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## All Orange Production Down 2 Percent

**The U.S. all orange** April 1 forecast for the 2004-05 season is 9.19 million tons, down 2 percent from the March 1 forecast and 29 percent below last season's final utilization. Florida's all orange forecast, at 151 million boxes (6.80 million tons), is down 1 percent from the previous forecast and 38 percent below the previous season. Early and midseason varieties in Florida are forecast at 79.2 million boxes (3.56 million tons), down 2 percent from last month and 37 percent below the previous season. Harvest of the early and midseason varieties is almost complete with the row count survey conducted March 30-31 showing 97 percent of the rows harvested. Florida's Valencia forecast is 72.0 million boxes (3.24 million tons), unchanged from the March forecast but 38 percent below last season's final utilization. Most citrus trees in Florida groves are in excellent condition and showing new growth. Citrus trees were in full bloom or approaching the peak bloom by the end of the March. However, trees damaged severely by the hurricanes are showing some die back of small limbs.

California's all orange forecast, at 61.0 million boxes (2.29 million tons), is down 5 percent from the January forecast but 17 percent above the previous season. California's navel orange forecast, at 43.0 million boxes (1.61 million tons), is down 2 percent from the previous forecast but 13 percent above last season. Harvesting of navel oranges was active throughout March, although at a slow pace due to continued rainfall. Despite the heavy precipitation, good fruit quality is reported. The Valencia forecast, at 18.0 million boxes (675,000 tons), is down 10 percent from the previous forecast but up 29 percent from last season. 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. Fruit quality is good in both districts. Most of the Central Valley Valencia crop is being packed for export. The Texas all orange forecast is 1.98 million boxes (84,000 tons), up 13 percent from the January 1 forecast and 20 percent more than last season's utilized production. Texas citrus farmers report an excellent year with no major diseases affecting the crop. High demand for citrus fruit continues due to Florida's limited citrus supply this season. Arizona's all orange utilization forecast, at 430,000 boxes (16,000 tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but 9 percent below the 2003-04 season. Arizona's navel orange harvest is complete, while picking of Valencia oranges is behind schedule. Arizona's citrus groves are reported to be in good condition. Good fruit quality is also reported.

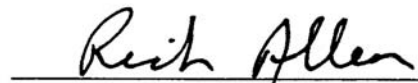
**Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ)** yield for the 2004-05 season, at 1.58 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, is unchanged from last month. The early-midseason portion is final at 1.53 gallons per box. The Valencia portion remains at 1.66 gallons per box. All projections of yield assume that the processing relationship this year will be similar to those of the past several years.

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This report was approved on April 8, 2005.



Secretary of  
Agriculture  
Mike Johanns



Agricultural Statistics Board  
Chairperson  
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**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,  
2002-2003, 2003-2004 and Forecasted April 1, 2005 <sup>1 2</sup>**

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 <sup>3</sup></i>	<i>1,000 Boxes <sup>3</sup></i>	<i>1,000 Boxes <sup>3</sup></i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel <sup>4</sup>						
AZ	200	300	240	8	12	9
CA	42,000	38,000	43,000	1,575	1,426	1,613
FL	112,000	126,000	79,200	5,040	5,670	3,564
TX	1,350	1,420	1,750	57	60	74
US	155,550	165,720	124,190	6,680	7,168	5,260
Valencia						
AZ	270	170	190	10	6	7
CA	20,000	14,000	18,000	751	526	675
FL	91,000	116,000	72,000	4,095	5,220	3,240
TX	220	230	230	9	10	10
US	111,490	130,400	90,420	4,865	5,762	3,932
All						
AZ	470	470	430	18	18	16
CA	62,000	52,000	61,000	2,326	1,952	2,288
FL	203,000	242,000	151,200	9,135	10,890	6,804
TX	1,570	1,650	1,980	66	70	84
US	267,040	296,120	214,610	11,545	12,930	9,192
Temples						
FL	1,300	1,400	650	59	63	29
Grapefruit						
White Seedless <sup>5</sup>						
FL	16,200	15,900	3,500	689	675	149
Colored Seedless						
FL	22,500	25,000	9,500	957	1,063	404
All						
AZ	130	140	160	4	5	5
CA	5,600	5,400	5,400	187	181	181
FL	38,700	40,900	13,000	1,646	1,738	553
TX	5,650	5,700	6,500	226	228	260
US	50,080	52,140	25,060	2,063	2,152	999
Tangerines						
AZ <sup>6</sup>	430	690	400	16	25	15
CA <sup>6</sup>	2,800	2,700	3,000	105	101	113
FL	5,500	6,500	4,450	261	309	211
US	8,730	9,890	7,850	382	435	339
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	1,550	105	45	70

<sup>1</sup> The crop year begins with the bloom of the first year shown and ends with the completion of harvest the following year.

<sup>2</sup> 2003-04 open for revision but none made.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

<sup>5</sup> Includes seedy.

<sup>6</sup> Includes tangelos and tangors.

**Potatoes: Area Planted and 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	250	2,635	3,250	3,500
FL	5.7	6.0	5.5	5.8	285	270	1,392	1,568	1,566
Total	18.7	20.0	18.5	19.8	260	256	4,027	4,818	5,066
Spring									
AZ	6.2	4.0	6.2	4.0	285	280	2,090	1,767	1,120
CA	17.5	13.8	17.5	13.8	475	390	8,360	8,313	5,382
FL	24.8	23.6	24.5	23.2	313	302	8,008	7,678	7,014
Hastings	18.2	17.3	18.0	17.0	320	305	5,684	5,760	5,185
Other FL	6.6	6.3	6.5	6.2	295	295	2,324	1,918	1,829
NC	17.0	14.0	13.5	13.0	200	190	2,975	2,700	2,470
TX	11.0	9.5	10.5	9.1	210	210	3,000	2,205	1,911
Total	76.5	64.9	72.2	63.1	314	284	24,433	22,663	17,897
Summer <sup>1</sup>									
AL	2.3		1.3		175		333	228	
CA	7.0		7.0		350		2,772	2,450	
CO	5.9		5.8		365		2,304	2,117	
DE	3.3		3.1		260		864	806	
IL	5.0		4.8		415		2,196	1,992	
KS	3.5		3.4		400		1,026	1,360	
MD	4.7		4.6		260		1,104	1,196	
MO	6.9		6.2		310		1,882	1,922	
NJ	2.3		2.2		270		675	594	
NM <sup>2</sup>	1.2		1.0		340		532	340	
TX	10.4		9.6		440		3,528	4,224	
VA	6.0		5.0		240		1,550	1,200	
Total	58.5		54.0		341		18,766	18,429	

<sup>1</sup> 2004 revised.

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

Month	Area				Fresh Production <sup>1</sup>	
	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>
Feb	2,200	2,250	1,345	1,410	2,775	2,280
Mar	2,110	2,490	1,160	1,435	2,815	2,310

<sup>1</sup> Utilized fresh production.

**Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2004-2005**  
(Domestic Units) <sup>1</sup>

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	3,974.0	4,021.0	
Corn for Grain <sup>2</sup>	80,930.0	81,413.0	73,632.0	
Corn for Silage			6,103.0	
Hay, All			61,916.0	62,940.0
Alfalfa			21,707.0	
All Other			40,209.0	
Oats	4,085.0	4,267.0	1,792.0	
Proso Millet	710.0		595.0	
Rice	3,347.0	3,358.0	3,325.0	
Rye	1,380.0		320.0	
Sorghum for Grain <sup>2</sup>	7,486.0	7,400.0	6,517.0	
Sorghum for Silage			352.0	
Wheat, All	59,674.0	58,592.0	49,999.0	
Winter	43,350.0	41,613.0	34,462.0	
Durum	2,561.0	2,608.0	2,363.0	
Other Spring	13,763.0	14,371.0	13,174.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	865.0	1,047.0	828.0	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	523.0	919.0	516.0	
Mustard Seed	73.0		68.7	
Peanuts	1,430.0	1,597.0	1,394.0	
Rapeseed	8.7		7.8	
Safflower	175.0		159.0	
Soybeans for Beans	75,208.0	73,910.0	73,958.0	
Sunflower	1,873.0	2,750.0	1,711.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	13,658.6	13,815.0	13,057.0	
Upland	13,409.0	13,540.0	12,809.0	
Amer-Pima	249.6	275.0	248.0	
Sugarbeets	1,346.0	1,299.0	1,306.7	
Sugarcane			952.1	
Tobacco			409.1	319.9
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	30.5		21.5	
Dry Edible Beans	1,354.3	1,663.5	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	1,193.4		1,167.5	
Winter	18.7	20.0	18.5	19.8
Spring	76.5	64.9	72.2	63.1
Summer	58.5		54.0	
Fall	1,039.7		1,022.8	
Spearmint Oil			15.1	
Sweet Potatoes	97.4	94.9	93.3	
Taro (HI) <sup>3</sup>			0.4	

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Area planted for all purposes.

<sup>3</sup> Area is total acres in crop, not harvested acreage.

**Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 2004-2005**  
(Domestic Units) <sup>1</sup>

Crop	Unit	Yield		Production	
		2004	2005	2004	2005
				<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
<b>Grains &amp; Hay</b>					
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 <sup>2</sup>	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	
<b>Oilseeds</b>					
Canola	Lb	1,618		1,339,530	
Cottonseed <sup>3</sup>	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	
<b>Cotton, Tobacco &amp; Sugar Crops</b>					
Cotton, All <sup>2</sup>	Bale	846		23,006.0	
Upland <sup>2</sup>	"	835		22,270.0	
Amer-Pima <sup>2</sup>	"	1,425		736.0	
Sugarbeets	Ton	22.9		29,932	
Sugarcane	"	30.8		29,295	
Tobacco	Lb	2,159		883,171	
<b>Dry Beans, Peas &amp; Lentils</b>					
Austrian Winter Peas <sup>2</sup>	Cwt	1,228		264	
Dry Edible Beans <sup>2</sup>	"	1,460		17,799	
Dry Edible Peas <sup>2</sup>	"	2,249		11,419	
Lentils <sup>2</sup>	"	1,271		4,182	
Wrinkled Seed Peas <sup>3</sup>	"			899	
<b>Potatoes &amp; Misc.</b>					
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		455,933	
Winter	"	260	256	4,818	5,066
Spring	"	314	284	22,663	17,897
Summer	"	341		18,429	
Fall	"	401		410,023	
Spearmint Oil	Lb	116		1,746	
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt	176		16,399	
Taro (HI) <sup>3</sup>	Lb			5,200	

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Yield in pounds.

<sup>3</sup> Yield is not estimated.

**Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2003-2005**  
(Domestic Units) <sup>1</sup>

Crop	Unit	Production		
		2003	2004	2005
		<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Citrus <sup>2</sup>				
Grapefruit	Ton	2,063	2,152	999
Lemons	“	1,026	798	832
Oranges	“	11,545	12,930	9,192
Tangelos (FL)	“	105	45	70
Tangerines	“	382	435	339
Temples (FL)	“	59	63	29
Noncitrus				
Apples	1,000 Lbs	8,713.1	10,078.3	
Apricots	Ton	97.6	100.7	
Bananas (HI) <sup>3</sup>	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	

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Production years are 2002-2003, 2003-2004, and 2004-2005.

<sup>3</sup> 2004 not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.



**Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2004-2005**  
(Metric Units) <sup>1</sup>

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
<b>Grains &amp; Hay</b>				
Barley	1,832,030	1,608,240	1,627,260	
Corn for Grain <sup>2</sup>	32,751,560	32,947,030	29,798,130	
Corn for Silage			2,469,820	
Hay, All <sup>3</sup>			25,056,790	25,471,190
Alfalfa			8,784,610	
All Other			16,272,180	
Oats	1,653,160	1,726,810	725,200	
Proso Millet	287,330		240,790	
Rice	1,354,500	1,358,950	1,345,590	
Rye	558,470		129,500	
Sorghum for Grain <sup>2</sup>	3,029,510	2,994,710	2,637,360	
Sorghum for Silage			142,450	
Wheat, All <sup>3</sup>	24,149,470	23,711,600	20,234,100	
Winter	17,543,310	16,840,360	13,946,430	
Durum	1,036,410	1,055,430	956,280	
Other Spring	5,569,750	5,815,800	5,331,390	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola	350,060	423,710	335,080	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	211,650	371,910	208,820	
Mustard Seed	29,540		27,800	
Peanuts	578,710	646,290	564,140	
Rapeseed	3,520		3,160	
Safflower	70,820		64,350	
Soybeans for Beans	30,435,930	29,910,640	29,930,060	
Sunflower	757,980	1,112,900	692,420	
<b>Cotton, Tobacco &amp; Sugar Crops</b>				
Cotton, All <sup>3</sup>	5,527,500	5,590,790	5,284,040	
Upland	5,426,490	5,479,500	5,183,670	
Amer-Pima	101,010	111,290	100,360	
Sugarbeets	544,710	525,690	528,810	
Sugarcane			385,310	
Tobacco			165,540	129,440
<b>Dry Beans, Peas &amp; Lentils</b>				
Austrian Winter Peas	12,340		8,700	
Dry Edible Beans	548,070	673,200	493,440	
Dry Edible Peas	214,490		205,500	
Lentils	139,620		133,140	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
<b>Potatoes &amp; Misc.</b>				
Coffee (HI)			2,350	
Ginger Root (HI)			60	
Hops			11,230	
Peppermint Oil			31,440	
Potatoes, All <sup>3</sup>	482,960		472,480	
Winter	7,570	8,090	7,490	8,010
Spring	30,960	26,260	29,220	25,540
Summer	23,670		21,850	
Fall	420,760		413,920	
Spearmint Oil			6,110	
Sweet Potatoes	39,420	38,410	37,760	
Taro (HI) <sup>4</sup>			150	

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Area planted for all purposes.

<sup>3</sup> Total may not add due to rounding.

<sup>4</sup> Area is total hectares in crop, not harvested hectares.

**Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 2004-2005**  
(Metric Units) <sup>1</sup>

Crop	Yield		Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>
<b>Grains &amp; Hay</b>				
Barley	3.74		6,080,020	
Corn for Grain	10.06		299,917,130	
Corn for Silage	39.43		97,373,580	
Hay, All <sup>2</sup>	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 <sup>2</sup>	2.90		58,737,800	
Winter	2.93		40,807,910	
Durum	2.56		2,446,490	
Other Spring	2.90		15,483,410	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola	1.81		607,600	
Cottonseed <sup>3</sup>			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	
<b>Cotton, Tobacco &amp; Sugar Crops</b>				
Cotton, All <sup>2</sup>	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	
<b>Dry Beans, Peas &amp; Lentils</b>				
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 <sup>3</sup>			40,780	
<b>Potatoes &amp; Misc.</b>				
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 <sup>2</sup>	43.77		20,680,770	
Winter	29.19	28.68	218,540	229,790
Spring	35.18	31.79	1,027,980	811,790
Summer	38.25		835,930	
Fall	44.93		18,598,330	
Spearmint Oil	0.13		790	
Sweet Potatoes	19.70		743,850	
Taro (HI) <sup>3</sup>			2,360	

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Production may not add due to rounding.

<sup>3</sup> Yield is not estimated.

**Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2003-2005**  
(Metric Units) <sup>1</sup>

Crop	Production		
	2003	2004	2005
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>
Citrus <sup>2</sup>			
Grapefruit	1,871,520	1,952,260	906,280
Lemons	930,770	723,930	754,780
Oranges	10,473,450	11,729,900	8,338,840
Tangelos (FL)	95,250	40,820	63,500
Tangerines	346,540	394,630	307,540
Temples (FL)	53,520	57,150	26,310
Noncitrus			
Apples	3,952,200	4,571,440	
Apricots	88,520	91,380	
Bananas (HI) <sup>3</sup>	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	

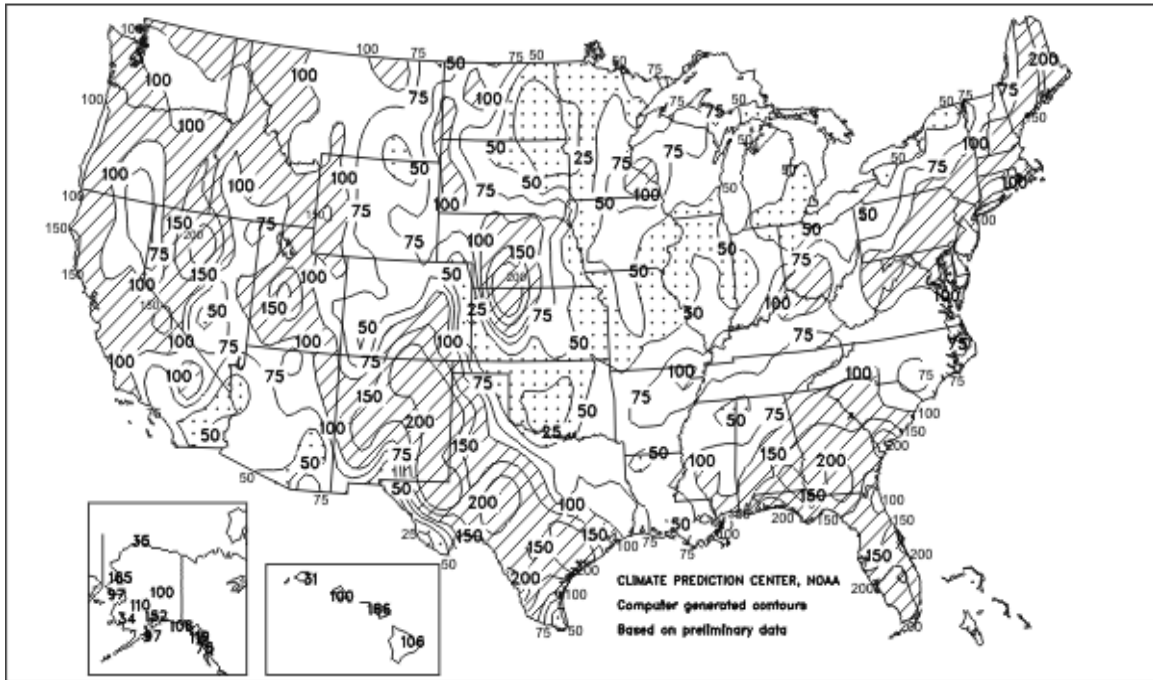
<sup>1</sup> Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2005 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2004-05 season.

<sup>2</sup> Production years are 2002-03, 2003-04, and 2004-05.

<sup>3</sup> 2004 not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

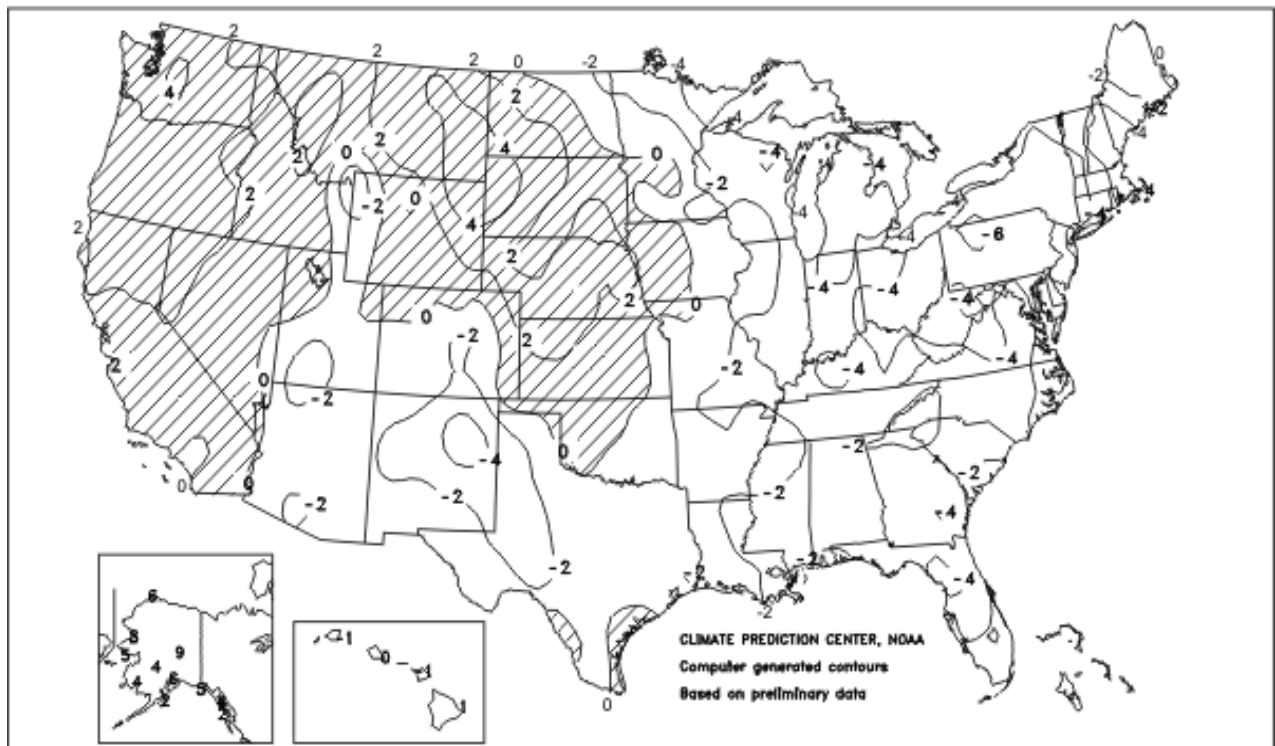
# Percent Of Normal Precipitation

March 2005



# Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

March 2005



## March Weather Summary

The mid-March arrival of much-needed precipitation improved prospects for Northwestern pastures and winter grains, but provided only limited relief from long-term, hydrological drought. Farther south, mid- to late-March precipitation maintained abundant high-elevation snow packs from the Sierra Nevada eastward to the Four Corners States, but slowed spring fieldwork in California. Meanwhile, heavy snow blanketed the northern High Plains, providing highly beneficial moisture for pastures and winter wheat, despite underlying subsoil moisture shortages. Significant precipitation also dampened portions of the central Plains, especially across central Nebraska. In contrast, most of Oklahoma and adjacent areas experienced a March drying trend, promoting fieldwork but reducing topsoil moisture reserves. Drier-than-normal weather also prevailed in much of the Midwest, allowing spring planting preparations to begin in many areas and helping to reduce pockets of lingering wetness across the southern and eastern Corn Belt. Elsewhere, frequent storminess affected the South and East. The first half of the month featured three major Northeastern snowstorms, while a series of disturbances crossed the South. Rainfall, initially beneficial across the Southeast, began to hamper planting operations and other spring fieldwork late in the month. In the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern States, a pair of late-month storms produced heavy rain, combining with melting snow to cause local flooding and setting the stage for more widespread flooding in early April.

Cold weather prevailed across the eastern half of the nation during the first 3 weeks of March, followed by a late-month warming trend. Monthly temperatures generally ranged from 2 to 6 degrees F below normal in the Great Lakes and Northeastern States. In contrast, early-month warmth in the West yielded to stormy, cooler weather thereafter. Nevertheless, March readings averaged as much as 5 degrees F above normal across the northern Plains and the Northwest.

## March Crop Summary

Heavy precipitation fell along the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf Coasts. Temperatures were above normal in the northern and central Great Plains, northern Rocky Mountains, Great Basin, and along the Pacific Coast, while below-normal temperatures prevailed elsewhere.

Persistent precipitation hindered fieldwork in the Ohio Valley and southern Corn Belt. Growers in these areas were concerned about the effects of soil heaving on winter wheat acreage. In other areas of the Corn Belt, precipitation and temperatures were mostly below normal. However, soil moisture in the region was adequate to surplus. Field preparation was active under mostly favorable conditions.

In the northern Great Plains, dry conditions continued to cause soil moisture concerns. Though temperatures averaged above normal for the month, the lack of snow cover left winter wheat exposed to brief periods of bitterly cold temperatures. Precipitation levels were near normal in the central Great Plains, with above-normal temperatures. In the southern Great Plains, planting of summer crops was active, with some weather delays.

In the Pacific Northwest, periods of heavy rainfall helped to increase soil moisture levels. However, after dry conditions prevailed throughout most of the winter, more rainfall is needed to replenish soil moisture to adequate levels. Upper elevation snowpacks remained well below normal, leaving little prospects for meltwater in the spring and summer. Though conditions in California were considerably drier than in February, many growers continued to experience fieldwork delays.

Frequent rainfall in the Southeast severely hampered field preparation and planting. Precipitation was lighter in the Delta, but enough to maintain soggy conditions from heavy rainfall in February and delay planting. In the middle and upper Atlantic Coast States, heavy precipitation caused local flooding.

**Grapefruit:** The U.S. grapefruit forecast is 999,000 tons, up 1 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 March 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 3.50 million boxes (149,000 tons), up 17 percent from March but 78 percent below last season. The colored grapefruit forecast, at 9.50 million boxes (404,000 tons), is down 5 percent from March 1 and 62 percent below last season's final utilization. Results of the row count survey conducted on March 30-31, in

conjunction with utilization through that time, are the primary indicators for the April grapefruit forecast. Results of the size and drop surveys conducted during March indicate a high drop rate for all grapefruit varieties.

California's grapefruit forecast, at 5.40 million boxes (181,000 tons), is up 2 percent from the previous forecast but unchanged from last season's final utilization. Pummelos and Oroblanco grapefruit varieties are being harvested in the Central Valley, while the Rio Red variety continues to be harvested in the Coachella Valley. Texture is smooth for all varieties with good quality. The Texas grapefruit forecast is 6.50 million boxes (260,000 tons), 5 percent above the previous forecast and 14 percent higher than last season. Favorable weather conditions, combined with a good market for grapefruit this season, are contributing factors to Texas' grapefruit utilized production increase. Arizona's grapefruit forecast, at 160,000 boxes (5,000 tons), is down 11 percent from March but is 14 percent above last season's final utilization. Harvest is expected to pick up once Florida and Texas are complete. Good fruit quality is being reported in both Maricopa and Yuma counties.

**Tangerines:** The 2004-05 U.S. tangerine crop forecast is 339,000 tons, virtually unchanged from the previous forecast but 22 percent below last season's final utilization of 435,000 tons. Florida's tangerine crop, at 4.45 million boxes (211,000 tons), is down 1 percent from the previous forecast and 32 percent below last season's utilization of 6.50 million boxes. Harvest of Florida's Fallglo tangerines is complete. A small decrease in early tangerines occurred because harvest of the Sunburst variety was smaller than expected. The Honey variety drop rate for April is at 67 percent with 36 percent of the rows remaining to be harvested.

California's forecast of tangerine production, at 3.00 million boxes (113,000 tons), is up 3 percent from the January 1 forecast and 11 percent above last season's utilized production. Fruit quality is reported as very good to excellent. California's tangerine harvest is progressing well. The Arizona tangerine forecast, at 400,000 boxes (15,000 tons), is down 11 percent from the previous forecast and 42 percent below last season. A light crop with small fruit size, combined with quality problems and a decreased demand for the Fairchild tangerine variety, are contributing to the decrease in utilized production.

**Lemons:** The forecast for the 2004-05 U.S. lemon crop, at 832,000 tons, is unchanged from the January 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 in the South Coastal area is progressing well, while it is complete in the Desert region and winding down in the Central Valley. Fruit quality is reported as very good and export demand is gradually increasing. 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. This is a relatively light crop compared to the previous season. Extremely hot temperatures during the bloom in March 2004 and lack of precipitation during August negatively impacted the crop. Arizona's lemon harvest is complete for this year.

**Tangelos:** Florida's tangelo forecast, at 1.55 million boxes (70,000 tons), is up 3 percent from March 1 and 55 percent more than last season's utilized production. Tangelo harvest is virtually complete and the increase is based primarily on certified utilization.

**Temples:** Florida's Temple forecast is 650,000 boxes (29,000 tons) for the 2004-05 season, down 7 percent from March and 54 percent below last season's final utilization of 1.40 million boxes. Temple harvest is virtually complete. If attained, this crop will be the smallest since the 1953-54 season.

**Florida Citrus:** Florida's weather in the citrus areas during March brought slightly higher amounts of rainfall than normal with cool nighttime temperatures and moderate to warm days. Several cold fronts passed through the State bringing overnight temperatures into the upper 40's in some northern locations. Daytime highs reached the low 80's some days with mostly clear skies. The cold fronts brought varying amounts of rainfall to most citrus growing areas each week of the month. The last part of the month brought rainfall amounts over four inches in some upper interior and west coast areas and varying amounts in east coast areas. The last of the month also brought windy weather with clear skies. Most citrus trees in all areas are in excellent condition following the favorable weather of the past several months. Hurricane damaged trees are showing new growth and some bloom. Severely damaged trees are showing some die back of small limbs. By late-month, upper interior and coastal area orange trees were in full bloom with grapefruit slightly later. Lower interior areas were also near full bloom by the end of the month.

Early-midseason orange harvest is mostly over as the season nears completion. Valencia oranges are beginning to be harvested with good demand reported for fresh shipments and most processing fruit going into chilled juice. Weekly harvest by the last of the month was up to five million boxes on the hurricane reduced crop. Grapefruit harvest for fresh shipments peaked during the month with excellent quality reported. Grapefruit harvest for processing was also high for the limited amount of fruit available. Honey tangerine harvest is strong with good demand reported. Temple and tangelo harvests are complete for the season.

**Arizona Citrus:** Citrus growers in Yuma County reported nearly all of the navel oranges, lemons, and tangerines have been harvested at this time. Nearly 5 percent of the Valencia oranges and 15 percent of the grapefruit have also been harvested. Harvest of Valencia oranges is slightly behind schedule. In Maricopa County, nearly all of the navel oranges, lemons, and tangerines have been harvested. Grapefruit are 15 percent harvested and Valencia oranges are 25 percent harvested at this time. Citrus groves are in good condition. Good fruit quality is reported.

**Texas Citrus:** Water supplies have remained adequate throughout harvest season. Harvest activities were delayed by frequent precipitation in some citrus areas. Grapefruit producers have had an outstanding year with no major disease problems reported for grapefruit groves. As national grapefruit supplies dwindle, Texas growers have been able to take advantage of export markets. Grapefruit harvest is 80 percent complete. Damage from the late December freeze and snow became more evident, impacting the Valencia crop most severely. There are approximately six weeks left of the Valencia harvest season with about 60 percent of the crop remaining to be harvested. Harvest of navel oranges is complete as of April 1.

**California Citrus:** Buds were swelling in many orange groves by month's end, and topping and hedging activities were underway. Periods of rain during the month caused some delays and cancellations in harvesting of citrus fruit. Harvesting of Navel oranges continued throughout the month, but with declining quality and pack-outs. Valencia oranges were picked as maturity tests allowed. Lemons were harvested in many locations. More volume, however, shifted to the South Coastal region as the lemon harvest neared completion in the Central Valley. OroBlanco and MeloGold variety grapefruit were picked in the Central Valley. Mandarins, tangelos, and tangerines were also picked and packed.

**California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts:** Periods of rainy weather continued to delay field work and development of fruit and nut crops during March. The continued wet weather triggered an increase in fungicide use in all tree fruit orchards and grape vineyards. The increased precipitation also created unfavorable conditions for bees to pollinate in almond and plum orchards, resulting in lighter than anticipated fruit set. A period of above normal temperatures in the middle of the month promoted bloom and stimulated growth in many pear and cherry orchards in northern areas of the State. By month's end, most tree fruit orchards were leafing out and blooms were rapidly disappearing. Early varieties of apricots and cherries were being thinned as fruit began to develop. Apple orchards were blooming across the State and early varieties began developing fruit by the end of the month. Kiwifruit vines began pushing foliar growth, green shoots were elongating and developing fruit in persimmon orchards, and strawberry plants were blooming and developing well in the San Joaquin Valley. Bees were removed from almond orchards by month's end as bloom was complete. Almond trees were leafed out and crews in some areas were propping up branches. Catkins (walnut male inflorescences) were elongating in walnut orchards, prompting walnut growers to apply preventive sprays for blight. Growers continued to prune, shred, and remove weeds in nut orchards as weather conditions permitted. Canes and shoots were growing rapidly in grape vineyards and immature clusters began appearing. Growers also applied pesticides to control vine mealybug and cutworms, and prepared the ground for new plantings. Avocado harvesting continued but the rains caused delays. Pruning and shredding activities in olive orchards continued.

**Winter Potatoes:** The 2005 U.S. winter potato crop in California and Florida combined is forecast at 5.07 million cwt, 9 percent above the January forecast and 5 percent more than last year. Area for harvest, at 19,800 acres, is unchanged from January but up 7 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 256 cwt per acre is up 21 cwt from January but 4 cwt below a year ago.

California's average yield is forecast at 250 cwt per acre, 25 cwt per acre above the January forecast. The cool, wet weather earlier in the season was not as damaging as previously expected. Yields in Florida are

forecasted at 270 cwt per acre, 10 cwt per acre above the January forecast. Growing conditions on Florida's Southern Peninsula have been good for potatoes.

**Spring Potatoes:** Spring production in 2005 is forecast at 17.9 million cwt, down 21 percent from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 63,100 acres, 13 percent below 2004. The average yield is forecast at 284 cwt per acre, down 30 cwt from a year ago.

Spring potato production in Florida is forecast at 7.01 million cwt, down 9 percent from a year ago. Florida's spring harvested acreage decreased 5 percent and average yield is expected to be 11 cwt per acre below last year. Mild conditions in February and March helped crop development. Harvest is expected to start in the Hastings area during early April. North Carolina's spring potato crop is forecast at 2.47 million cwt, down 9 percent from last year. Area for harvest is expected to be down 4 percent from a year ago due to fewer contract acres for processing. Average yield is expected to decrease 10 cwt per acre from a year ago.

California's spring potato production forecast, at 5.38 million cwt, is 35 percent below last year. Area for harvest is down 21 percent and yield is down 85 cwt per acre from a year ago. Generally poor market conditions prompted growers to reduce table stock acreage. Also, a reduction in contracted acres for chips is due to a plant closure. Wet conditions have some growers expecting a late harvest. Texas spring potato production is forecast at 1.91 million cwt, 13 percent below last season. Acreage for harvest is decreased 13 percent but the average yield forecast is unchanged from a year ago. Producers report good growing conditions with near perfect weather. Arizona's production is forecast at 1.12 million cwt, down 37 percent from last year. Growers report a 35 percent decrease in acreage for harvest and expect yield to be down 5 cwt per acre from last year. The reduction in acres is due to a decrease in acres planted for chips.

**Summer Potatoes, 2004 Revisions:** The final estimate of 2004 summer potato crop production is 18.4 million cwt, down 2 percent from both the preliminary estimate in the January *Crop Production 2004 Summary* and the 2003 crop. Harvested area covered 54,000 acres, down 1 percent from the January estimate and down 8 percent from 2003. The average yield of 341 cwt per acre is down 4 cwt from the January preliminary estimate.

**Papayas:** Hawaii fresh papaya utilization is estimated at 2.31 million pounds for March, 1 percent higher than last month but 18 percent less than a year ago. Area in crop totaled 2,490 acres, up 11 percent from last month and 18 percent higher than a year ago. Harvested area totaled 1,435 acres, up 2 percent from last month and 24 percent higher than March 2004. The weather conditions were variable during March with a mix of showers and sunny periods. Production has been relatively low for the past several months due to cooler temperatures and irregular amounts of precipitation.



## 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 3.2 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. Chances are nine out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.6 percent.

Changes between the April 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 183,000 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.

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