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Crop Production

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All Orange Production Virtually Unchanged

The U.S. all orange forecast for the 2005-06 season is 8.96 million tons, virtually unchanged from the March 1 forecast but 3 percent below last season's revised final utilization. Florida's all orange forecast, at 153 million boxes (6.89 million tons), is down 1 percent from the previous forecast but 2 percent above the revised 2004-05 utilization. Early, midseason, and navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 75.0 million boxes (3.38 million tons), down 1 percent from last month and 5 percent below the previous season. Harvest of the early and midseason varieties is almost complete with the row count survey conducted March 29-30 showing very few unharvested rows remaining. Navel harvest is complete. Florida's Valencia forecast is 78.0 million boxes (3.51 million tons), unchanged from the March forecast but 10 percent above last season's revised final utilization. If realized, this will be the first season that Florida Valencia orange production exceeds that of the early, midseason, and navel varieties.

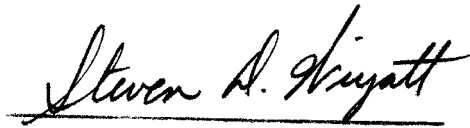
California's all orange forecast, at 53.0 million boxes (1.99 million tons), is unchanged from the March forecast but 17 percent below the revised 2004-05 utilization. Harvesting of navel oranges was active throughout March, although at a slower pace due to continued rainfall. Cooler March temperatures slowed fruit maturation which is helping to minimize fruit drop. California's Valencia orange forecast, at 11.0 million boxes (413,000 tons), is unchanged from the March forecast but 46 percent below last season's revised utilization. The Valencia harvest began mid-month in the Central Valley but has slowed due to wet weather. Harvest continues in the southern citrus growing areas, as conditions allow. Fruit is generally of good to excellent quality, although some splits are beginning to appear. The Texas all orange forecast is 1.53 million boxes (65,000 tons), unchanged from the January 1 forecast but 14 percent below last season's final utilized production. The Texas early and midseason orange harvest is virtually complete and the Valencia harvest should begin to wind down soon. Arizona's all orange utilization forecast, at 450,000 boxes (17,000 tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but 5 percent above the 2004-05 season. Arizona's citrus groves and fruit are reported to be in good condition.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield for the 2005-06 season, at 1.61 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, is increased from the 1.58 gallons estimated for 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 1.53 gallons, increased from the 1.52 gallons per box estimated last month but equal to that from the 2004-05 crop. The Valencia yield, at 1.70 gallons, is increased from 1.66 gallons last month and is higher than the 1.68 gallons per box recorded 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 April 10, 2006.



Acting Secretary of
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Joseph W. Glauber



Agricultural Statistics Board
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**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
2003-04, 2004-05 and Forecasted April 1, 2006^{1 2}**

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 Boxes³</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes³</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes³</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel ⁴						
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	75,000	5,670	3,560	3,375
TX	1,420	1,500	1,300	60	64	55
US	167,220	123,840	118,550	7,223	5,246	5,014
Valencia						
AZ	170	190	200	6	7	8
CA	11,000	20,500	11,000	413	769	413
FL	116,000	70,700	78,000	5,220	3,182	3,510
TX	230	270	230	10	11	10
US	127,400	91,660	89,430	5,649	3,969	3,941
All						
AZ	470	430	450	18	16	17
CA	50,500	63,500	53,000	1,894	2,382	1,988
FL	242,000	149,800	153,000	10,890	6,742	6,885
TX	1,650	1,770	1,530	70	75	65
US	294,620	215,500	207,980	12,872	9,215	8,955
Temples						
FL	1,400	650	700	63	29	32
Grapefruit						
White Seedless ⁵						
FL	15,900	3,400	6,000	675	145	255
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	18,000	1,738	545	765
TX	5,700	6,600	4,800	228	264	192
US	52,540	25,340	28,900	2,165	1,008	1,161
Tangerines						
AZ ⁶	690	400	550	25	15	21
CA ⁶	2,200	2,800	4,000	83	105	150
FL	6,500	4,450	5,000	309	211	238
US	9,390	7,650	9,550	417	331	409
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	1,400	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 2004-05 revised.

³ 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.

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

⁵ Includes seedy.

⁶ Includes tangelos and tangors.

**Potatoes: Area Planted and 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	270	3,250	3,500	3,240
FL	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.5	240	250	1,568	1,392	1,375
Total	20.0	17.7	19.8	17.5	247	264	4,818	4,892	4,615
Spring									
AZ	4.3	4.0	4.3	4.0	275	275	1,767	1,183	1,100
CA	15.1	14.4	15.1	14.4	405	400	8,313	6,116	5,760
FL	23.6	24.1	23.2	23.7	281	294	7,678	6,527	6,962
Hastings	17.3	18.0	17.0	17.7	280	295	5,760	4,760	5,222
Other FL	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.0	285	290	1,918	1,767	1,740
NC	15.5	16.5	15.0	15.7	190	200	2,700	2,850	3,140
TX	9.5	10.7	9.1	10.2	225	300	2,205	2,048	3,060
Total	68.0	69.7	66.7	68.0	281	294	22,663	18,724	20,022
Summer ¹									
AL	1.6		1.3		150		228	195	
CA	6.2		6.2		355		2,450	2,201	
CO	5.0		4.9		375		1,995	1,838	
DE	3.3		3.1		260		806	806	
IL	5.7		5.5		380		1,992	2,090	
KS	5.1		5.0		360		1,360	1,800	
MD	3.5		3.4		260		1,196	884	
MO	6.5		6.3		340		1,922	2,142	
NJ	2.1		2.1		255		594	536	
NM ²							340		
TX	9.4		8.7		465		4,224	4,046	
VA	5.0		4.9		210		1,200	1,029	
Total	53.4		51.4		342		18,307	17,567	

¹ 2005 revised.

² Summer potatoes combined with fall potatoes in 2005.

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>
Feb	2,250	2,285	1,410	1,785	2,425	2,490
Mar	2,490	2,060	1,435	1,775	2,715	2,135

¹ Utilized fresh production.

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	3,667.0	3,269.0	
Corn for Grain ²	81,759.0	78,019.0	75,107.0	
Corn for Silage			5,920.0	
Hay, All			61,649.0	61,478.0
Alfalfa			22,389.0	
All Other			39,260.0	
Oats	4,246.0	4,324.0	1,823.0	
Proso Millet	565.0		515.0	
Rice	3,384.0	2,972.0	3,364.0	
Rye	1,433.0		279.0	
Sorghum for Grain ²	6,454.0	6,483.0	5,736.0	
Sorghum for Silage			311.0	
Wheat, All	57,229.0	57,128.0	50,119.0	
Winter	40,433.0	41,404.0	33,794.0	
Durum	2,760.0	1,825.0	2,716.0	
Other Spring	14,036.0	13,899.0	13,609.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,159.0	923.0	1,114.0	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	983.0	890.0	955.0	
Mustard Seed	49.0		44.6	
Peanuts	1,657.0	1,391.0	1,629.0	
Rapeseed	2.4		2.0	
Safflower	165.0		160.0	
Soybeans for Beans	72,142.0	76,895.0	71,361.0	
Sunflower	2,709.0	2,196.0	2,610.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	14,195.4	14,634.0	13,702.6	
Upland	13,925.0	14,300.0	13,434.0	
Amer-Pima	270.4	334.0	268.6	
Sugarbeets	1,294.8	1,371.8	1,238.9	
Sugarcane			922.9	
Tobacco			298.0	306.6
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	42.5		24.5	
Dry Edible Beans	1,665.0	1,710.3	1,568.6	
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	1,110.0		1,087.4	
Winter	20.0	17.7	19.8	17.5
Spring	68.0	69.7	66.7	68.0
Summer	53.4		51.4	
Fall	968.6		949.5	
Spearmint Oil			17.7	
Sweet Potatoes	90.4	94.2	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	"	1,744		27,350	
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		422,209	
Winter	"	247	264	4,892	4,615
Spring	"	281	294	18,724	20,022
Summer	"	342		17,567	
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	1,161
Lemons	“	798	813	866
Oranges	“	12,872	9,215	8,955
Tangelos (FL)	“	45	70	63
Tangerines	“	417	331	409
Temples (FL)	“	63	29	32
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 2003-04, 2004-05, and 2005-06.

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	1,484,000	1,322,930	
Corn for Grain ²	33,087,050	31,573,510	30,395,050	
Corn for Silage			2,395,760	
Hay, All ³			24,948,730	24,879,530
Alfalfa			9,060,600	
All Other			15,888,130	
Oats	1,718,310	1,749,880	737,750	
Proso Millet	228,650		208,420	
Rice	1,369,470	1,202,740	1,361,380	
Rye	579,920		112,910	
Sorghum for Grain ²	2,611,870	2,623,610	2,321,300	
Sorghum for Silage			125,860	
Wheat, All ³	23,160,000	23,119,130	20,282,660	
Winter	16,362,830	16,755,780	13,676,090	
Durum	1,116,940	738,560	1,099,140	
Other Spring	5,680,230	5,624,790	5,507,430	
Oilseeds				
Canola	469,040	373,530	450,820	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	397,810	360,170	386,480	
Mustard Seed	19,830		18,050	
Peanuts	670,570	562,920	659,240	
Rapeseed	970		810	
Safflower	66,770		64,750	
Soybeans for Beans	29,195,150	31,118,640	28,879,080	
Sunflower	1,096,310	888,700	1,056,240	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ³	5,744,740	5,922,230	5,545,310	
Upland	5,635,310	5,787,070	5,436,610	
Amer-Pima	109,430	135,170	108,700	
Sugarbeets	523,990	555,150	501,370	
Sugarcane			373,490	
Tobacco			120,610	124,090
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	17,200		9,910	
Dry Edible Beans	673,810	692,140	634,800	
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	449,210		440,060	
Winter	8,090	7,160	8,010	7,080
Spring	27,520	28,210	26,990	27,520
Summer	21,610		20,800	
Fall	391,980		384,250	
Spearmint Oil			7,160	
Sweet Potatoes	36,580	38,120	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		1,240,580	
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	43.52		19,151,080	
Winter	27.69	29.56	221,900	209,330
Spring	31.46	33.00	849,310	908,180
Summer	38.31		796,830	
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	1,053,240
Lemons	723,930	737,540	785,620
Oranges	11,677,280	8,359,710	8,123,840
Tangelos (FL)	40,820	63,500	57,150
Tangerines	378,300	300,280	371,040
Temples (FL)	57,150	26,310	29,030
Noncitrus			
Apples	4,740,310	4,476,780	
Apricots	91,740	73,800	
Bananas (HI) ³	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	

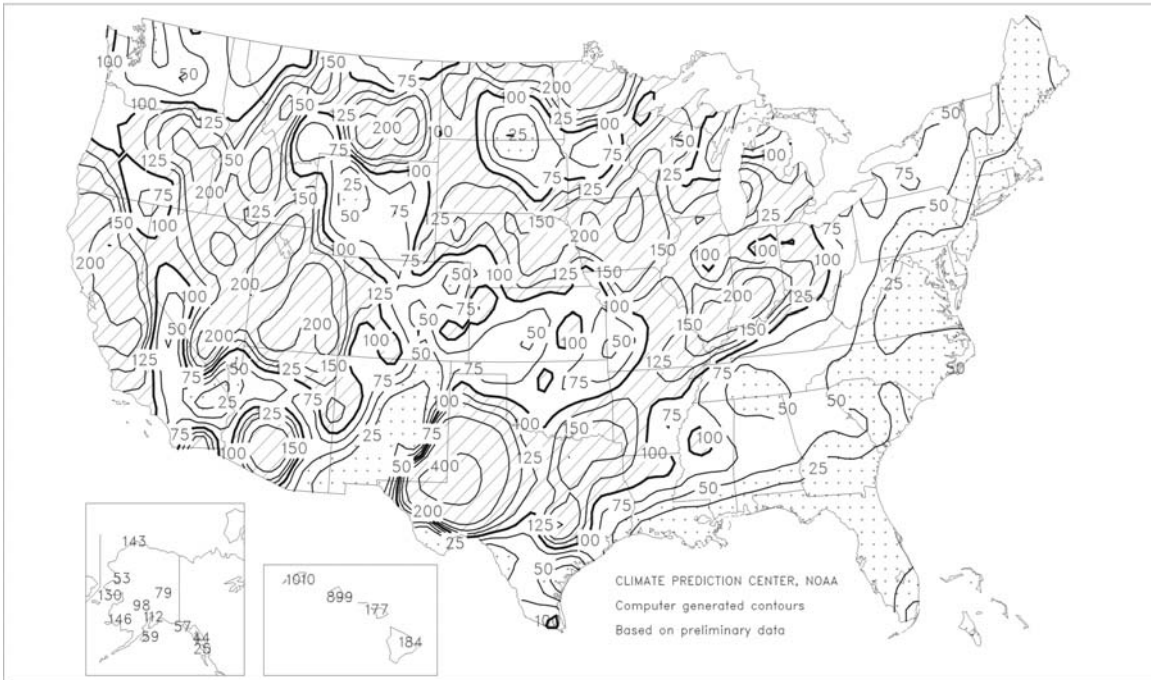
¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2006 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2005-06 season.

² Production years are 2003-04, 2004-05, and 2005-06.

³ 2005 not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

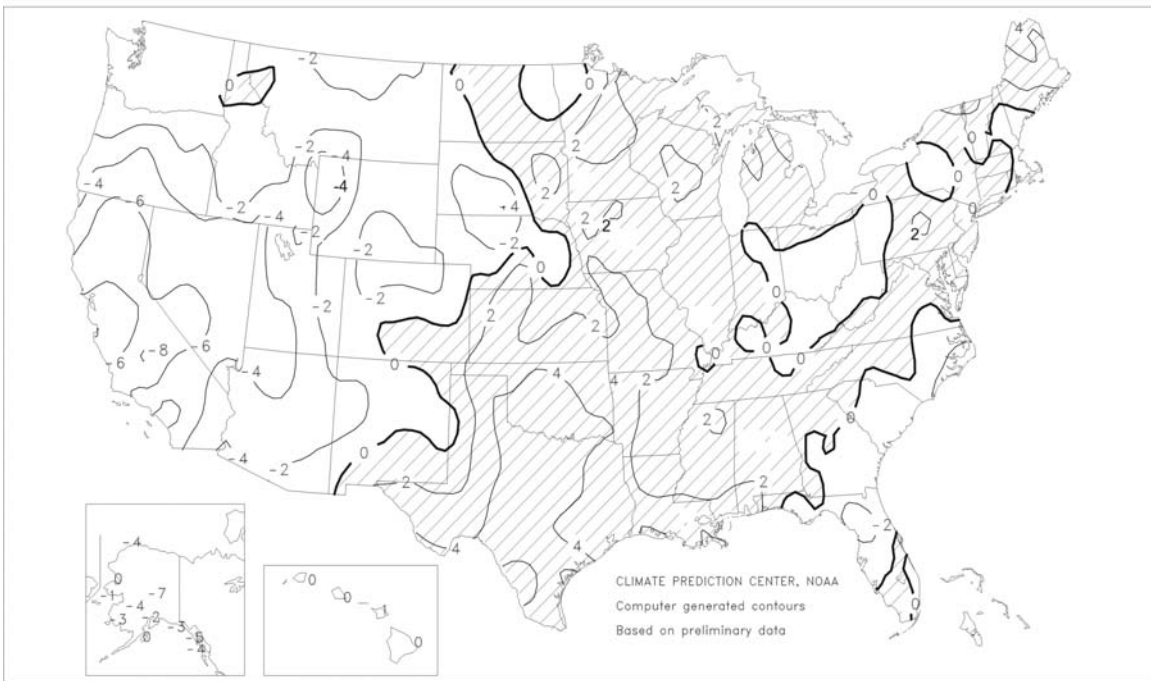
Percent Of Normal Precipitation

March 2006



Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

March 2006



March Weather Summary

Storminess briefly tempered the effects of an otherwise dry winter in Arizona and New Mexico, while snowy weather bolstered favorable spring and summer runoff prospects across the Intermountain West and interior Northwest. In northern and central California, very cool, wet weather threatened crop quality and slowed fieldwork and crop development. Farther east, a severe windstorm raked the southern High Plains on March 12, raising dust and fanning wildfires. A week later, rain provided some limited relief to the southern Plains' drought-stricken pastures and winter wheat. By month's end, dryness remained a concern as far north as the central High Plains, although a March 18-21 snowstorm and subsequent precipitation boosted soil moisture reserves in most areas from Kansas northward. In late March, flooding developed in the Red River Valley (North Dakota-Minnesota border) due to rainfall and melting snow. In the Corn Belt, March precipitation aided Midwestern winter wheat and boosted soil moisture in preparation for spring planting. Meanwhile in the Arklatex region, downpours provided additional drought relief but caused local flash flooding. Elsewhere, extremely dry conditions were observed along the Gulf Coast and in the Atlantic Coast States, resulting in numerous records for March dryness and monthly totals less than 25 percent of normal from southern Louisiana to Florida and along the East Coast as far north as southern New England.

Cool March weather in the West contrasted with above-normal temperatures from the southern Plains to the Delta. Monthly temperatures averaged more than 6 degrees F below normal in parts of California and the Great Basin, but were as much as 6 degrees F above normal in parts of Oklahoma and Texas. Mild weather (at least 3 degrees F above normal) also prevailed in northern New England, but fluctuating temperatures elsewhere resulted in monthly temperatures within 3 degrees F of normal.

March Agricultural Summary

Above-normal temperatures prevailed across the central and western Corn Belt, Mississippi Delta, southern Great Plains, and Northeast, while temperatures in the Ohio Valley, southern Atlantic Coast, Rocky Mountains, and Pacific Coast averaged below normal.

Much-needed precipitation fell in the Great Plains, where dry conditions threatened winter wheat throughout the winter. Though soil moisture improved with the rainfall, crop condition remained mostly poor to very poor in the southern Great Plains. Planting and emergence of summer crops were well ahead of normal in Texas.

Moderate to heavy precipitation in the Corn Belt boosted topsoil moisture but hindered fieldwork. Corn planting had begun in only the southernmost areas of the region. In the Ohio Valley, rainfall totals were mostly below normal. However, most areas still had adequate soil moisture, while excessive moisture in some areas caused flooding in winter wheat fields.

Dry conditions along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts were favorable for fieldwork but caused soil moisture shortages. Corn planting was well underway in the southernmost areas of the Southeast, but some areas needed additional moisture before planting could begin. In the interior Mississippi Delta, warm weather and normal rainfall pushed planting of most crops ahead of the normal pace.

In California, wet weather favored crop growth but hampered fieldwork, causing flooding in some areas. Below-normal temperatures slowed development in fruit orchards. Similar weather in the Pacific Northwest delayed small grain planting and caused some flooding. Winter wheat condition was mostly good due to ample moisture.

Grapefruit: The U.S. grapefruit forecast is 1.16 million tons, up 3 percent from the previous forecast and 15 percent above last season's final utilization. Florida's grapefruit forecast, at 18.0 million boxes (765,000 tons), is up 6 percent from March and 41 percent above last season's final utilization. The last 2 seasons' hurricane-affected crops are the smallest since the 1939-40 season. The white grapefruit forecast is 6.00 million boxes (255,000 tons), up 20 percent from March and 76 percent above last season. The colored grapefruit forecast, at 12.0 million boxes (510,000 tons), is unchanged from March 1 but 28 percent above last season's final utilization. The comparison of current utilization to results of the row count survey is the primary indication used in setting the April grapefruit forecast. The row count survey conducted March 29-30 shows 81 percent of the grapefruit rows harvested. The East Coast has a higher percentage of rows harvested than the middle of the State.

California's grapefruit forecast, at 6.00 million boxes (201,000 tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but up 3 percent from last season's final utilization. Pummelo variety grapefruit is being harvested in the Central Valley. Exterior and interior quality are good. The Rios variety continues to be harvested in the Coachella Valley. Quality is fair to good, with some irregularity in color. Texture is smooth to pebbly in the smaller sizes, and coarse in the larger sizes. The Texas grapefruit forecast is 4.80 million boxes (192,000 tons), 6 percent below the previous forecast and 27 percent lower than last season. Most of this season's grapefruit crop has already been picked but external quality is starting to deteriorate on unharvested fruit. Arizona's grapefruit forecast, at 100,000 boxes (3,000 tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but is 29 percent below last season's final utilization. Grapefruit harvest is complete in Yuma and is continuing in Maricopa County. Good fruit quality is reported.

Tangerines: The 2005-06 U.S. tangerine crop forecast is 409,000 tons, up 7 percent from the previous forecast and 24 percent higher than last season's final utilization of 331,000 tons. Florida's tangerine crop, at 5.00 million boxes (238,000 tons), is down 4 percent from the previous forecast but 12 percent higher than last season's utilization of 4.45 million boxes. Harvest of Florida's Fallglo and Sunburst tangerines is complete. The Honey variety row count survey for April shows 66 percent of the rows have been harvested.

California's forecast of tangerine production, at 4.00 million boxes (150,000 tons), is up 29 percent from the January 1 forecast and 43 percent above last season's utilized production. Yields are reported as being very good with generally good fruit quality and flavor. Harvest was interrupted by occasional March rains. The Arizona tangerine forecast, at 550,000 boxes (21,000 tons), is up 10 percent from the previous forecast and 38 percent higher than last season. Good quality is being reported. Harvest is complete in Yuma.

Lemons: The forecast for the 2005-06 U.S. lemon crop, at 866,000 tons, is unchanged from the January 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 continues as usual with reports of very good quality and yield, though picking has occasionally been interrupted by rains. No internal fruit damage has been reported. Arizona's 2005-06 lemon forecast, at 3.80 million boxes (144,000 tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but 58 percent above the previous season. Lemons are sizing smaller this season due to the heavier fruit set. Harvest is almost complete in Yuma and Maricopa County.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast, at 1.40 million boxes (63,000 tons), is unchanged from March 1 but 10 percent lower than last season's final utilized production. Tangelo utilization is complete for the season with over 60 percent of the fruit being processed.

Temples: Florida's Temple forecast is 700,000 boxes (32,000 tons) for the 2005-06 season, down 12 percent from March but 8 percent above last season's final utilization of 650,000 boxes. If attained, this will be the second lowest utilization since Temple forecasts began. Temple harvest is nearly complete.

Florida Citrus: March turned out to be an extremely dry month at 6 of the 7 monitored stations. Immokalle, in the extreme south, was the only exception by receiving over 2 inches of rain for the month. The least amount of rainfall recorded was in Ft. Pierce with three-tenths of an inch recorded. Warmer than normal seasonal daytime temperatures were recorded in all areas, averaging in the mid 80's. Trees had reached a uniform full bloom by the end of the month, with petal drop beginning on Valencia and grapefruit trees. Growers continued with fertilization programs, brush removal, and hedging and topping after harvest. Irrigation was generally required on a rotating basis at least 2 or 3 times per week for the entire month. Maturity levels in all varieties lagged behind normal for the month. Harvest of early and midseason orange varieties wound down as Valencia harvest increased the second and third weeks of the month. Grapefruit harvest peaked at just over 1 million boxes during the fourth week, with a larger percentage of both colored and white going to processing. Honey tangerine harvest was relatively steady between 100,000 and 150,000 boxes per week. Temple utilization averaged less than 50,000 boxes per week and was nearing completion by the end of the month.

Arizona Citrus: Citrus groves are reported to be in good condition. Overall, fruit quality is good. Fruit size continues to be smaller than normal. Compared to last season, there has been little insect damage. Nearly all of the navel oranges, lemons, tangerines, and grapefruit have been harvested in Yuma County. Packers estimate nearly 20 percent of the Valencia crop has been harvested in Maricopa County.

Texas Citrus: Due to lack of rainfall this season, growers have continued to irrigate in order to maintain fruit size and quality. By the end of March, most citrus fruit had been harvested. However, unusually strong winds during early March resulted in heavy fruit drop from the small amount of trees that had not already been harvested. Grapefruit harvest is nearly 90 percent complete. Harvest of navel oranges is virtually complete and only 25 percent of the Valencia crop remains on the trees.

California Citrus: Periods of rain during the month caused some delays in harvesting of citrus fruit. Harvesting of navel oranges continued throughout the month. Grade-outs due to rind puff and small sizes continued to be a problem. Fungicide applications were made to oranges to meet export requirements. The Valencia orange harvest continued in the Coachella Valley and parts of the Central Valley. Lemons were harvested in many locations. Rios and pummelo variety grapefruit were picked. Mandarins, tangelos, and tangerines were also picked and packed.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: Rainy weather during March continued to delay field work. Growers applied fungicides to prevent fungal diseases resulting from the rainy conditions. By month's end, grape buds were starting to swell and leaves were beginning to appear. Vineyards were treated for weeds, and several growers were French-plowing their rows. Soil amendments were applied in many vineyards and spray applications for vine mealy bug continued throughout the month. Unsettled weather conditions hampered bee pollination activities on tree fruit. Some signs of fruit scarring were noted in early variety plums, pluots, and nectarines. Apricot and cherry bloom was reported to be light and erratic with some damage expected in Tulare variety cherries due to the cold temperatures. Apple and pear trees were starting to bloom by month's end and pomegranates began leafing out. Kiwifruit vines were treated with dormant sprays. Strawberry plants showed growth throughout the month and were blooming by month's end. Most almond orchards were past bloom and beginning to leaf out by the end of the month. Bees were removed from some almond orchards. Many orchards were treated to prevent shot hole disease. Winter pruning and shredding, as well as some herbicide applications, continued in walnut groves between rain storms. Avocado harvest began toward the end of March. Some olive groves were pruned.

Winter Potatoes: The 2006 U.S. winter potato crop in California and Florida combined is forecast at 4.62 million cwt, 4 percent above the January forecast but 6 percent below last year. Area for harvest, at 17,500 acres, is unchanged from January but down 12 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 264 cwt per acre is up 10 cwt from January and 17 cwt above a year ago.

California's average yield is forecast at 270 cwt per acre, 10 cwt per acre above the January forecast. Harvest continues with good quality. There was little damage caused by freezing temperatures in March. Yields in Florida are forecasted at 250 cwt per acre, 10 cwt per acre above the January forecast. Mild weather during December aided in crop development and dry conditions have kept harvest on schedule.

Spring Potatoes: Spring production in 2006 is forecast at 20.0 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 68,000 acres, 2 percent above 2005. The average yield is forecast at 294 cwt per acre, up 13 cwt from a year ago.

Spring potato production in Florida is forecast at 6.96 million cwt, up 7 percent from a year ago. Florida's spring harvested acreage increased 2 percent and average yield is expected to be 13 cwt per acre above last year. Dry weather kept planting on schedule and in late March, Hastings growers continued to make double crop plantings following cabbage harvest. Digging is expected to begin by mid-April in the Hastings area and is underway in the other spring areas. North Carolina's spring potato crop is forecast at 3.14 million cwt, up 10 percent from last year. Area for harvest is expected to be up 5 percent from a year ago and average yield is expected to increase 10 cwt per acre from last year. Planting is winding down and crop condition is good.

California's spring potato production forecast, at 5.76 million cwt, is 6 percent below last year. Area for harvest is down 5 percent and yield is down 5 cwt per acre from a year ago. Planting proceeded normally but weather conditions have been wet and cool. Overall condition of the crop is lower than the previous year and a few potato fields were damaged by frost. Harvest is under way in Kern county but some growers anticipate a late harvest due to the wet conditions. Texas spring potato production is forecast at 3.06 million cwt, 49 percent above last season. Acreage for harvest increased 12 percent and the average yield forecast is up 75 cwt per acre from a year ago. Producers report good growing conditions with near perfect weather. Arizona's production is forecast at 1.10 million cwt, down 7 percent from last year. Growers report a 7 percent decrease in acreage for harvest but expect yield to be unchanged from last year.

Summer Potatoes, 2005 Revisions: The final estimate of 2005 summer potato crop production is 17.6 million cwt, up 8 percent from the preliminary estimate in the January *Crop Production 2005 Summary* but down 4 percent from the 2004 crop. Harvested area covered 51,400 acres, up 6 percent from the 2005 preliminary estimate but down 5 percent from 2004. The average yield of 342 cwt per acre is up 8 cwt from the 2005 preliminary estimate and 2 cwt above the 2004 crop.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya utilization is estimated at 2.14 million pounds for March, down 14 percent from last month and 21 percent lower than a year ago. Area in crop totaled 2,060 acres, down 10 percent from last month and 17 percent below March 2005. Harvested area totaled 1,775 acres, down 1 percent from last month but 24 percent higher than the same month last year. Frequent rains began in mid-February and continued through March, saturating papaya orchards, which stressed trees and increased disease pressure, particularly on the western islands of Oahu and Kauai. Most papayas are grown in the Puna area of Hawaii Island and were not as adversely affected by this excessive moisture. Orchards there experienced steady flowering and new growth, while new seedlings made good progress. Growers increased spraying to control disease outbreaks and weed growth.

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. 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 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 3.0 percent. However, if you exclude the 6 abnormal production seasons (5 freeze seasons and 1 hurricane season), the "Root Mean Square Error" is 1.6 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 3.0 percent, or 1.6 percent, excluding abnormal seasons. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.1 percent, or 2.9 percent, excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the April 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 194,000 tons (158,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 7,000 tons to 716,000 tons (7,000 tons to 368,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons). The April 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 6 times and above 14 times (below 6 times and above 8 times, excluding abnormal seasons). The difference does not imply that the April 1 forecasts this year are likely to understate or overstate final production.

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