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All Orange Production Down 2 Percent

The U.S. all orange forecast for the 2005-06 season is 9.00 million tons, down 2 percent from the February forecast and 1 percent below last season's final utilization of 9.11 million tons. Florida's all orange forecast, at 154 million boxes (6.93 million tons), is down 3 percent from the previous forecast but up 3 percent from the 2004-05 crop. Early, midseason, and navel varieties are forecast at 76.0 million boxes (3.42 million tons), down 5 percent from the previous forecast and 4 percent below last season's final utilization. The Florida Valencia forecast is 78.0 million boxes (3.51 million tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but up 11 percent from last season's final utilization. If realized, this will be the first time that Valencia utilized production is greater than utilized production from early, midseason, and navel varieties. The reduction in early, midseason, and navel varieties is based on estimated certifications of fruit utilization combined with projections of remaining fruit to be processed. February measurements of Valencia fruit size and drop indicate smaller projected fruit sizes than last month which are offset by a lower drop rate than was forecast last month.

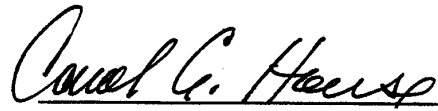
California's all orange forecast is 53.0 million boxes (1.99 million tons), down 2 percent from the previous forecast and 13 percent below last season. Valencia oranges are forecast at 11.0 million boxes (413,000 tons), down 8 percent from the January forecast and 39 percent below last season's final utilization. Valencia harvest will begin mid-month for most growing areas. California conducted an objective measurement survey for the March 1 Valencia forecast. This survey showed the average number of fruit per tree is lower than last season, while fruit size is virtually unchanged. Fruit is generally of good quality but some splits have been noted. 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 2005-06 season, at 1.58 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, is unchanged from both last month's and last season's yields as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association. The early-midseason portion is projected to yield 1.52 gallons, unchanged from last month but down from 1.53 gallons for the 2004-05 crop. The Valencia yield, at 1.66 gallons, is unchanged from last month but down from the 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 March 10, 2006.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Charles F. Conner



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Carol C. House

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**Sugarcane: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Use, State, and United States, 2004-2005**

Use and State	Area Harvested		Yield ¹		Production ¹	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<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	385.0	377.0	34.9	32.4	13,437	12,215
HI ²	21.8	22.4	90.8	90.3	1,979	2,023
LA ²	430.0	420.0	23.8	23.0	10,234	9,660
TX ²	42.7	41.0	37.3	37.7	1,593	1,546
US	879.5	860.4	31.0	29.6	27,243	25,444
For Seed						
FL	21.0	24.0	40.2	38.8	844	931
HI ²	1.4	1.5	33.5	36.0	47	54
LA ²	35.0	35.0	23.8	23.0	833	805
TX ²	1.3	2.0	35.0	24.5	46	49
US	58.7	62.5	30.2	29.4	1,770	1,839
For Sugar and Seed						
FL	406.0	401.0	35.2	32.8	14,281	13,146
HI ²	23.2	23.9	87.3	86.9	2,026	2,077
LA ²	465.0	455.0	23.8	23.0	11,067	10,465
TX ²	44.0	43.0	37.3	37.1	1,639	1,595
US	938.2	922.9	30.9	29.6	29,013	27,283

¹ Net tons.

² Estimates are carried forward from the "Crop Production 2005 Summary."

Papayas: Area and Fresh Production, by Month, Hawaii, 2005-2006

Month	Area				Fresh Production ¹	
	Total in Crop		Harvested		2005	2006
	2005	2006	2005	2006		
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Jan	2,245	2,280	1,410	1,785	2,580	2,815
Feb	2,250	2,285	1,410	1,785	2,425	2,490

¹ Utilized fresh production.

**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
2003-2004, 2004-2005 and Forecasted March 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 ⁴	300	240	250	12	9	9
CA ⁴	39,500	43,000	42,000	1,481	1,613	1,575
FL	126,000	79,100	76,000	5,670	3,560	3,420
TX ⁴	1,420	1,500	1,300	60	64	55
US	167,220	123,840	119,550	7,223	5,246	5,059
Valencia						
AZ ⁴	170	190	200	6	7	8
CA	11,000	18,000	11,000	413	675	413
FL	116,000	70,500	78,000	5,220	3,173	3,510
TX ⁴	230	270	230	10	11	10
US	127,400	88,960	89,430	5,649	3,866	3,941
All						
AZ ⁴	470	430	450	18	16	17
CA	50,500	61,000	53,000	1,894	2,288	1,988
FL	242,000	149,600	154,000	10,890	6,733	6,930
TX ⁴	1,650	1,770	1,530	70	75	65
US	294,620	212,800	208,980	12,872	9,112	9,000
Temples						
FL	1,400	650	800	63	29	36
Grapefruit						
White Seedless ⁵						
FL	15,900	3,400	5,000	675	145	213
Colored Seedless						
FL	25,000	9,400	12,000	1,063	400	510
All						
AZ ⁴	140	140	100	5	5	3
CA ⁴	5,800	5,800	6,000	194	194	201
FL	40,900	12,800	17,000	1,738	545	723
TX ⁴	5,700	6,600	5,100	228	264	204
US	52,540	25,340	28,200	2,165	1,008	1,131
Tangerines						
AZ ^{4 6}	690	400	500	25	15	19
CA ^{4 6}	2,200	2,800	3,100	83	105	116
FL	6,500	4,450	5,200	309	211	247
US	9,390	7,650	8,800	417	331	382
Lemons ⁴						
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	1,400	45	70	63

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-90; 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, 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	"	29.6		27,283	
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	1,131
Lemons	“	798	813	866
Oranges	“	12,872	9,112	9,000
Tangelos (FL)	“	45	70	63
Tangerines	“	417	331	382
Temples (FL)	“	63	29	36
Noncitrus				
Apples	1,000 Lbs	10,450.6	9,869.6	
Apricots	Tons	101.1	81.4	
Bananas (HI) ³	Lbs	16,500.0		
Grapes	Tons	6,240.0	6,974.9	
Olives (CA)	“	104.0	139.0	
Papayas (HI)	Lbs	35,800.0	32,500.0	
Peaches	Tons	1,307.1	1,182.6	
Pears	“	877.3	812.3	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	“	49.0	90.0	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	“	25.0	8.7	
Nuts & Misc.				
Almonds (CA) (shelled)	Lbs	1,005,000	900,000	
Hazelnuts (OR)	Tons	37.5	28.0	
Pecans	Lbs	185,800	259,600	
Walnuts (CA)	Tons	325.0	355.0	
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	66.27		24,750,720	
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

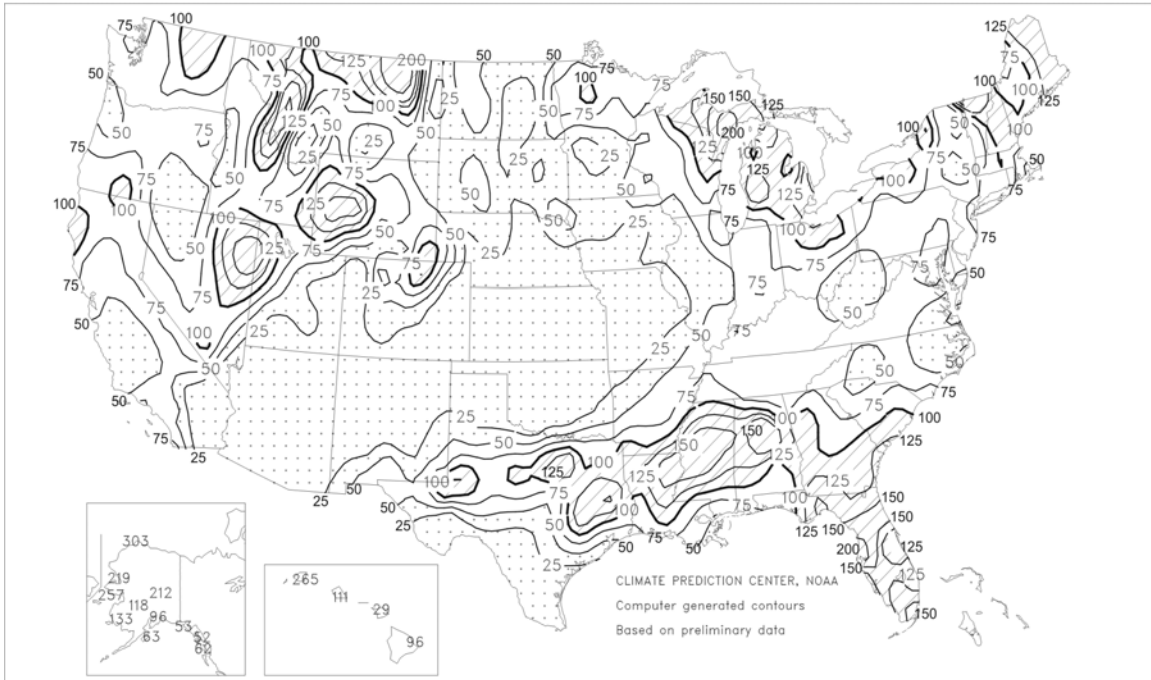
Crop	Production		
	2004	2005	2006
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>
Citrus ²			
Grapefruit	1,964,050	914,440	1,026,030
Lemons	723,930	737,540	785,620
Oranges	11,677,280	8,266,270	8,164,660
Tangelos (FL)	40,820	63,500	57,150
Tangerines	378,300	300,280	346,540
Temples (FL)	57,150	26,310	32,660
Noncitrus			
Apples	4,740,310	4,476,780	
Apricots	91,740	73,800	
Bananas (HI)	7,480		
Grapes	5,660,860	6,327,520	
Olives (CA)	94,350	126,100	
Papayas (HI)	16,240	14,740	
Peaches	1,185,790	1,072,840	
Pears	795,840	736,930	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	44,450	81,650	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	22,680	7,890	
Nuts & Misc.			
Almonds (CA) (shelled)	455,860	408,230	
Hazelnuts (OR)	34,020	25,400	
Pecans	84,280	117,750	
Walnuts (CA)	294,840	322,050	
Maple Syrup	7,530	6,210	

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² Production years are 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07.

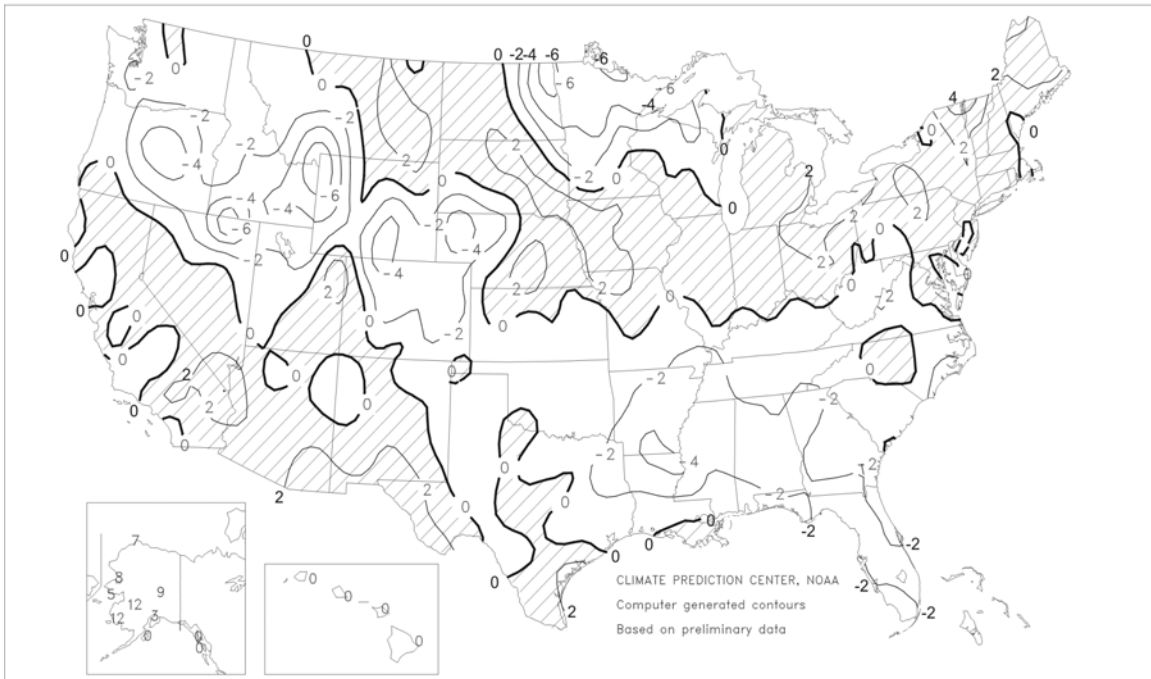
Percent Of Normal Precipitation

February 2006



Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

February 2006



February Weather Summary

Drought stress on pastures and dryland winter grains remained severe across the southern Plains and the Southwest, and began to spread northward through the central Plains. Farther north, snow insulated most of Nebraska's winter wheat from a short-lived but severe cold wave, while Montana's wheat had only patchy, shallow protection on February 17-18 from temperatures as low as -30 degrees F. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal weather returned to much of California and the Pacific Northwest, but abundant February snowfall maintained favorable prospects for summer water supplies across the northern Rockies and the interior Northwest. In contrast, the Southwest continued to brace for minimal spring and summer runoff, although many reservoirs remained at favorable levels following the phenomenally wet winter of 2004-05. Farther east, rain provided additional drought relief from eastern Texas to the Delta, while drought persisted in the central Corn Belt. Dryness gradually intensified across the interior Southeast, including North Carolina, while periodic rainfall eased previously dry conditions in Florida. However, the Southeast had a mid-month brush with cold weather, culminating on February 14 in a light freeze as far south as interior southern Florida. Elsewhere, a February 11-12 snow storm interrupted an otherwise quiet weather pattern in the Mid-Atlantic States, while Midwestern conditions ranged from drier than normal in the Ohio and middle Mississippi Valleys to frequently snowy in the Great Lakes region.

Sharp temperature fluctuations tended to average out, resulting in near-normal February temperatures across much of the Nation. On the Plains, for example, warm spells in early February and again toward month's end were balanced by a week-long cold snap beginning in mid-February. Elsewhere, monthly temperatures averaged slightly below normal across the South and Northwest, but were mostly above normal in the drought-stricken Southwest.

February Agricultural Summary

After 2 months of above-normal temperatures nationwide, February was marked by more normal temperatures. Though the central Corn Belt, northern Great Plains, and Southwest continued to experience warm weather, below-normal temperatures prevailed across the Southeast, Mississippi Delta, Pacific Northwest, and northern Rocky Mountains.

February was a dry month for most of the Nation. Precipitation was below normal across the Corn Belt, favoring land preparation. In the Great Plains, however, a continued lack of precipitation was a serious concern for winter wheat growers. Most northern areas of the region lacked a protective snow cover due to warm weather in previous months, leaving the crop exposed to occasional sub-zero temperatures. Meanwhile, in the southern Great Plains, lack of rainfall, warm weather, and windy conditions continued to deplete soil moisture, causing further stress to winter grains.

Elsewhere, the Southwest remained dry throughout the month, with temperatures averaging above normal. Moderate precipitation and below-normal temperatures prevailed in the Pacific Northwest and northern Rocky Mountains. In Florida, freezing temperatures in the peninsula around midmonth forced the use of irrigation and wind machines to avoid freeze damage to citrus crops. Field preparation was active across the Southeast and Mississippi Delta, while some planting of summer crops had occurred in Texas.

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed for the 2005 crop year is estimated at 27.3 million tons, 6 percent below 2004 but 1 percent above last month. Area harvested and to be harvested for sugar and seed for the 2005 crop year, at 922,900 acres, is down 2 percent from the previous year's harvested area and down fractionally from the February estimate. Yield is estimated at 29.6 tons per acre, 1.3 tons below the 2004 crop but 0.2 ton above the previous estimate. The U.S. yield and production estimates are the lowest since 1933 and 1980, respectively.

Estimates for Hawaii, Louisiana, and Texas are carried forward from January. Florida's harvest was nearly finished by month's end. Total harvested area in Florida was down 1,000 acres from the February estimate. The estimated yield in Florida increased by 0.5 ton, more than enough to compensate for the lower acreage estimate, resulting in a 1 percent increase in production.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya utilization is estimated at 2.49 million pounds for February, 12 percent lower than the previous month but 3 percent higher than February 2005. Area in crop totaled 2,285 acres, virtually unchanged from last month but up 2 percent from last February. Harvested area totaled 1,785 acres, unchanged from the previous month but 27 percent above a year ago. Late January rains encouraged

flowering and growth but excessive February rains in Oahu and Kauai over-saturated some fields. Cooler temperatures slowed fruit development and increased the need for spraying. In Puna, younger fields came into production and new orchards were planted.

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 2005-06 U.S. grapefruit crop is 1.13 million tons, up 4 percent from the previous forecast and 12 percent above last season's final utilization. Florida's grapefruit production is forecast at 17.0 million boxes (723,000 tons), up 6 percent from the February 1 forecast and 33 percent above last year's hurricane-damaged crop. The white grapefruit utilization forecast, at 5.00 million boxes (213,000 tons), is up 25 percent from February and 47 percent above last season's utilization. The colored seedless utilization forecast, at 12.0 million boxes (510,000 tons), is unchanged from the February 1 forecast but 28 percent higher than the 2004-05 season's utilization. The primary indicators for the March grapefruit forecast are the row count survey and estimated utilization to March 1. Arizona, California, and Texas grapefruit forecasts are carried forward from January.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast, at 1.40 million boxes (63,000 tons), is up 17 percent from the February 1 forecast but down 10 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 382,000 tons, unchanged from the previous forecast but up 15 percent from last season's utilization of 331,000 tons. Florida's tangerine crop is forecast at 5.20 million boxes (247,000 tons), unchanged from the February forecast but 17 percent higher than last season's 4.45 million boxes. Early tangerine (Fallglo and Sunburst varieties) harvest is virtually complete. Harvest of the later Honey variety tangerine is underway with 46 percent of the rows harvested. Arizona and California tangerine forecasts are carried forward from January.

Temples: Florida's Temple forecast for the 2005-06 season is 800,000 boxes (36,000 tons), unchanged from the February forecast but 23 percent above last season's hurricane-reduced final utilization of 650,000 boxes. The row count survey showed 40 percent of the rows have been harvested. If realized, this will be the second lowest utilized production, behind last season.

Florida Citrus: The month of February brought much needed rain to Florida citrus producing areas. Over 6 inches of rain fell in the north and at least 2.5 inches were recorded in the other citrus regions. Temperatures for the month were cooler than normal, with lows of 29 degrees reported in 4 of the 7 routinely monitored areas. Even lower temperatures were reported in several other areas, although of short duration, and no fruit damage was observed. Trees in all growing areas had begun to form small flower buds by the end of the month. Grower activities included fertilizer application, brush removal, and hedging and topping after harvest. Citrus maturity levels continued to lag behind normal for the month. Most orange harvest activities focused on the early-midseason varieties but limited Valencia harvest had begun. The volumes of grapefruit and Honey tangerine movement had increased to nearly 800,000 boxes and 150,000 boxes per week, respectively, by the end of February.

California Citrus: Harvesting of navel oranges, grapefruit, lemons, mandarins, tangelos, and tangerines continued during February with good yields reported. Growers applied copper, lime, and zinc to citrus groves in order to control fungal disease and to comply with export requirements. Early variety Valencia orange harvest began but some maturity problems were reported. Citrus growers were busy running water and wind machines when temperatures dropped below freezing. Navel demand in the domestic and export markets was moderate. Puff and rind problems continued to be problematic in navels resulting in lower than normal pack-outs.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: General maintenance activities were underway during February in many grape vineyards as growers replaced stakes and trellis wire, pruned vines, and shredded canes. Several grape growers were busy discing between rows and applying herbicides to control weeds. Insecticides were applied to some vineyards to control vine mealybugs. Warm temperatures at the beginning of the month caused some early variety fruit trees to prematurely begin pushing buds. Freezing temperatures followed, raising concerns of crop damage to these early fruit crops. Early almond trees were starting to bloom at the beginning of the month. By month's end, most early variety almond orchards were in full bloom, and later varieties had begun blooming. A few orchards were treated with fungicides to prevent blossom rot. The freezing temperatures during the month caused some damage to early almond varieties but the overall impact remains to be determined. The cool temperatures also slowed honeybee activity in almond orchards. Replanting of almond, walnut, and pistachio orchards continued. New peach orchards were planted in the San Joaquin Valley. Strawberry plants continued to show good growth in the San Joaquin Valley, and harvesting began along the central coast.

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. 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 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 4 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 6 abnormal production seasons (5 freeze seasons and 1 hurricane season), the "Root Mean Square Error" is 1.9 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current orange production forecast will not be above or below the final estimates by more than 3.2 percent, or 1.9 percent, excluding abnormal seasons. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.6 percent, or 3.4 percent, excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the March 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 248,000 tons (193,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 8,000 tons to 713,000 tons (3,000 tons to 503,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons). The March 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 March 1 forecasts this year are likely to understate or overstate final production.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information.

Joe Prusacki, Chief	(202) 720-2127
Field Crops Section	
Greg Thessen, Head	(202) 720-2127
Shiela Corley - Cotton, Cotton Ginnings	(202) 720-5944
Scott Cox - Wheat, Rye	(202) 720-8068
Ty Kalaus - Corn, Proso Millet, Flaxseed	(202) 720-9526
Dennis Koong - Peanuts, Rice	(202) 720-7688
Jason Lamprecht - Soybeans, Sunflower, Other Oilseeds	(202) 720-7369
Travis Thorson - Hay, Oats, Sorghum	(202) 690-3234
Brian Young - Crop Weather, Barley, Sugar Crops	(202) 720-7621
Fruit, Vegetable & Special Crops Section	
Jim Smith, Head	(202) 720-2127
Leslie Colburn - Berries, Grapes, Maple Syrup, Tobacco	(202) 720-7235
Debbie Flippin - Austrian Winter Peas, Dry Edible Peas, Lentils, Mint, Mushrooms, Peaches, Pears, Wrinkled Seed Peas	(202) 720-2157
Rich Holcomb - Citrus, Tropical Fruits	(202) 720-5412
Doug Marousek - Floriculture, Nursery, Nuts	(202) 720-4215
Terry O'Connor - Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Cranberries, Plums, Prunes	(202) 720-4288
Kim Ritchie - Hops	(360) 902-1940
Cathy Scherrer - Dry Beans, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes	(202) 720-4285
Debbie Flippin - Fresh and Processing Vegetables, Onions, Strawberries	(202) 720-2157

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