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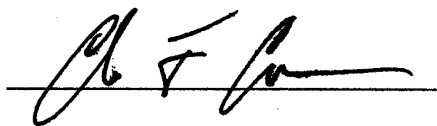
All Orange Production Down 2 Percent

The U.S. all orange forecast for the 2005-06 season is 9.22 million tons, down 2 percent from the December forecast but 1 percent above last season's final utilization of 9.11 million tons. Florida's all orange forecast, at 158 million boxes (7.11 million tons), is down 2 percent from the previous forecast but up 6 percent from the 2004-05 crop. Early, midseason, and navel varieties are forecast at 80.0 million boxes (3.60 million tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but 1 percent above last season's final utilization. The Florida Valencia forecast is reduced by 4 million boxes to 78.0 million boxes (3.51 million tons), down 5 percent from the previous forecast but up 11 percent from last season's final utilization. For both Valencia and early-midseason crops, projected fruit sizes will be smaller than any of the previous 10 years, and fruit drop will be above average.


The all orange forecast for California, at 54.0 million boxes (2.03 million tons), is down 2 percent from the October forecast and 11 percent lower than last season's final utilization. The navel orange forecast is unchanged from October, at 42.0 million boxes (1.58 million tons), but is 2 percent lower than last season. California's navel harvest is well underway but there were some delays in picking due to rain and fog. Fruit maturity is good but sizes are reported smaller than the last several seasons' averages. California's Valencia orange forecast is lowered 1.00 million boxes to 12.0 million boxes (450 thousand tons), down 8 percent from the October forecast and 33 percent lower than last season's final estimate. The Valencia crop is developing normally but acreage reductions due to market pressures continue. The all orange forecast for Texas, at 1.53 million boxes (65,000 tons), is unchanged from the October 1 forecast but down 14 percent from the 2004-05 season. The early-midseason orange forecast is 1.30 million boxes (55,000 tons), down 13 percent from last season. The Valencia orange forecast, at 230,000 boxes (10,000 tons), is down 15 percent from last season. Arizona's all orange forecast is lowered 20,000 boxes from the October forecast, to 450,000 boxes (17,000 tons). A reduction in the navel orange component accounts for all of this change from the previous forecast. Navel oranges are forecast at 250,000 boxes (9,000 tons), down 7 percent from the previous forecast but 4 percent higher than last season. The Valencia forecast is 200,000 boxes (8,000 tons), up 5 percent from the previous season.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield for the 2005-06 season, at 1.55 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, is unchanged from last month's forecast but is down from the previous season's yield of 1.58 gallons per box as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association. The early-midseason portion is projected to yield 1.46 gallons, down from 1.53 gallons for the 2004-05 crop. Valencias are projected to yield 1.66 gallons compared to 1.68 gallons last season. All projections of yield assume the processing relationships this season will be similar to those of the past several seasons.

This report was approved on January 12, 2006.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Charles F. Conner



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
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**Potatoes: Area Planted, Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Seasonal Group, State, and United States, 2004-2006**

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
	2005	2006	2005	2006					
	<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	14.0	12.0	14.0	12.0	250	260	3,250	3,500	3,120
FL	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.5	240	240	1,568	1,392	1,320
Total	20.0	17.7	19.8	17.5	247	254	4,818	4,892	4,440
Spring ¹									
AZ	4.3		4.3		275		1,767	1,183	
CA	15.1		15.1		405		8,313	6,116	
FL	23.6		23.2		281		7,678	6,527	
Hastings	17.3		17.0		280		5,760	4,760	
Other FL	6.3		6.2		285		1,918	1,767	
NC	15.5		15.0		190		2,700	2,850	
TX	9.5		9.1		225		2,205	2,048	
Total	68.0		66.7		281		22,663	18,724	

¹ 2005 revised.

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>
Nov	2,100	2,320	1,360	1,415	2,650	2,270
Dec	2,230	2,290	1,400	1,780	2,960	2,105

¹ Utilized fresh production.

**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
2003-04, 2004-05 and Forecasted January 1, 2006 ¹**

Crop and State	Utilized Production Boxes			Utilized Production Ton Equivalent		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
	<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	300	240	250	12	9	9
CA	39,500	43,000	42,000	1,481	1,613	1,575
FL	126,000	79,100	80,000	5,670	3,560	3,600
TX	1,420	1,500	1,300	60	64	55
US	167,220	123,840	123,550	7,223	5,246	5,239
Valencia						
AZ	170	190	200	6	7	8
CA	11,000	18,000	12,000	413	675	450
FL	116,000	70,500	78,000	5,220	3,173	3,510
TX	230	270	230	10	11	10
US	127,400	88,960	90,430	5,649	3,866	3,978
All						
AZ	470	430	450	18	16	17
CA	50,500	61,000	54,000	1,894	2,288	2,025
FL	242,000	149,600	158,000	10,890	6,733	7,110
TX	1,650	1,770	1,530	70	75	65
US	294,620	212,800	213,980	12,872	9,112	9,217
Temples						
FL	1,400	650	800	63	29	36
Grapefruit						
White Seedless ⁴						
FL	15,900	3,400	4,000	675	145	170
Colored Seedless						
FL	25,000	9,400	12,000	1,063	400	510
All						
AZ	140	140	100	5	5	3
CA	5,800	5,800	6,000	194	194	201
FL	40,900	12,800	16,000	1,738	545	680
TX	5,700	6,600	5,100	228	264	204
US	52,540	25,340	27,200	2,165	1,008	1,088
Tangerines						
AZ ⁵	690	400	500	25	15	19
CA ⁵	2,200	2,800	3,100	83	105	116
FL	6,500	4,450	5,700	309	211	271
US	9,390	7,650	9,300	417	331	406
Lemons						
AZ	3,000	2,400	3,800	114	91	144
CA	18,000	19,000	19,000	684	722	722
US	21,000	21,400	22,800	798	813	866
Tangelos						
FL	1,000	1,550	1,200	45	70	54

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, 2003-2005**

State	Dec 1			May 1	
	2003	2004 ¹	2005	2004	2005 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	1,764	1,965	1,575	487	356
AZ	280	250	350	55	35
AR	2,700	3,200	2,000	600	660
CA	2,086	1,770	1,798	306	215
CO	1,841	2,527	2,365	610	470
CT	83	73	55	14	21
DE	12	25	18	4	5
FL	434	410	380	52	26
GA	1,494	1,345	1,350	342	292
ID	2,772	2,782	2,260	445	535
IL	1,797	1,613	1,260	408	460
IN	1,561	1,704	1,498	253	345
IA	3,695	4,368	4,200	605	1,250
KS	5,600	6,304	5,000	1,400	1,735
KY	5,035	4,742	4,390	1,466	1,186
LA	937	910	596	115	128
ME	164	189	138	33	39
MD	377	348	390	60	86
MA	72	95	76	15	17
MI	1,872	1,893	1,852	250	500
MN	3,567	4,127	4,117	575	884
MS	1,125	1,159	1,567	244	199
MO	7,148	8,101	6,315	1,462	2,166
MT	3,986	4,427	5,440	790	860
NE	5,244	4,370	4,585	1,596	1,440
NV	857	741	788	121	80
NH	60	53	53	11	12
NJ	96	161	112	40	36
NM	525	545	545	115	164
NY	2,430	1,895	1,650	552	440
NC	1,625	1,545	1,245	405	350
ND	4,690	3,923	5,580	828	917
OH	2,504	2,250	2,360	556	420
OK	4,244	5,125	3,900	1,275	1,385
OR	2,357	2,366	1,790	371	362
PA	2,440	2,700	1,700	570	650
RI	10	12	10	2	2
SC	601	557	565	186	120
SD	7,210	6,939	7,935	1,515	2,100
TN	3,830	4,199	3,625	1,182	1,025
TX	9,910	10,451	8,000	2,849	2,779
UT	1,495	1,383	1,355	279	300
VT	332	276	257	86	71
VA	2,515	2,716	2,585	758	791
WA	1,620	1,560	1,475	470	322
WV	957	1,030	984	191	212
WI	3,110	3,532	3,183	920	927
WY	1,963	1,860	1,784	478	383
US	111,027	114,516	105,056	25,947	27,758

¹ Revised.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2005-2006
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	3,875.0		3,269.0	
Corn for Grain ²	81,759.0		75,107.0	
Corn for Silage			5,920.0	
Hay, All			61,649.0	
Alfalfa			22,389.0	
All Other			39,260.0	
Oats	4,246.0		1,823.0	
Proso Millet	565.0		515.0	
Rice	3,384.0		3,364.0	
Rye	1,433.0		279.0	
Sorghum for Grain ²	6,454.0		5,736.0	
Sorghum for Silage			311.0	
Wheat, All	57,229.0		50,119.0	
Winter	40,433.0	41,367.0	33,794.0	
Durum	2,760.0		2,716.0	
Other Spring	14,036.0		13,609.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,159.0		1,114.0	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	983.0		955.0	
Mustard Seed	49.0		44.6	
Peanuts	1,657.0		1,629.0	
Rapeseed	2.4		2.0	
Safflower	165.0		160.0	
Soybeans for Beans	72,142.0		71,361.0	
Sunflower	2,709.0		2,610.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	14,195.4		13,702.6	
Upland	13,925.0		13,434.0	
Amer-Pima	270.4		268.6	
Sugarbeets	1,294.8		1,238.9	
Sugarcane			922.9	
Tobacco			298.0	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	42.5		24.5	
Dry Edible Beans	1,659.3		1,562.9	
Dry Edible Peas	808.0		765.9	
Lentils	450.0		439.0	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			6.1	
Ginger Root (HI)			0.1	
Hops			29.5	
Peppermint Oil			76.0	
Potatoes, All	1,107.2		1,084.6	
Winter	20.0	17.7	19.8	17.5
Spring	68.0		66.7	
Summer	50.6		48.6	
Fall	968.6		949.5	
Spearmint Oil			17.7	
Sweet Potatoes	90.4		87.8	
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 2006 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, 2005-2006
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Units	Yield		Production	
		2005	2006	2005	2006
				<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Grains & Hay					
Barley	Bu	64.8		211,896	
Corn for Grain	"	147.9		11,112,072	
Corn for Silage	Tons	18.0		106,311	
Hay, All	"	2.44		150,590	
Alfalfa	"	3.38		75,771	
All Other	"	1.91		74,819	
Oats	Bu	63.0		114,878	
Proso Millet	"	26.3		13,545	
Rice ²	Cwt	6,636		223,235	
Rye	Bu	27.0		7,537	
Sorghum for Grain	"	68.7		393,893	
Sorghum for Silage	Tons	13.6		4,218	
Wheat, All	Bu	42.0		2,104,690	
Winter	"	44.4		1,499,129	
Durum	"	37.2		101,105	
Other Spring	"	37.1		504,456	
Oilseeds					
Canola	Lbs	1,419		1,580,985	
Cottonseed ³	Tons			8,501.0	
Flaxseed	Bu	20.6		19,695	
Mustard Seed	Lbs	787		35,114	
Peanuts	"	2,960		4,821,250	
Rapeseed	"	1,500		3,000	
Safflower	"	1,203		192,545	
Soybeans for Beans	Bu	43.3		3,086,432	
Sunflower	Lbs	1,540		4,018,355	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops					
Cotton, All ²	Bales	831		23,719.0	
Upland ²	"	824		23,064.0	
Amer-Pima ²	"	1,171		655.0	
Sugarbeets	Tons	22.3		27,654	
Sugarcane	"	30.2		27,897	
Tobacco	Lbs	2,147		639,709	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils					
Austrian Winter Peas ²	Cwt	1,253		307	
Dry Edible Beans ²	"	1,742		27,222	
Dry Edible Peas ²	"	1,828		14,003	
Lentils ²	"	1,176		5,163	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³	"			755	
Potatoes & Misc.					
Coffee (HI)	Lbs	1,050		6,400	
Ginger Root (HI)	"	42,500		5,100	
Hops	"	1,791		52,914.5	
Peppermint Oil	"	92		6,980	
Potatoes, All	Cwt	388		420,879	
Winter	"	247	254	4,892	4,440
Spring	"	281		18,724	
Summer	"	334		16,237	
Fall	"	401		381,026	
Spearmint Oil	Lbs	109		1,933	
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt	179		15,747	
Taro (HI) ³	Lbs			4,000	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2006 crop year.

² Yield in pounds.

³ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2004-2006
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Units	Production		
		2004	2005	2006
		<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Citrus ²				
Grapefruit	Tons	2,165	1,008	1,088
Lemons	“	798	813	866
Oranges	“	12,872	9,112	9,217
Tangelos (FL)	“	45	70	54
Tangerines	“	417	331	406
Temples (FL)	“	63	29	36
Noncitrus				
Apples	1,000 Lbs	10,419.9	9,379.1	
Apricots	Tons	101.1	90.2	
Bananas (HI) ³	Lbs	16,500.0		
Grapes	Tons	6,231.7	7,070.9	
Olives (CA)	“	104.0	125.0	
Papayas (HI)	Lbs	35,800.0		
Peaches	Tons	1,307.1	1,233.9	
Pears	“	890.3	853.0	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	“	49.0	105.0	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	“	25.0	10.7	
Nuts & Misc.				
Almonds (CA)	Lbs	1,010,000	880,000	
Hazelnuts (OR)	Tons	37.5	28.0	
Pecans	Lbs	185,800	250,200	
Walnuts (CA)	Tons	325.0	340.0	
Maple Syrup	Gals	1,507	1,242	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2006 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2005-06 season.

² Production years are 2003-2004, 2004-2005, and 2005-2006.

³ 2005 not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2005-2006
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	1,568,170		1,322,930	
Corn for Grain ²	33,087,050		30,395,050	
Corn for Silage			2,395,760	
Hay, All ³			24,948,730	
Alfalfa			9,060,600	
All Other			15,888,130	
Oats	1,718,310		737,750	
Proso Millet	228,650		208,420	
Rice	1,369,470		1,361,380	
Rye	579,920		112,910	
Sorghum for Grain ²	2,611,870		2,321,300	
Sorghum for Silage			125,860	
Wheat, All ³	23,160,000		20,282,660	
Winter	16,362,830	16,740,810	13,676,090	
Durum	1,116,940		1,099,140	
Other Spring	5,680,230		5,507,430	
Oilseeds				
Canola	469,040		450,820	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	397,810		386,480	
Mustard Seed	19,830		18,050	
Peanuts	670,570		659,240	
Rapeseed	970		810	
Safflower	66,770		64,750	
Soybeans for Beans	29,195,150		28,879,080	
Sunflower	1,096,310		1,056,240	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ³	5,744,740		5,545,310	
Upland	5,635,310		5,436,610	
Amer-Pima	109,430		108,700	
Sugarbeets	523,990		501,370	
Sugarcane			373,490	
Tobacco			120,610	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	17,200		9,910	
Dry Edible Beans	671,500		632,490	
Dry Edible Peas	326,990		309,950	
Lentils	182,110		177,660	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			2,470	
Ginger Root (HI)			50	
Hops			11,960	
Peppermint Oil			30,760	
Potatoes, All ³	448,070		438,930	
Winter	8,090	7,160	8,010	7,080
Spring	27,520		26,990	
Summer	20,480		19,670	
Fall	391,980		384,250	
Spearmint Oil			7,160	
Sweet Potatoes	36,580		35,530	
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 2006 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, 2005-2006
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Yield		Production	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	3.49		4,613,490	
Corn for Grain	9.29		282,259,630	
Corn for Silage	40.26		96,443,720	
Hay, All ²	5.48		136,612,950	
Alfalfa	7.59		68,738,290	
All Other	4.27		67,874,660	
Oats	2.26		1,667,450	
Proso Millet	1.47		307,200	
Rice	7.44		10,125,770	
Rye	1.70		191,450	
Sorghum for Grain	4.31		10,005,340	
Sorghum for Silage	30.40		3,826,510	
Wheat, All ²	2.82		57,280,270	
Winter	2.98		40,799,610	
Durum	2.50		2,751,630	
Other Spring	2.49		13,729,040	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.59		717,120	
Cottonseed ³			7,711,980	
Flaxseed	1.29		500,280	
Mustard Seed	0.88		15,930	
Peanuts	3.32		2,186,880	
Rapeseed	1.68		1,360	
Safflower	1.35		87,340	
Soybeans for Beans	2.91		83,998,910	
Sunflower	1.73		1,822,700	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ²	0.93		5,164,200	
Upland	0.92		5,021,590	
Amer-Pima	1.31		142,610	
Sugarbeets	50.04		25,087,290	
Sugarcane	67.76		25,307,730	
Tobacco	2.41		290,170	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	1.40		13,930	
Dry Edible Beans	1.95		1,234,770	
Dry Edible Peas	2.05		635,170	
Lentils	1.32		234,190	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³			34,250	
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)	1.18		2,900	
Ginger Root (HI)	47.64		2,310	
Hops	2.01		24,000	
Peppermint Oil	0.10		3,170	
Potatoes, All ²	43.49		19,090,750	
Winter	27.69	28.44	221,900	201,400
Spring	31.46		849,310	
Summer	37.45		736,500	
Fall	44.98		17,283,050	
Spearmint Oil	0.12		880	
Sweet Potatoes	20.10		714,270	
Taro (HI) ³			1,810	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2006 crop year.

² Production may not add due to rounding.

³ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2004-2006
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Production		
	2004	2005	2006
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>
Citrus ²			
Grapefruit	1,964,050	914,440	987,020
Lemons	723,930	737,540	785,620
Oranges	11,677,280	8,266,270	8,361,520
Tangelos (FL)	40,820	63,500	48,990
Tangerines	378,300	300,280	368,320
Temples (FL)	57,150	26,310	32,660
Noncitrus			
Apples	4,726,390	4,254,290	
Apricots	91,740	81,790	
Bananas (HI) ³	7,480		
Grapes	5,653,300	6,414,610	
Olives (CA)	94,350	113,400	
Papayas (HI)	16,240		
Peaches	1,185,790	1,119,330	
Pears	807,630	773,810	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	44,450	95,250	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	22,680	9,710	
Nuts & Misc.			
Almonds (CA)	458,130	399,160	
Hazelnuts	34,020	25,400	
Pecans	84,280	113,490	
Walnuts (CA)	294,840	308,440	
Maple Syrup	7,530	6,210	

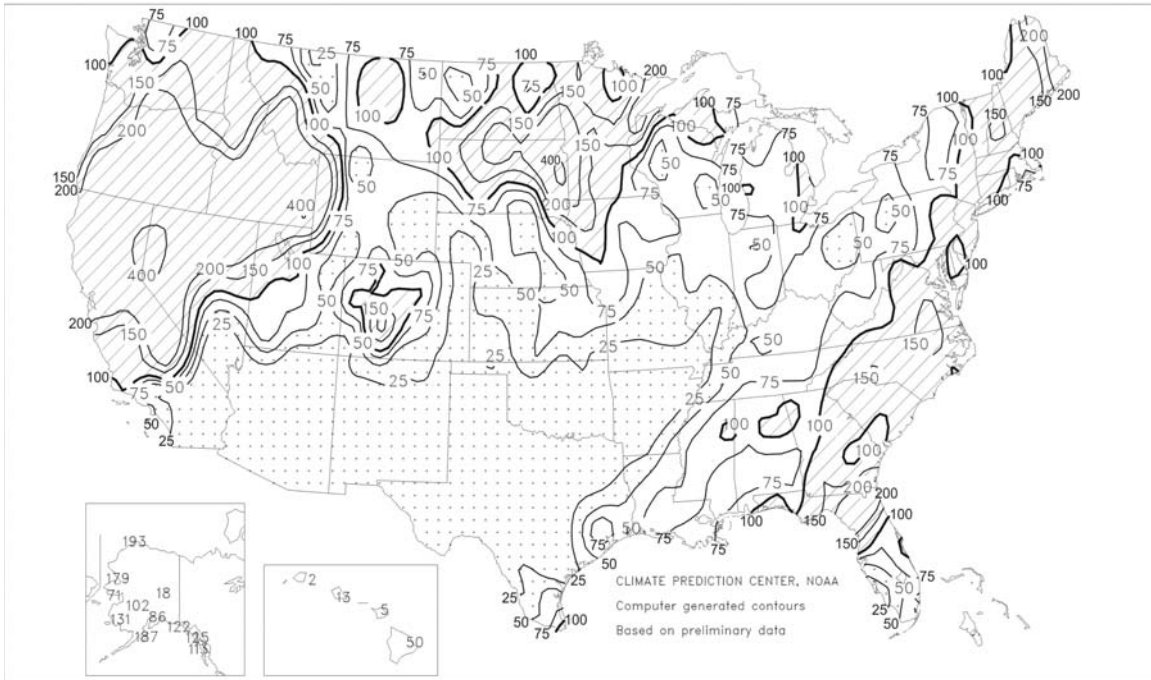
¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2006 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2005-06 season.

² Production years are 2003-2004, 2004-2005, and 2005-2006.

³ 2005 production not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

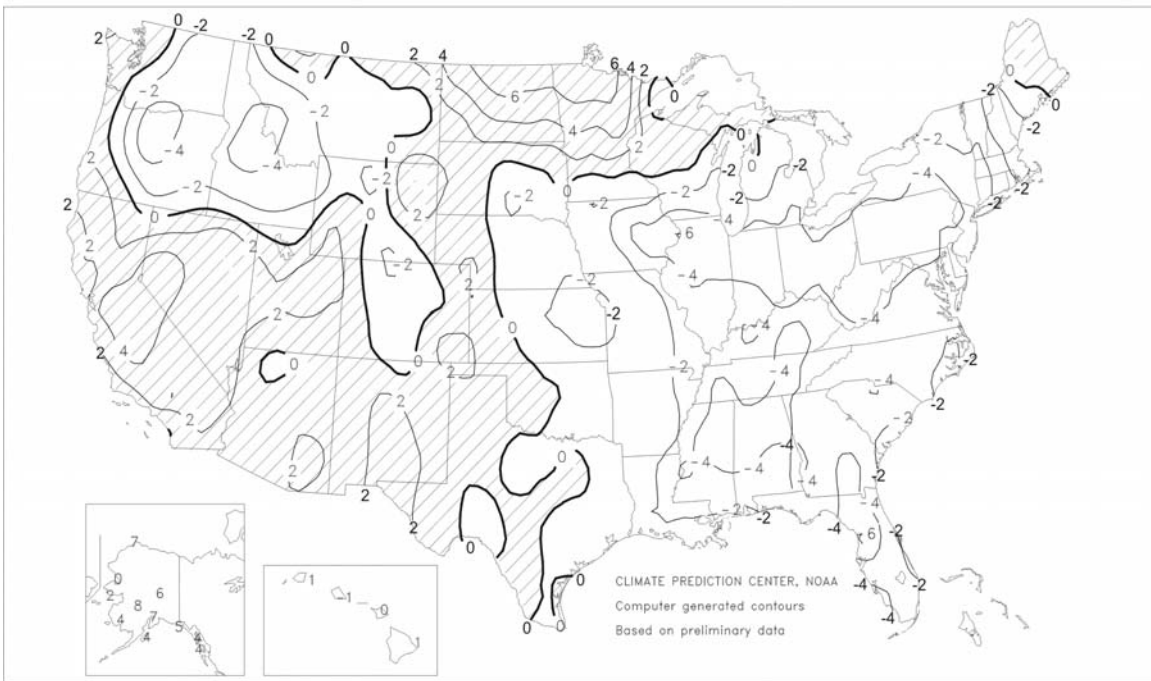
Percent Of Normal Precipitation

December 2005



Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

December 2005



December Weather Summary

Following a dry start to December across northern and central California and much of the Northwest, mid- to late-month storminess caused flooding but boosted high-elevation snow packs and eased long-term drought. Dry conditions persisted, however, across the Southwest, increasing stress on pastures and rangeland. On the southern Plains, where numerous wildfires scorched brush, grassland, and timber, pastures and winter grains continued to suffer from worsening drought, occasional high winds, and sharp temperature fluctuations. Farther north, conditions across the northern and central Plains remained mostly favorable for winter wheat, despite mid- to late-month soil moisture reductions and the loss of a protective snow cover. The Corn Belt experienced a dramatic shift from cold, snowy weather to mild, showery conditions. Toward month's end, muddy conditions increased stress on some Midwestern livestock. Farther east, locally heavy rain and snow maintained wet conditions in the northern Atlantic States. The South also experienced a late-month warming trend, but abundant soil moisture reserves in the southern Atlantic States contrasted with worsening drought from Texas northeastward to the northern Delta.

Despite a late-December warming trend, monthly temperatures were below normal in the East and Northwest due to the cold snap's magnitude. December readings averaged at least 4 degrees F below normal from the eastern Corn Belt to the northern Mid-Atlantic States and in parts of the interior Northwest. In contrast, warmer-than-normal weather prevailed in California, the Southwest, and the north-central United States, boosting temperatures in some locations more than 4 degrees F above normal.

December Agricultural Summary

Dry, windy weather on the southern Great Plains caused rapid depletion of soil moisture and deterioration of winter wheat and pasture conditions. Soil moisture levels in the northern and central Great Plains were better than in the southern Great Plains, however, warm weather melted much of the protective snow cover, leaving winter wheat vulnerable to future cold weather.

Below-normal temperatures prevailed across the Ohio Valley and most of the Corn Belt, maintaining snow cover in northerly areas of the regions. Conditions were drier than normal, but most areas had 1 to 2 inches of rain equivalent precipitation.

Cool weather across the Southeast helped to harden citrus and other fruit trees, while moderate rainfall helped replenish soil moisture. In the Delta, precipitation levels were well below normal.

In the Pacific Northwest, heavy precipitation, mostly snow, and below-normal temperatures combined to maintain a healthy protective snow cover for winter wheat. In higher elevations, the deep snowpack is expected to provide abundant moisture for spring planting.

Winter Potatoes: Production for 2006 is forecast at 4.44 million cwt, down 9 percent from a year ago and 8 percent below 2004. Harvested acreage in the 2 winter potato States (California and Florida) is estimated at 17,500 acres, down 12 percent from 2005, while the average yield is forecast at 254 cwt per acre, 7 cwt above last year. In California, where rain has been prevalent, growers report no problems thus far and expect to receive average yields. In Florida, mostly mild weather during December helped planting to stay on schedule and aided in crop development.

Spring Potatoes: Production for 2005 is revised to 18.7 million cwt, up 3 percent from the May forecast but 17 percent below 2004. Harvested area totaled 66,700 acres, down 8 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 281 cwt per acre decreased 33 cwt from 2004.

Spring potato production in Arizona and California decreased 33 percent and 26 percent, respectively, from 2004. Florida's crop is down 15 percent from the previous year and production in Texas is 7 percent below 2004. North Carolina is the only spring potato State that increased production from last year, up 6 percent. North Carolina growers increased planted and harvested acres due to more processing contracts being available. The increase in harvested acres more than offset a decrease in yield.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya utilization is estimated at 2.11 million pounds for December, down 7 percent from last month and 29 percent below a year ago. Area in crop totaled 2,290 acres, down 1 percent from last month but up 3 percent from December 2004. Harvested area totaled 1,780 acres, up 26 percent from last month and 27 percent above a year ago. Dry weather during December affected flowering and fruit

development. Production is still being impacted by reduced fruit set caused by dry weather earlier in the year but growers are expecting a heavier harvest in January. Large areas are being cleared for replanting in the Puna district of Hawaii island. Growers actively sprayed orchards to control Papaya Ringspot Virus.

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 2005-06 U.S. grapefruit crop is 1.09 million tons, down 1 percent from the previous forecast but up 8 percent from last season's final utilization. Florida's grapefruit production is forecast at 16.0 million boxes (680,000 tons), unchanged from the December 1 forecast but 25 percent above last year's hurricane-damaged crop. The white grapefruit utilization forecast, at 4.00 million boxes (170,000 tons), is unchanged from December but 18 percent above last season's utilization. The colored seedless utilization forecast, at 12.0 million boxes (510,000 tons), is also unchanged from the December 1 forecast but 28 percent higher than the 2004-05 season's utilization.

California's grapefruit production forecast is 6.00 million boxes (201,000 tons), up 3 percent from both the October forecast and last season's final utilization. Market conditions continue to be very strong. Pummelos were harvested in the Central Valley as well as Rio Red variety in the desert region. Quality is reported as fair to excellent. The grapefruit production forecast for Texas 5.10 million boxes (204,000 tons), down 6 percent from the previous forecast and 23 percent below last season. Arizona's grapefruit forecast is 100,000 boxes (3,000 tons), down 17 percent from the October 1 forecast and 29 percent below the 2004-05 season.

Lemons: The forecast for the 2005-06 U.S. lemon crop, at 866,000 tons, is unchanged from the October 1 forecast but up 7 percent from last season. California production is forecast at 19.0 million boxes (722,000 tons), unchanged from both the previous forecast and the 2004-05 season. Harvest is active throughout the State with good quality reported. The 2005-06 Arizona lemon forecast is 3.80 million boxes (144,000 tons), also unchanged from the October forecast but up 58 percent from the previous season. Fruit set is reported as very good, with resulting smaller fruit sizes expected.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast, at 1.20 million boxes (54,000 tons), is unchanged from the December 1 forecast but down 23 percent from last season's utilized production. Due to higher processing tangelo prices, a more complete harvest is anticipated this season than in recent years.

Tangerines: The 2005-06 U.S. tangerine crop forecast is 406,000 tons, down 1 percent from the previous forecast but up 23 percent from last season's utilization of 331,000 tons. Florida's tangerine crop is forecast at 5.70 million boxes (271,000 tons), unchanged from the December forecast but 28 percent higher than last season's 4.45 million boxes. Fallglo harvest is complete while Sunburst harvest is continuing. Harvest of the later Honey variety tangerine is just beginning. The California tangerine forecast, at 3.10 million boxes (116,000 tons), is down 3 percent from the previous forecast but up 11 percent from the previous season. Harvest is underway but has been delayed by fog. Otherwise, harvest is progressing with good fruit maturity and color reported. Arizona's forecast is 500,000 boxes (19,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but 25 percent above last season.

Temples: Florida's Temple forecast for the 2005-06 season is 800,000 boxes (36,000 tons), unchanged from the December forecast but 23 percent above last season's hurricane-reduced final utilization of 650,000 boxes. If realized, with the exception of last year's crop, this will be the lowest production since Temple forecasts began.

Florida Citrus: December weather was moderate with mild days and nights during most of the month. On several mornings at the beginning of the month, temperatures dipped into the high 30's in northern citrus areas. Near the end of the month, light frost was observed on several mornings. Mid-month brought morning temperatures in the 50's with highs into the low 80's. Most stations reported variable amounts of rainfall ranging from trace amounts to several inches. 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. 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 hurricane Wilma continued including removal of blown over and spilt trees and ditch and furrow maintenance. Removal of trees due to citrus canker finds continues. Several fresh fruit packinghouses did not open this season but others were packing navel, Hamlin, and Pineapple oranges, tangelos, white and colored grapefruit, and Sunburst tangerines. All processors except one, are open to receive packinghouse eliminations and field run fruit. Average internal maturity levels of oranges has lagged all season and harvest has been delayed. Processors report good quality fruit with good juice color.

Arizona Citrus: Growers indicated citrus groves to be in good to excellent condition, with good fruit quality reported. There have been fewer reports of insect damage this season compared to last. Tangerines are moving earlier than normal but orders are keeping up with supply. Lemon fruit size is small this season but movement is good. Growers reported approximately 50 percent of the lemon crop has been harvested. Lemon harvest will continue to the end of February or the beginning of March, about a month later than normal. Tangerines are showing good quality. Grapefruit are moving well due to this season's low domestic production.

Texas Citrus: Citrus harvest is in full swing. Grapefruit have developed very well over the last couple of months as temperatures in the Valley have cooled. So far this year there have been no reports of disease or insect problems with the citrus crop. The absence of citrus mite blemishes and sheep nosing has helped the fruit to develop its natural color which allows more grapefruit to be sold fresh. Weather conditions in the Valley have been very dry, with little or no rain. Cooler temperatures in November and December have helped fruit mature.

California Citrus: Foggy weather delayed harvest activities in citrus groves during the month. During December, navel oranges, lemons, mandarins, and tangerines were harvested. Most navel oranges picked required shorter gassing periods as rind color had improved significantly from last month. Blood orange maturity was developing well. Pummelo and Oroblanco variety grapefruit were harvested in the Central Valley and the Rio Red variety was harvested in the desert areas of California. Pre-emergent herbicides and whitewash were applied to citrus groves.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: Grape harvest was complete, with late variety table grape harvesting ending around mid-month. Some shippers, however, still had quite a few grapes in storage. Pomegranates, pecans, persimmons, apples, and kiwifruit were being harvested early in the month but harvest was complete by month's end. Grape, tree fruit, and nut growers began dormant season activities including pruning, brush shredding, cane tying, cultivation, weed control treatments, fertilizer and soil amendment applications, and cover crop planting. Soil fumigation was also underway in a number of locations in preparation for new orchard and vineyard plantings. A few orchards were being prepared for grafting. Pruning and brush shredding in olive orchards continued. Field work was occasionally interrupted by rain, especially near month's end when heavy rainfall fell across much of the State. Some river-bottom tree fruit and walnut orchards in Yuba and Sutter counties were flooded.

Hay Stocks on Farms: Stocks of all hay stored on farms totaled 105 million tons on December 1, 2005, down 8 percent from a year ago. Disappearance of hay from May 2005 - December 2005 totaled 73.3 million tons, compared to 69.7 million tons for the same period a year ago.

Compared to December 1, 2004, hay stocks decreased in most of the Corn Belt and southern Great Plains States. In many of these States, drought conditions during the summer months resulted in increased supplemental feeding of hay. Meanwhile, stocks increased compared to last year in most of the northern Great Plains States as above average rainfall and warm temperatures allowed farmers to get multiple cuttings of hay and provided good pasture and grazing conditions.

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. Bearing tree numbers are determined at the start of the season based on a fruit tree census conducted every other year, combined with ongoing review based on administrative data or special surveys. From mid-July to mid-September, the number of fruit per tree is determined. In September and subsequent months, fruit size measurement and fruit droppage surveys are conducted, which combined with the previous components are used 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 5.3 percent. However, if you exclude the six abnormal production years (5 freeze seasons and 1 hurricane season), the "Root Mean Square Error" is 3.7 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 5.3 percent, or 3.7 percent excluding abnormal seasons. Chances are nine out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 9.1 percent, or 6.5 percent excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the January 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 433,000 tons (373,000 tons excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 106,000 tons to 1.13 million tons (106,000 tons to 638,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons). The January 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 6 times and above 14 times (below 5 times and above 9 times, excluding abnormal seasons). The difference does not imply that the January 1 forecasts this year are likely to understate or overstate final production.

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