.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: Warm weather during the first half of February prompted blooming to start in almond, apricot, peach, plum, cherry, and nectarine orchards across the State. Early variety peach trees started leafing out. The bloom prompted growers to begin applying blossom sprays to fruit and nut orchards. Pruning, shredding, and weed removal activities also continued. Blossom thinning to increase fruit marketability, and to reduce the biennial bearing tendency in some varieties, was also underway in a few plum orchards. Rain showers late in the month delayed field work for some growers, as they continued to apply pesticides and prepare open land for new plantings. Bees were placed in almond orchards to aid in pollination but the rainy weather resulted in unfavorable pollinating conditions. Cultural activities, including pruning, tying canes, repairing trellis wire, and replacing end posts were completed in many grape vineyards. Buds were beginning to swell by month's end in San Joaquin Valley's vineyards and bud break was noted in the Sanger district. Strawberry plants in the San Joaquin Valley continued to progress normally and blueberry bushes were blooming. Avocado harvest continued but was delayed by the rain.

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 3.2 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 3.2 percent, or 3.0 percent excluding freeze seasons. Chances are nine out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.6 percent, or 5.3 percent excluding freeze seasons.

Changes between the March 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 239,000 tons (226,000 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 6 times and above 9 times, excluding freeze seasons). The difference does not imply that the March 1 forecasts this year are likely to understate or overstate final production.

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