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Crop Production

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All Orange Production Unchanged

The U.S. all orange forecast for the 2006-07 season is 8.12 million tons, virtually unchanged from the December forecast but down 9 percent from last season's final utilization of 8.90 million tons. Florida's all orange forecast, at 140 million boxes (6.30 million tons), is unchanged from December but down 5 percent from the 2005-06 hurricane-reduced crop. Most of Florida's citrus growing areas experienced warmer than average temperatures during December but also received significant precipitation. Early, midseason, and navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 75.0 million boxes (3.38 million tons), unchanged from both the previous forecast and last season's final utilization. The row count survey conducted December 26-27 indicates that 34 percent of the early-midseason orange rows have been harvested. Beginning with the current season, Temple oranges are included in this category. Florida's Valencia forecast is 65.0 million boxes (2.93 million tons), also unchanged from the October forecast but down 11 percent from last season's final utilization. Projections of average fruit size and percent of fruit dropped have increased since last month for both early-midseason and Valencia oranges.

The all orange forecast for California, at 46.0 million boxes (1.73 million tons), is unchanged from the October forecast but down 20 percent from last season's final utilization. The navel orange forecast is 33.0 million boxes (1.24 million tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but 27 percent lower than the previous season. California's Valencia orange forecast is also unchanged from the previous forecast but is 8 percent higher than the 2005-06 season's utilization. The all orange forecast for Texas, at 1.98 million boxes (84,000 tons), is up 11 percent from the October forecast and 24 percent higher than last season's production. Abundant rain in September and October has helped the crop. The early-midseason orange forecast is 1.71 million boxes (73,000 tons), up 11 percent from the previous forecast and up 22 percent from last season. The Texas Valencia orange forecast is 270,000 boxes (11,000 tons), up 13 percent from the October forecast and 35 percent higher than last season's utilized production. Arizona's all orange forecast, at 350,000 boxes (14,000 tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but 22 percent lower than the 2005-06 season's utilized production. Navel orange production is forecast at 200,000 boxes (8,000 tons), unchanged from the October forecast but down 20 percent from last season. The Valencia forecast, at 150,000 boxes (6,000 tons), is unchanged from October but 25 percent lower than the previous season.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield for the 2006-07 season is forecast at 1.58 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, unchanged from last month's forecast but down from the 2005-06 season's yield of 1.63 gallons. Projected yield from the early-midseason portion is 1.51 gallons, down from 1.53 gallons last season. Valencias are projected to yield 1.70 gallons, down from 1.75 gallons for the 2005-06 crop. 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, 2007.



Secretary of
Agriculture
Mike Johanns



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
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**Potatoes: Area Planted, Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Seasonal Group, State, and United States, 2005-2007**

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
	2006	2007	2006	2007					
	<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	12.0	11.5	12.0	11.5	260	250	3,500	3,120	2,875
FL ¹	5.7		5.5		250		1,392	1,375	
Total	17.7	11.5	17.5	11.5	257	250	4,892	4,495	2,875
Spring ²									
AZ	3.9		3.9		300		1,183	1,170	
CA	15.3		15.3		395		6,116	6,044	
FL ¹	23.1		22.6		285		6,527	6,441	
Hastings	17.0		16.6		285		4,760	4,731	
Other FL	6.1		6.0		285		1,767	1,710	
NC	17.7		15.5		210		2,850	3,255	
TX	10.7		10.2		280		2,048	2,856	
Total	70.7		67.5		293		18,724	19,766	

¹ Winter potatoes combined with spring potatoes in 2007.

² 2006 revised.

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>
Nov	2,300	2,140	1,405	1,325	2,020	2,520
Dec	2,290	2,350	1,780	1,135	2,550	2,220

¹ Utilized fresh production.

**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
2004-05, 2005-06 and Forecasted January 1, 2007 ¹**

Crop and State	Utilized Production Boxes			Utilized Production Ton Equivalent		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
	<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	240	250	200	9	9	8
CA	44,000	45,500	33,000	1,650	1,706	1,238
FL ⁴	79,100	75,000	75,000	3,560	3,375	3,375
TX	1,500	1,400	1,710	64	60	73
US	124,840	122,150	109,910	5,283	5,150	4,694
Valencia						
AZ	190	200	150	7	8	6
CA	20,500	12,000	13,000	769	450	488
FL	70,700	72,900	65,000	3,182	3,281	2,925
TX	270	200	270	11	9	11
US	91,660	85,300	78,420	3,969	3,748	3,430
All						
AZ	430	450	350	16	17	14
CA	64,500	57,500	46,000	2,419	2,156	1,726
FL	149,800	147,900	140,000	6,742	6,656	6,300
TX	1,770	1,600	1,980	75	69	84
US	216,500	207,450	188,330	9,252	8,898	8,124
Temples ⁴						
FL	650	700		29	32	
Grapefruit						
White						
FL	3,400	6,500	9,000	145	276	383
Colored						
FL	9,400	12,800	17,000	400	544	723
All						
AZ	140	100	100	5	3	3
CA	6,100	6,000	6,000	204	201	201
FL	12,800	19,300	26,000	545	820	1,106
TX	6,600	5,200	6,500	264	208	260
US	25,640	30,600	38,600	1,018	1,232	1,570
Tangerines						
AZ ⁵	400	550	400	15	21	15
CA ⁵	2,900	3,600	3,800	109	135	143
FL	4,450	5,500	4,600	211	261	219
US	7,750	9,650	8,800	335	417	377
Lemons						
AZ	2,400	3,800	2,800	91	144	106
CA	20,500	21,000	20,500	779	798	779
US	22,900	24,800	23,300	870	942	885
Tangelos						
FL	1,550	1,400	1,100	70	63	50

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 Temples included in early and midseason orange varieties beginning with 2006-07 season.

⁵ Includes tangelos and tangors.

**Hay: Stocks on Farms by State and United States,
December 1 and May 1, 2004-2006**

State	Dec 1			May 1	
	2004	2005 ¹	2006	2005	2006 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	1,965	1,575	1,065	356	264
AZ	250	350	350	35	40
AR	3,200	2,000	2,140	660	210
CA	1,770	1,840	1,675	215	192
CO	2,527	2,365	2,130	470	460
CT	73	55	65	21	9
DE	25	18	18	5	4
FL	410	380	380	26	60
GA	1,345	1,350	878	292	198
ID	2,782	2,260	2,575	535	375
IL	1,613	1,260	1,690	460	324
IN	1,704	1,498	1,475	345	207
IA	4,368	4,200	3,900	1,250	1,000
KS	6,304	5,000	4,390	1,735	800
KY	4,742	4,390	4,550	1,186	635
LA	910	596	690	128	81
ME	189	138	140	39	25
MD	348	390	452	86	74
MA	95	76	90	17	17
MI	1,893	1,852	2,385	500	395
MN	4,127	4,117	4,200	884	1,150
MS	1,159	1,567	1,186	199	210
MO	8,101	6,315	5,415	2,166	873
MT	4,427	5,440	4,105	860	1,463
NE	4,370	4,585	3,632	1,440	1,070
NV	741	788	879	80	209
NH	53	53	60	12	8
NJ	161	112	97	36	8
NM	545	545	470	164	133
NY	1,895	1,650	1,451	440	285
NC	1,545	1,245	1,280	350	282
ND	3,923	5,580	4,375	917	1,806
OH	2,250	2,360	2,155	420	363
OK	5,125	3,900	3,275	1,385	550
OR	2,366	1,790	1,840	362	210
PA	2,700	1,700	3,485	650	410
RI	12	10	8	2	1
SC	557	565	468	120	120
SD	6,939	7,935	5,120	2,100	2,140
TN	4,199	3,625	3,103	1,025	742
TX	10,451	8,000	7,550	2,779	896
UT	1,383	1,370	1,410	300	266
VT	276	257	273	71	57
VA	2,716	2,585	2,190	791	730
WA	1,560	1,475	1,339	322	250
WV	1,030	984	816	212	214
WI	3,532	3,183	3,577	927	1,135
WY	1,860	1,876	1,600	383	394
US	114,516	105,205	96,397	27,758	21,345

¹ Revised.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2006-2007
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	3,452.0		2,951.0	
Corn for Grain ²	78,327.0		70,648.0	
Corn for Silage			6,477.0	
Hay, All			60,807.0	
Alfalfa			21,384.0	
All Other			39,423.0	
Oats	4,168.0		1,576.0	
Proso Millet	580.0		475.0	
Rice	2,838.0		2,821.0	
Rye	1,396.0		274.0	
Sorghum for Grain ²	6,522.0		4,937.0	
Sorghum for Silage			347.0	
Wheat, All	57,344.0		46,810.0	
Winter	40,575.0	44,089.0	31,117.0	
Durum	1,870.0		1,815.0	
Other Spring	14,899.0		13,878.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,044.0		1,021.0	
Cottonseed ³				
Flaxseed	813.0		767.0	
Mustard Seed	40.5		39.2	
Peanuts	1,243.0		1,209.0	
Rapeseed	1.4		1.0	
Safflower	189.0		179.0	
Soybeans for Beans	75,522.0		74,602.0	
Sunflower	1,950.0		1,770.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	15,274.0		12,731.5	
Upland	14,948.0		12,408.0	
Amer-Pima	326.0		323.5	
Sugarbeets	1,366.7		1,304.1	
Sugarcane			908.8	
Tobacco			339.0	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	46.0		22.5	
Dry Edible Beans	1,629.8		1,537.6	
Dry Edible Peas	925.5		884.1	
Lentils	429.0		407.0	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			6.3	
Ginger Root (HI)			0.1	
Hops			29.4	
Peppermint Oil			79.2	
Potatoes, All	1,134.7		1,115.5	
Winter	17.7	11.5	17.5	11.5
Spring	70.7		67.5	
Summer	58.4		54.3	
Fall	987.9		976.2	
Spearmint Oil			18.5	
Sweet Potatoes	95.6		87.2	
Taro (HI) ⁴			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 2007 crop year.

² Area planted for all purposes.

³ Acreage is not estimated.

⁴ Area is total acres in crop, not harvested acreage.

Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 2006-2007
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Units	Yield		Production	
		2006	2007	2006	2007
				<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Grains & Hay					
Barley	Bu	61.0		180,051	
Corn for Grain	"	149.1		10,534,868	
Corn for Silage	Tons	16.2		104,849	
Hay, All	"	2.33		141,666	
Alfalfa	"	3.35		71,666	
All Other	"	1.78		70,000	
Oats	Bu	59.5		93,764	
Proso Millet	"	21.5		10,195	
Rice ²	Cwt	6,868		193,736	
Rye	Bu	26.3		7,193	
Sorghum for Grain	"	56.2		277,538	
Sorghum for Silage	Tons	13.4		4,642	
Wheat, All	Bu	38.7		1,812,036	
Winter	"	41.7		1,298,081	
Durum	"	29.5		53,475	
Other Spring	"	33.2		460,480	
Oilseeds					
Canola	Lbs	1,366		1,394,332	
Cottonseed ³	Tons			7,632.0	
Flaxseed	Bu	14.4		11,019	
Mustard Seed	Lbs	720		28,220	
Peanuts	"	2,874		3,474,450	
Rapeseed	"	1,100		1,100	
Safflower	"	1,069		191,405	
Soybeans for Beans	Bu	42.7		3,188,247	
Sunflower	Lbs	1,211		2,143,613	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops					
Cotton, All ²	Bales	819		21,729.0	
Upland ²	"	811		20,973.0	
Amer-Pima ²	"	1,122		756.0	
Sugarbeets	Tons	25.9		33,765	
Sugarcane	"	32.4		29,489	
Tobacco	Lbs	2,144		726,724	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils					
Austrian Winter Peas ²	Cwt	1,151		259	
Dry Edible Beans ²	"	1,577		24,247	
Dry Edible Peas ²	"	1,493		13,203	
Lentils ²	"	797		3,244	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³	"			590	
Potatoes & Misc.					
Coffee (HI)	Lbs	1,160		7,300	
Ginger Root (HI)	"	43,000		4,300	
Hops	"	1,964		57,686.7	
Peppermint Oil	"	92		7,248	
Potatoes, All	Cwt	390		434,683	
Winter	"	257	250	4,495	2,875
Spring	"	293		19,766	
Summer	"	340		18,444	
Fall	"	402		391,978	
Spearmint Oil	Lbs	110		2,038	
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt	189		16,441	
Taro (HI) ³	Lbs			4,500	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2007 crop year.

² Yield in pounds.

³ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2005-2007
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Units	Production		
		2005	2006	2007
		<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Citrus ²				
Grapefruit	Tons	1,018	1,232	1,570
Lemons	“	870	942	885
Oranges	“	9,252	8,898	8,124
Tangelos (FL)	“	70	63	50
Tangerines	“	335	417	377
Temples (FL) ³	“	29	32	
Noncitrus				
Apples	1,000 Lbs	9,864.9	9,842.7	
Apricots	Tons	81.7	44.5	
Bananas (HI)	Lbs	20,900.0		
Grapes	Tons	7,828.7	6,423.0	
Olives (CA)	“	142.0	50.0	
Papayas (HI)	Lbs	32,900.0		
Peaches	Tons	1,184.6	1,053.8	
Pears	“	825.3	835.3	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	“	90.0	170.0	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	“	9.1	24.0	
Nuts & Misc.				
Almonds (CA)	Lbs	915,000	1,050,000	
Hazelnuts (OR)	Tons	27.6	41.0	
Pecans	Lbs	280,200	190,400	
Walnuts (CA)	Tons	355.0	350.0	
Maple Syrup	Gals	1,242	1,449	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2007 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2006-07 season.

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

³ Temples included in oranges beginning with the 2006-07 season.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2006-2007
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	1,396,990		1,194,240	
Corn for Grain ²	31,698,150		28,590,540	
Corn for Silage			2,621,180	
Hay, All ³			24,607,980	
Alfalfa			8,653,890	
All Other			15,954,090	
Oats	1,686,750		637,790	
Proso Millet	234,720		192,230	
Rice	1,148,510		1,141,630	
Rye	564,950		110,890	
Sorghum for Grain ²	2,639,390		1,997,950	
Sorghum for Silage			140,430	
Wheat, All ³	23,206,540		18,943,540	
Winter	16,420,300	17,842,380	12,592,740	
Durum	756,770		734,510	
Other Spring	6,029,480		5,616,290	
Oilseeds				
Canola	422,500		413,190	
Cottonseed ⁴				
Flaxseed	329,010		310,400	
Mustard Seed	16,390		15,860	
Peanuts	503,030		489,270	
Rapeseed	570		400	
Safflower	76,490		72,440	
Soybeans for Beans	30,563,000		30,190,680	
Sunflower	789,150		716,300	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ³	6,181,240		5,152,310	
Upland	6,049,310		5,021,390	
Amer-Pima	131,930		130,920	
Sugarbeets	553,090		527,760	
Sugarcane			367,780	
Tobacco			137,170	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	18,620		9,110	
Dry Edible Beans	659,560		622,250	
Dry Edible Peas	374,540		357,790	
Lentils	173,610		164,710	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ⁴				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			2,550	
Ginger Root (HI)			40	
Hops			11,880	
Peppermint Oil			32,050	
Potatoes, All ³	459,200		451,430	
Winter	7,160	4,650	7,080	4,650
Spring	28,610		27,320	
Summer	23,630		21,970	
Fall	399,790		395,060	
Spearmint Oil			7,490	
Sweet Potatoes	38,690		35,290	
Taro (HI) ⁵			150	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2007 crop year.

² Area planted for all purposes.

³ Total may not add due to rounding.

⁴ Acreage is not estimated.

⁵ Area is total hectares in crop, not harvested hectares.

Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 2006-2007
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Yield		Production	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	3.28		3,920,150	
Corn for Grain	9.36		267,597,970	
Corn for Silage	36.29		95,117,410	
Hay, All ²	5.22		128,517,230	
Alfalfa	7.51		65,014,300	
All Other	3.98		63,502,930	
Oats	2.13		1,360,980	
Proso Millet	1.20		231,220	
Rice	7.70		8,787,720	
Rye	1.65		182,710	
Sorghum for Grain	3.53		7,049,790	
Sorghum for Silage	29.99		4,211,150	
Wheat, All ²	2.60		49,315,540	
Winter	2.81		35,327,980	
Durum	1.98		1,455,350	
Other Spring	2.23		12,532,210	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.53		632,460	
Cottonseed ³			6,923,630	
Flaxseed	0.90		279,900	
Mustard Seed	0.81		12,800	
Peanuts	3.22		1,575,980	
Rapeseed	1.23		500	
Safflower	1.20		86,820	
Soybeans for Beans	2.87		86,769,860	
Sunflower	1.36		972,330	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ²	0.92		4,730,930	
Upland	0.91		4,566,330	
Amer-Pima	1.26		164,600	
Sugarbeets	58.04		30,631,090	
Sugarcane	72.74		26,751,970	
Tobacco	2.40		329,640	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	1.29		11,750	
Dry Edible Beans	1.77		1,099,830	
Dry Edible Peas	1.67		598,880	
Lentils	0.89		147,150	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³			26,760	
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)	1.30		3,310	
Ginger Root (HI)	48.20		1,950	
Hops	2.20		26,170	
Peppermint Oil	0.10		3,290	
Potatoes, All ²	43.68		19,716,890	
Winter	28.79	28.02	203,890	130,410
Spring	32.82		896,570	
Summer	38.07		836,610	
Fall	45.01		17,779,820	
Spearmint Oil	0.12		920	
Sweet Potatoes	21.13		745,750	
Taro (HI) ³			2,040	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2007 crop year.

² Production may not add due to rounding.

³ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2005-2007
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Production		
	2005	2006	2007
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>
Citrus ²			
Grapefruit	923,510	1,117,650	1,424,280
Lemons	789,250	854,570	802,860
Oranges	8,393,270	8,072,130	7,369,970
Tangelos (FL)	63,500	57,150	45,360
Tangerines	303,910	378,300	342,010
Temples (FL) ³	26,310	29,030	
Noncitrus			
Apples	4,474,640	4,464,570	
Apricots	74,070	40,370	
Bananas (HI)	9,480		
Grapes	7,102,080	5,826,850	
Olives (CA)	128,820	45,360	
Papayas (HI)	14,920		
Peaches	1,074,610	955,990	
Pears	748,720	757,780	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	81,650	154,220	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	8,260	21,770	
Nuts & Misc.			
Almonds (CA)	415,040	476,270	
Hazelnuts	25,040	37,190	
Pecans	127,100	86,360	
Walnuts (CA)	322,050	317,510	
Maple Syrup	6,210	7,240	

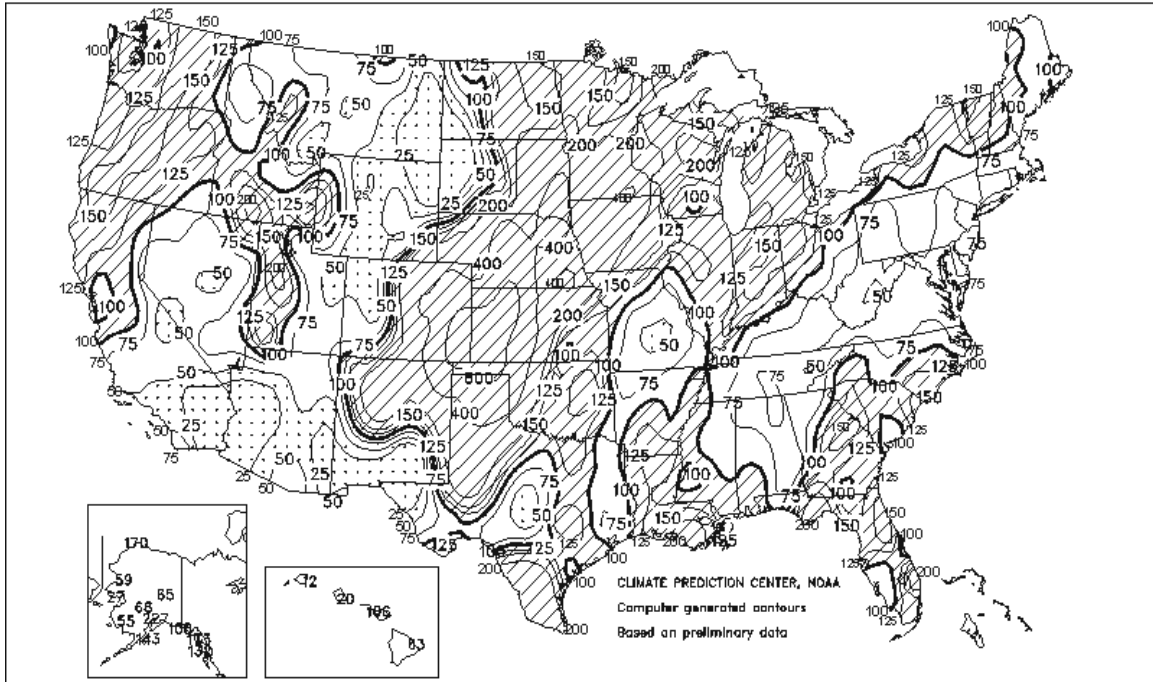
¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2007 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2006-07 season.

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

³ Temples included in oranges beginning with the 2006-07 season.

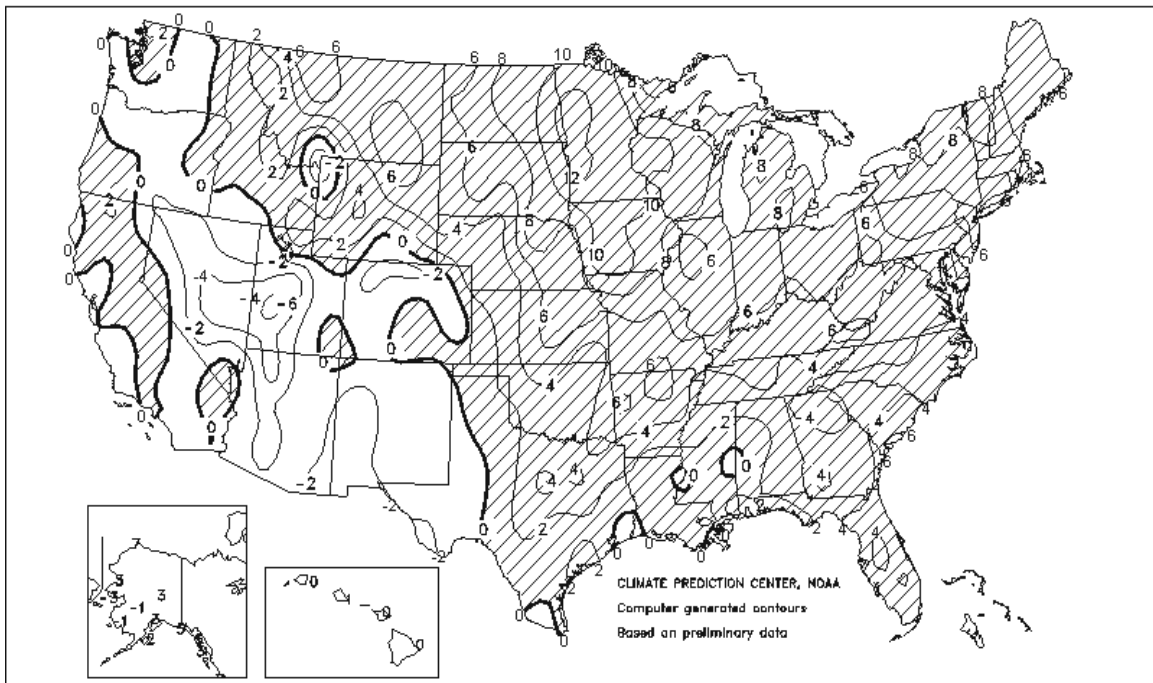
Percent Of Normal Precipitation

December 2006



Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

December 2006



December Weather Summary

Four major winter storms left destructive paths across the central and western U.S., due to snow, ice, and wind. The month opened with a storm underway across the Nation's mid-section. As much as 6 to 18 inches of snow blanketed areas from Texas' northern panhandle into parts of Michigan, while damaging ice accumulations were most significant from east-central Missouri into central Illinois. On December 14-15, a powerful Pacific storm swept into the Northwest, causing extensive wind damage and bearing heavy rain and snow. Severe storm effects spread inland as far as the northern Rockies, where some high-elevation wind gusts topped 150 m.p.h. The year ended on an incredibly stormy note from the southern Rockies into the upper Midwest. On December 20-21, a blizzard engulfed the central High Plains and adjacent Rockies, curtailing pre-holiday travel and severely stressing livestock. Meanwhile, ice accumulations were particularly heavy in central Nebraska. Barely a week later (December 28-31), another storm dropped a swath of heavy snow from New Mexico to North Dakota, again paralyzing travel and causing unspecified livestock losses, pending further assessment. Ice accumulations from northern Texas into Minnesota triggered widespread damage and power outages. In sharp contrast, monthly precipitation totaled less than 25 percent of normal in the Desert Southwest and a small section of the northern Plains.

Following an early-December spell of chilly weather, bitterly cold air receded into Canada and Alaska. Nevertheless, cold air trailing the early-month storm brought crop-threatening freezes to southern Louisiana's sugarcane-producing areas on December 5, 8, and 9. By December 8, above-normal temperatures reached the northern Plains and upper Midwest and stayed for the remainder of the month. Unusual warmth spread to the East Coast by December 10 and also persisted through month's end. As a result, monthly temperatures averaged 6 to 12 degrees F above normal in most locations from the northern Plains into the Northeast. In contrast, near-normal monthly temperatures were observed from the central and southern High Plains westward, except for readings as much as 6 degrees F below normal in some snow-covered Western valleys.

One benefit of the stormy weather was a boost in moisture for the Plains' winter wheat crop. Snow provided wheat with insulation, although the early-month cold snap exposed the crop in western portions of South Dakota and Nebraska to temperatures as low as -10 degrees F. Elsewhere, persistently wet, muddy conditions were a concern for livestock and winter wheat in the eastern Corn Belt and the Northwest. Wet conditions also developed in the central Gulf Coast region, but showers provided some drought relief in the southern Atlantic States.

December Agricultural Summary

Temperatures averaged above normal across most of the Nation, with the exception of the Southwest, Great Basin, and interior areas of the Pacific Northwest. In the northern and central Great Plains, snow cover was lacking through most of the month, but improved in the final week as snowfall blanketed much of the region, providing some protection for winter wheat. In southern areas of the Great Plains, cold, wet weather early in the month delayed final cotton harvest.

Meanwhile, heavy rain fell in the Mississippi Delta, with moderate precipitation in adjacent areas of the Southeast. In Florida, harvest of sugarcane, citrus, and vegetable crops proceeded smoothly, despite occasional showers. Temperatures twice dropped below freezing in southern Louisiana, causing some damage to unharvested sugarcane.

In the Corn Belt, precipitation levels were above normal, causing flooding problems in some areas. The rainfall and above-normal temperatures prevented accumulation of snow cover, leaving winter wheat vulnerable to potentially damaging cold weather.

Heavy precipitation fell along the Pacific Coast, from central California through the Pacific Northwest. Though beneficial for pastures and emerging winter wheat, the rainfall disrupted citrus harvest at times. Meanwhile, frosty mornings helped harden citrus fruits, but frost damage was reported in some areas.

Winter Potatoes: Production for 2007 is forecast at 2.88 million cwt. Florida's winter potato estimates were combined with their spring potato estimates for the 2007 crop, which leaves California as the only winter potato estimating State. California production is expected to be down 8 percent from last year and 18 percent from 2005. Harvested area in California is forecast at 11,500 acres, down 4 percent from 2006, while the average yield is expected to be 250 cwt per acre, 10 cwt below last year. Growers reported an average crop,

with yields below last year but similar to 2005. Concerns were raised over a killing frost that occurred after Thanksgiving, but it appeared to have little effect on the crop.

Spring Potatoes: Production for 2006 is estimated at 19.8 million cwt, down 4 percent from the May forecast but 6 percent above 2005. Harvested area totaled 67,500 acres, 3 percent below the previous forecast but up 1 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 293 cwt per acre decreased 3 cwt from the May forecast but increased 12 cwt from 2005.

Spring potato production in Texas increased 39 percent from 2005 and 14 percent in North Carolina. Favorable growing conditions in Texas resulted in higher yields than last year. In North Carolina, growing conditions prior to harvest were the best in recent years, increasing yields from the previous year, but substantial rain just before harvest drowned out many acres. The spring potato production in Arizona, California, and Florida all declined 1 percent from 2005. The decreases in Arizona and Florida are due to fewer acres being harvested. California growers realized a lower yield than last year due to wet spring conditions.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya utilization is estimated at 2.22 million pounds for December, down 12 percent from November and 13 percent below a year ago. Area in crop totaled 2,350 acres, up 10 percent from last month and 3 percent above December 2005. Harvested area totaled 1,135 acres in December, down 14 percent from the previous month and 36 percent lower than last year. Conditions in orchards were generally sunny with intermittent showers and cooler temperatures. Mature trees are reported to have full fruit columns and to be flowering heavily. Young trees made good progress during the month and some had begun flowering.

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 2006-07 U.S. grapefruit crop is 1.57 million tons, virtually unchanged from the December 1 forecast but up 27 percent from last season's final utilization of 1.23 million tons. Florida's grapefruit production is forecast at 26.0 million boxes (1.11 million tons), unchanged from the December forecast but 35 percent above last season's hurricane-reduced final utilization of 19.3 million boxes (820,000 tons). Excluding the last two hurricane-reduced crops, this is the lowest forecasted Florida grapefruit production since the 1949-50 season's 24.2 million boxes. The all white grapefruit forecast is 9.00 million boxes (383,000 tons), unchanged from December but 38 percent above last season's final utilization. The overall quality of white grapefruit has been reported as very good. The colored grapefruit forecast, at 17.0 million boxes (723,000 tons), is unchanged from December but 33 percent above last season's final utilization. Fruit sizes are projected to be smaller than the average of the last 10 years not affected by hurricanes. Due to the high quality of the colored grapefruit crop, a large majority of the fruit harvested has been utilized for fresh market sales.

California's grapefruit production forecast is 6.00 million boxes (201,000 tons), up 5 percent from the October forecast but equal to last season's final utilization. Harvest has begun with good fruit quality reported. Pummelo harvest has begun, with strong demand reported. The grapefruit production forecast for Texas is 6.50 million boxes (260,000 tons), down 3 percent from the previous forecast but up 25 percent from last season's production. Arizona's grapefruit forecast, at 100,000 boxes (3,000 tons), is unchanged from both the October forecast and the 2005-06 season's final utilization.

Lemons: The forecast for the 2006-07 U.S. lemon crop, at 885,000 tons, is up 4 percent from the October 1 forecast but down 6 percent from last season. California production is forecast at 20.5 million boxes (779,000 tons), up 4 percent from the previous forecast but down 2 percent from the 2005-06 season. Good fruit quality has been reported in all growing areas. Arizona's 2006-07 lemon forecast, at 2.80 million boxes (106,000 tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but down 26 percent from the previous season. Harvest is progressing well with good fruit quality reported.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast remains at 1.10 million boxes (50,000 tons), unchanged from the December 1 forecast but down 21 percent from last season's final utilized production. The row count survey conducted December 26-27 shows 42 percent of the rows have been harvested.

Tangerines: The 2005-06 U.S. tangerine forecast is 377,000 tons, unchanged from the December forecast but down 10 percent from last season's final utilization of 417,000 tons. Florida's tangerine crop is forecast at 4.60 million boxes (219,000 tons), unchanged from the December forecast but down 16 percent from last season's utilization of 5.50 million boxes. The row count survey shows 92 percent of the early variety tangerine rows have been harvested. Survey measurements for the later maturing Honey variety show

offsetting increases in both fruit size and drop from December. The California tangerine forecast, at 3.80 million boxes (143,000 tons), is unchanged from October but up 6 percent from the previous season. Harvest is progressing well but growers have been monitoring groves for freeze damage. Arizona's forecast is 400,000 boxes (15,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but 27 percent below last season's utilization.

Florida Citrus: Florida's citrus producing regions were unseasonably warm during December. Several heavy rains and thunderstorms resulted in 2 to 3 inches of precipitation in the northern, eastern, and central citrus producing areas. Less than a quarter of an inch of rain was recorded in the southern growing area. Daytime temperatures reached the high 70s to low 80s on several days in all areas while nighttime temperatures ranged from the 40s to 60s. Gift fruit movement was very active with Sunburst tangerine and navel orange shipments peaking during mid-December and then tapering off after the Christmas holiday. Weekly fresh shipments of both navel oranges and grapefruit reached between 200,000 and 300,000 boxes for three consecutive weeks. The color and quality of tangerines and grapefruit were reported as excellent all month. Early-midseason orange processing utilization increased significantly during the month and had reached a level of 5 million boxes per week by the end of the month. Processing plants began taking field run Orlando tangelos in the third week of the month. Grove maintenance activities were winding down but included mowing, irrigation, irrigation repair, and some applications of fertilizer. All but one of the processing plants slated for operation this season have opened. The final plant should open in January.

Arizona Citrus: Producers indicated citrus groves were in good to excellent condition with good fruit quality reported. Lemon and navel orange harvests were reported to be about 50 percent complete. Grapefruit and tangerine harvests have begun.

Texas Citrus: Early and mid-season oranges, as well as grapefruit, were being harvested. Growers generally reported good quality and size of fruit. Cooler weather in early December was beneficial to both citrus trees and fruit. Harvest was delayed by rain at the end of September, but year-to-date shipments of oranges have surpassed last year. Grapefruit shipments are running behind last year's pace.

California Citrus: Navel orange and lemon harvests were underway in Fresno County. Cooler weather enhanced orange color and toughened rinds but damage from freezes in November and December is expected to affect fruit pack-outs in some areas. Tangerine harvest ended for some growers. Owari satsuma and Clementine tangerine harvests continued. Growers treated groves to control fungus and weeds.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: Stone fruit harvest is complete. Cultural practices in stone fruit orchards during December included irrigation, pruning, application of herbicides, as well as pushing of old orchards in order to replant. Pomegranate harvest continued at a slower rate. Hachiya and Fuyu persimmon varieties were harvested. Grape vineyard activities included application of fertilizer, pruning, shredding, and trellis system repair. At the beginning of the month, some table grape vineyards were covered with plastic to extend harvest for Red Globe, Autumn Royal, Calmeria, and Crimson Seedless varieties. Pruning of olive trees continued in Tulare County. Cultural activities in nut orchards included pruning, shredding, irrigation, application of herbicides, and the pushing of old orchards to replant.

Hay Stocks on Farms: Stocks of all hay stored on farms totaled 96.4 million tons on December 1, 2006, down 8 percent from a year ago and the lowest since 1988. Disappearance of hay from May-December 2006 totaled 66.6 million tons, compared to 73.6 million tons for the same period a year ago.

Compared to December 1, 2005, hay stocks decreased in most of the eastern Rocky Mountains, Great Plains, and Southeast States. Drier conditions prevailed in many of these States, resulting in lower hay production and increased supplemental feeding of hay. Meanwhile, stocks increased compared to last year in several States throughout the Northeast and Intermountain region as a result of favorable growing conditions that 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 6 abnormal production years (4 freeze seasons and 2 hurricane seasons), the "Root Mean Square Error" is 3.7 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 5.3 percent, or 3.7 percent excluding abnormal seasons. Chances are 9 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 422,000 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 forecast this year is likely to understate or overstate final production.

Information Contacts

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