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# Crop Production

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## All Orange Production Down 1 Percent

**The U.S. all orange** forecast for the 2006-07 season is 7.36 million tons, down 1 percent from the March 1 forecast and 18 percent below last season's final utilization of 9.00 million tons. Florida's all orange forecast, at 131 million boxes (5.88 million tons), is down 1 percent from last month and 12 percent lower than the utilization from the 2005-06 season's crop. Early, midseason, and navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 65.7 million boxes (2.96 million tons), down 2 percent from the previous forecast and down 12 percent from last season's final utilization. The row count survey conducted March 28-29 indicated that 1 percent of the early and midseason orange rows remained to be harvested. Navel harvest was complete. The forecast is reduced from last month based on current utilization data. Florida's Valencia forecast is 65.0 million boxes (2.93 million tons), unchanged from the March forecast but down 11 percent from last season's final utilization. The row count survey showed that 21 percent of Valencia rows had been harvested.

California's all orange forecast, at 37.0 million boxes (1.39 million tons), is unchanged from the March forecast but 39 percent lower than last season's final utilization of 60.5 million boxes (2.27 million tons). California's navel orange utilization is forecast at 27.0 million boxes (1.01 million tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but 43 percent lower than last season's final utilization. Packing houses continue to find some good quality navel oranges. California's Valencia forecast is 10.0 million boxes (375,000 tons), unchanged from the March 1 forecast but 26 percent below the utilization from the 2005-06 season's crop. A few packing houses were scheduled to start handling Valencia oranges in early April. The Texas all orange forecast is 1.85 million boxes (78,000 tons), down 7 percent from the March 1 forecast but 16 percent higher than last season's final utilized production. The Texas early and midseason orange harvest was virtually complete. Arizona's all orange utilization forecast, at 350,000 boxes (14,000 tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but 22 percent lower than the 2005-06 season.

**Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ)** yield for the 2006-07 season is forecast at a record high 1.65 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, up from 1.62 gallons per box last month and the 2005-06 season's yield of 1.63 gallons. Yield from the early-midseason portion is 1.56 gallons, unchanged from last month but up from 1.53 gallons last season. Valencias are projected to yield 1.78 gallons, up from 1.72 gallons last month and 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.

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Secretary of  
Agriculture  
Mike Johanns



Agricultural Statistics Board  
Chairperson  
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**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,  
2004-05, 2005-06 and Forecasted April 1, 2007 <sup>1</sup>**

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 <sup>2</sup></i>	<i>1,000 Boxes <sup>2</sup></i>	<i>1,000 Boxes <sup>2</sup></i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel <sup>3</sup>						
AZ	240	250	200	9	9	8
CA	44,000	47,000	27,000	1,650	1,763	1,013
FL <sup>4</sup>	79,100	75,000	65,700	3,560	3,375	2,957
TX	1,500	1,400	1,580	64	60	67
US	124,840	123,650	94,480	5,283	5,207	4,045
Valencia						
AZ	190	200	150	7	8	6
CA	20,500	13,500	10,000	769	506	375
FL	70,700	72,700	65,000	3,182	3,272	2,925
TX	270	200	270	11	9	11
US	91,660	86,600	75,420	3,969	3,795	3,317
All						
AZ	430	450	350	16	17	14
CA	64,500	60,500	37,000	2,419	2,269	1,388
FL	149,800	147,700	130,700	6,742	6,647	5,882
TX	1,770	1,600	1,850	75	69	78
US	216,500	210,250	169,900	9,252	9,002	7,362
Temples <sup>4</sup>						
FL	650	700		29	32	
Grapefruit						
White						
FL	3,400	6,500	10,000	145	276	425
Colored						
FL	9,400	12,800	18,000	400	544	765
All						
AZ	140	100	100	5	3	3
CA	6,100	6,000	4,800	204	201	161
FL	12,800	19,300	28,000	545	820	1,190
TX	6,600	5,200	6,500	264	208	260
US	25,640	30,600	39,400	1,018	1,232	1,614
Tangerines						
AZ <sup>5</sup>	400	550	300	15	21	11
CA <sup>5</sup>	2,900	3,600	2,600	109	135	98
FL	4,450	5,500	4,600	211	261	219
US	7,750	9,650	7,500	335	417	328
Lemons						
AZ	2,400	3,800	2,500	91	144	95
CA	20,500	21,000	16,500	779	798	627
US	22,900	24,800	19,000	870	942	722
Tangelos						
FL	1,550	1,400	1,250	70	63	56

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Navel and miscellaneous varieties in AZ and CA. Early (including navel) and midseason varieties in FL and TX. Small quantities of tangerines in TX.

<sup>4</sup> Temples included in early and midseason orange varieties beginning with 2006-07 season.

<sup>5</sup> Includes tangelos and tangors.

**Potatoes: Area Planted and 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	215	3,500	3,120	2,473
FL <sup>1</sup>	5.7		5.5		250		1,392	1,375	
Total	17.7	11.5	17.5	11.5	257	215	4,892	4,495	2,473
Spring									
AZ	3.9	3.5	3.9	3.5	300	300	1,183	1,170	1,050
CA	15.3	15.5	15.3	15.5	395	395	6,116	6,044	6,123
FL <sup>1</sup>	23.1	27.8	22.6	27.2	285	290	6,527	6,441	7,888
Hastings	17.0	16.5	16.6	16.2	285	290	4,760	4,731	4,698
Other FL	6.1	11.3	6.0	11.0	285	290	1,767	1,710	3,190
NC	17.7	16.0	15.5	14.5	210	200	2,850	3,255	2,900
TX	10.7	9.6	10.2	9.1	280	315	2,048	2,856	2,867
Total	70.7	72.4	67.5	69.8	293	298	18,724	19,766	20,828
Summer <sup>2</sup>									
AL	1.7		1.6		150		195	240	
CA	6.3		6.3		335		2,201	2,111	
CO	4.1		4.0		370		1,838	1,480	
DE	3.0		2.1		240		806	504	
IL	6.5		6.3		395		2,090	2,489	
KS	6.0		5.7		320		1,800	1,824	
MD	4.0		2.9		320		884	928	
MO	7.8		7.6		315		2,142	2,394	
NJ	2.5		2.5		240		536	600	
TX	10.5		9.7		440		4,046	4,268	
VA	6.0		5.6		270		1,029	1,512	
Total	58.4		54.3		338		17,567	18,350	

<sup>1</sup> Winter potatoes combined with spring potatoes in 2007.

<sup>2</sup> 2006 revised.

**Papayas: Area and Fresh Production by Month, Hawaii, 2006-2007**

Month	Area				Fresh Production <sup>1</sup>	
	Total in Crop		Harvested		2006	2007
	2006	2007	2006	2007		
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Feb	2,285	2,360	1,795	1,145	2,240	2,070
Mar	2,070	1,935	1,785	870	2,210	2,160

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

**Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2006-2007**  
(Domestic Units) <sup>1</sup>

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	3,703.0	2,951.0	
Corn for Grain <sup>2</sup>	78,327.0	90,454.0	70,648.0	
Corn for Silage			6,477.0	
Hay, All			60,807.0	63,056.0
Alfalfa			21,384.0	
All Other			39,423.0	
Oats	4,168.0	4,029.0	1,576.0	
Proso Millet	580.0		475.0	
Rice	2,838.0	2,644.0	2,821.0	
Rye	1,396.0		274.0	
Sorghum for Grain <sup>2</sup>	6,522.0	7,109.0	4,937.0	
Sorghum for Silage			347.0	
Wheat, All	57,344.0	60,303.0	46,810.0	
Winter	40,575.0	44,505.0	31,117.0	
Durum	1,870.0	1,990.0	1,815.0	
Other Spring	14,899.0	13,808.0	13,878.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,044.0	1,168.0	1,021.0	
Cottonseed <sup>3</sup>				
Flaxseed	813.0	390.0	767.0	
Mustard Seed	40.5		39.2	
Peanuts	1,243.0	1,197.0	1,209.0	
Rapeseed	1.4		1.0	
Safflower	189.0		179.0	
Soybeans for Beans	75,522.0	67,140.0	74,602.0	
Sunflower	1,950.0	1,799.0	1,770.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	15,274.0	12,147.0	12,731.5	
Upland	14,948.0	11,855.0	12,408.0	
Amer-Pima	326.0	292.0	323.5	
Sugarbeets	1,366.7	1,294.7	1,304.1	
Sugarcane			908.8	
Tobacco			339.0	344.2
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	46.0	37.0	22.5	
Dry Edible Beans	1,629.8	1,504.5	1,537.6	
Dry Edible Peas	925.5	902.0	884.1	
Lentils	429.0	340.0	407.0	
Wrinkled Seed Peas <sup>3</sup>				
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	72.4	67.5	69.8
Summer	58.4		54.3	
Fall	987.9		976.2	
Spearmint Oil			18.5	
Sweet Potatoes	95.6	92.9	87.2	
Taro (HI) <sup>4</sup>			0.4	

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

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

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

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

**Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 2006-2007**  
(Domestic Units) <sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>2</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	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 <sup>2</sup>	Bales	819		21,729.0	
Upland <sup>2</sup>	"	811		20,973.0	
Amer-Pima <sup>2</sup>	"	1,122		756.0	
Sugarbeets	Tons	25.9		33,765	
Sugarcane	"	32.8		29,799	
Tobacco	Lbs	2,144		726,724	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils					
Austrian Winter Peas <sup>2</sup>	Cwt	1,151		259	
Dry Edible Beans <sup>2</sup>	"	1,577		24,247	
Dry Edible Peas <sup>2</sup>	"	1,493		13,203	
Lentils <sup>2</sup>	"	797		3,244	
Wrinkled Seed Peas <sup>3</sup>	"			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		434,589	
Winter	"	257	215	4,495	2,473
Spring	"	293	298	19,766	20,828
Summer	"	338		18,350	
Fall	"	402		391,978	
Spearmint Oil	Lbs	110		2,038	
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt	189		16,441	
Taro (HI) <sup>3</sup>	Lbs			4,500	

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

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

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

**Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2005-2007**  
(Domestic Units) <sup>1</sup>

Crop	Units	Production		
		2005	2006	2007
		<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Citrus <sup>2</sup>				
Grapefruit	Tons	1,018	1,232	1,614
Lemons	“	870	942	722
Oranges <sup>3</sup>	“	9,252	9,002	7,362
Tangelos (FL)	“	70	63	56
Tangerines	“	335	417	328
Temples (FL) <sup>3</sup>	“	29	32	
Noncitrus				
Apples	1,000 Lbs	9,719.9	10,072.1	
Apricots	Tons	81.7	44.7	
Bananas (HI)	Lbs	20,900.0	17,000.0	
Grapes	Tons	7,813.7	6,346.3	
Olives (CA)	“	142.0	23.5	
Papayas (HI)	Lbs	32,900.0	28,300.0	
Peaches	Tons	1,184.6	1,010.1	
Pears	“	823.3	841.0	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	“	97.0	170.0	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	“	9.1	21.3	
Nuts & Misc.				
Almonds (CA) (shelled)	Lbs	915,000	1,095,000	
Hazelnuts (OR)	Tons	27.6	41.0	
Pecans	Lbs	280,250	188,900	
Walnuts (CA)	Tons	355.0	350.0	
Maple Syrup	Gals	1,242	1,449	

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

<sup>2</sup> Production years are 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07.

<sup>3</sup> Temples included in oranges beginning with the 2006-07 season.



**Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2006-2007**  
(Metric Units) <sup>1</sup>

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
<b>Grains &amp; Hay</b>				
Barley	1,396,990	1,498,570	1,194,240	
Corn for Grain <sup>2</sup>	31,698,150	36,605,830	28,590,540	
Corn for Silage			2,621,180	
Hay, All <sup>3</sup>			24,607,980	25,518,130
Alfalfa			8,653,890	
All Other			15,954,090	
Oats	1,686,750	1,630,500	637,790	
Proso Millet	234,720		192,230	
Rice	1,148,510	1,070,000	1,141,630	
Rye	564,950		110,890	
Sorghum for Grain <sup>2</sup>	2,639,390	2,876,940	1,997,950	
Sorghum for Silage			140,430	
Wheat, All <sup>3</sup>	23,206,540	24,404,020	18,943,540	
Winter	16,420,300	18,010,730	12,592,740	
Durum	756,770	805,330	734,510	
Other Spring	6,029,480	5,587,960	5,616,290	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola	422,500	472,680	413,190	
Cottonseed <sup>4</sup>				
Flaxseed	329,010	157,830	310,400	
Mustard Seed	16,390		15,860	
Peanuts	503,030	484,410	489,270	
Rapeseed	570		400	
Safflower	76,490		72,440	
Soybeans for Beans	30,563,000	27,170,890	30,190,680	
Sunflower	789,150	728,040	716,300	
<b>Cotton, Tobacco &amp; Sugar Crops</b>				
Cotton, All <sup>3</sup>	6,181,240	4,915,770	5,152,310	
Upland	6,049,310	4,797,600	5,021,390	
Amer-Pima	131,930	118,170	130,920	
Sugarbeets	553,090	523,950	527,760	
Sugarcane			367,780	
Tobacco			137,170	139,280
<b>Dry Beans, Peas &amp; Lentils</b>				
Austrian Winter Peas	18,620	14,970	9,110	
Dry Edible Beans	659,560	608,860	622,250	
Dry Edible Peas	374,540	365,030	357,790	
Lentils	173,610	137,590	164,710	
Wrinkled Seed Peas <sup>4</sup>				
<b>Potatoes &amp; Misc.</b>				
Coffee (HI)			2,550	
Ginger Root (HI)			40	
Hops			11,880	
Peppermint Oil			32,050	
Potatoes, All <sup>3</sup>	459,200		451,430	
Winter	7,160	4,650	7,080	4,650
Spring	28,610	29,300	27,320	28,250
Summer	23,630		21,970	
Fall	399,790		395,060	
Spearmint Oil			7,490	
Sweet Potatoes	38,690	37,600	35,290	
Taro (HI) <sup>5</sup>			150	

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Acreage is not estimated.

<sup>5</sup> Area is total hectares in crop, not harvested hectares.

**Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 2006-2007**  
(Metric Units) <sup>1</sup>

Crop	Yield		Production	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>
<b>Grains &amp; Hay</b>				
Barley	3.28		3,920,150	
Corn for Grain	9.36		267,597,970	
Corn for Silage	36.29		95,117,410	
Hay, All <sup>2</sup>	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 <sup>2</sup>	2.60		49,315,540	
Winter	2.81		35,327,980	
Durum	1.98		1,455,350	
Other Spring	2.23		12,532,210	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola	1.53		632,460	
Cottonseed <sup>3</sup>			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	
<b>Cotton, Tobacco &amp; Sugar Crops</b>				
Cotton, All <sup>2</sup>	0.92		4,730,930	
Upland	0.91		4,566,330	
Amer-Pima	1.26		164,600	
Sugarbeets	58.04		30,631,090	
Sugarcane	73.50		27,033,200	
Tobacco	2.40		329,640	
<b>Dry Beans, Peas &amp; Lentils</b>				
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 <sup>3</sup>			26,760	
<b>Potatoes &amp; Misc.</b>				
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 <sup>2</sup>	43.67		19,712,630	
Winter	28.79	24.10	203,890	112,170
Spring	32.82	33.45	896,570	944,740
Summer	37.88		832,340	
Fall	45.01		17,779,820	
Spearmint Oil	0.12		920	
Sweet Potatoes	21.13		745,750	
Taro (HI) <sup>3</sup>			2,040	

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

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

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

**Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2005-2007**  
(Metric Units) <sup>1</sup>

Crop	Production		
	2005	2006	2007
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>
Citrus <sup>2</sup>			
Grapefruit	923,510	1,117,650	1,464,200
Lemons	789,250	854,570	654,990
Oranges <sup>3</sup>	8,393,270	8,166,480	6,678,690
Tangelos (FL)	63,500	57,150	50,800
Tangerines	303,910	378,300	297,560
Temples (FL) <sup>3</sup>	26,310	29,030	
Noncitrus			
Apples	4,408,870	4,568,630	
Apricots	74,070	40,530	
Bananas (HI)	9,480	7,710	
Grapes	7,088,470	5,757,220	
Olives (CA)	128,820	21,320	
Papayas (HI)	14,920	12,840	
Peaches	1,074,610	916,370	
Pears	746,900	762,970	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	88,000	154,220	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	8,260	19,320	
Nuts & Misc.			
Almonds (CA) (shelled)	415,040	496,680	
Hazelnuts (OR)	25,040	37,190	
Pecans	127,120	85,680	
Walnuts (CA)	322,050	317,510	
Maple Syrup	6,210	7,240	

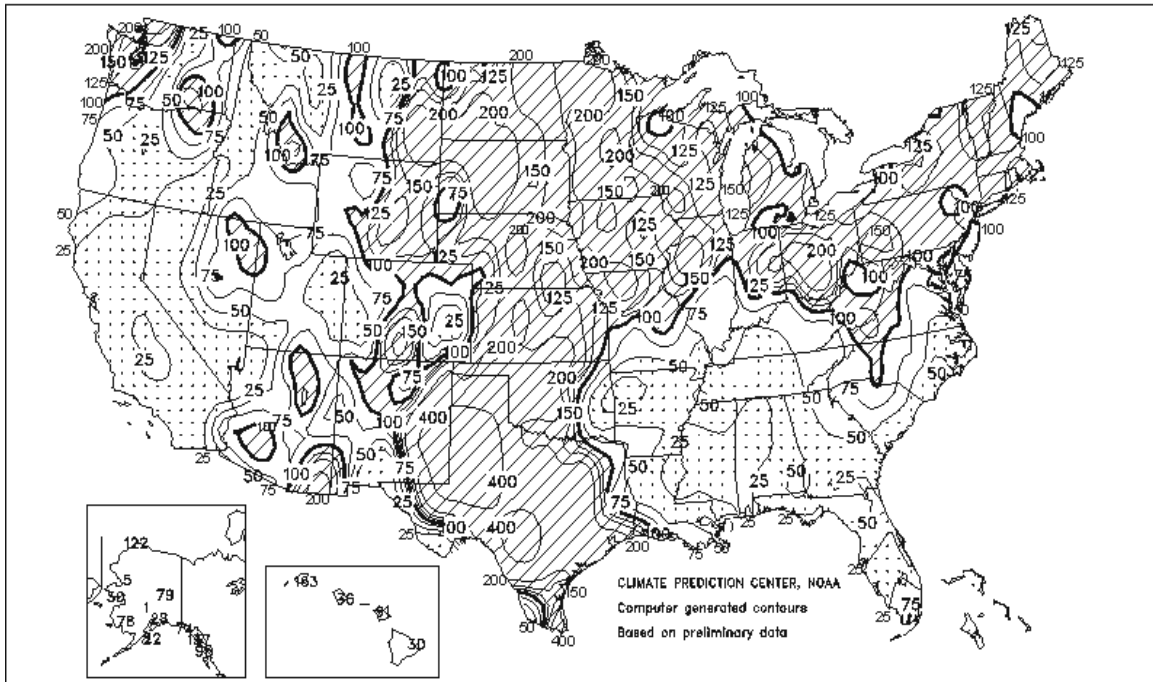
<sup>1</sup> Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2007 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2006-07 season.

<sup>2</sup> Production years are 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07.

<sup>3</sup> Temples included in oranges beginning with the 2006-07 season.

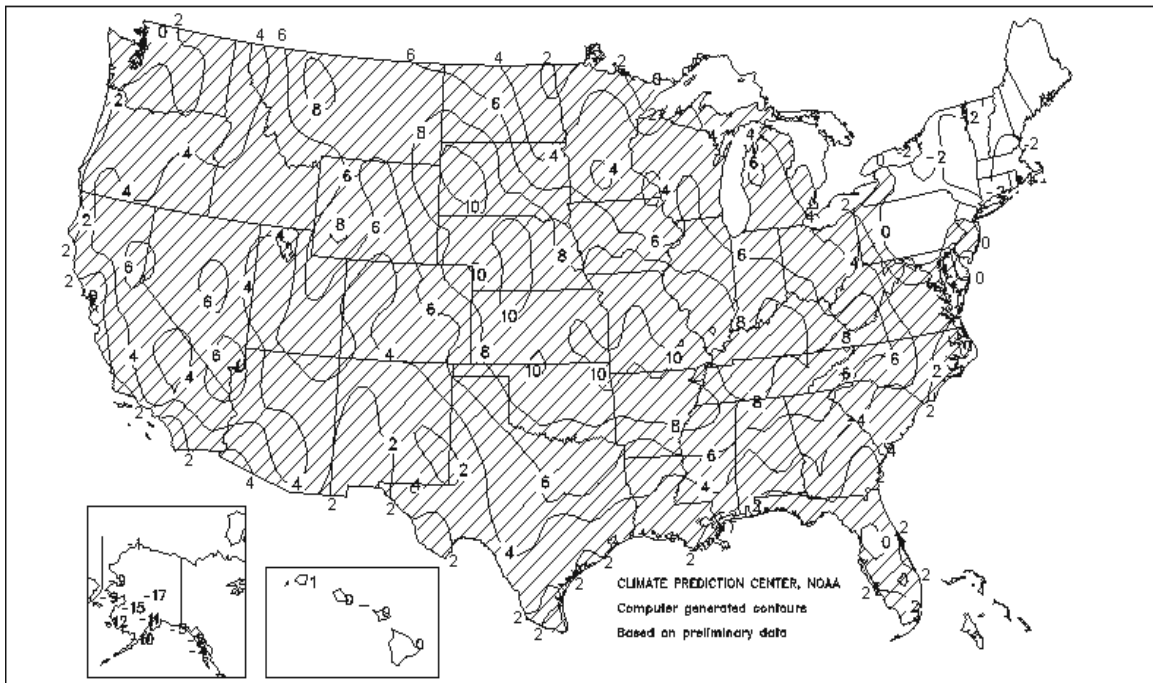
# Percent Of Normal Precipitation

March 2007



# Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

March 2007



## March Weather Summary

Record-setting warmth in March followed a nearly nationwide cold snap from mid-January through February. Monthly temperatures averaged at least 10 degrees F above normal at several sites across the central one-third of the Nation, while cooler-than-normal weather was confined to the Northeast and scattered locations in Florida and along the Pacific Coast. Warmth rivaled conditions observed in March 2004, which was the nation's second-warmest March since the beginning of the 20th century.

From the Rockies westward, above-normal temperatures promoted fieldwork and rapid crop development, but caused premature melting of high-elevation snowpacks. Implications of early melting could include the need for careful water management to meet the summer needs of agricultural, environmental, industrial, municipal, and recreational users. Meanwhile on the Plains, winter wheat growth advanced at a faster-than-normal pace, with nearly half (46 percent) of the crop jointing in Kansas by early April (the 5-year average for April 1 is 19 percent) and some heading underway in Texas (7 percent by April 1) and Oklahoma (1 percent). Through the end of March, conditions for wheat development on the Plains were nearly ideal and stood in stark contrast to last year's drought, although frequent storms and abundant soil moisture slowed planting preparations and other spring fieldwork. Farther east, melting snow and a number of moisture-laden storms soaked the western Corn Belt and maintained soggy conditions farther east. Excessive Midwestern moisture was detrimental to winter grains, especially in parts of the eastern Corn Belt, and prevented or significantly curtailed spring planting preparations. Nearly the opposite conditions prevailed across the Southeast, where warm, mostly dry weather promoted planting activities and rapid growth of pastures, winter grains, and emerging summer crops. By month's end, however, worsening Southeastern drought boosted irrigation demands and increased stress on rain-dependent crops.

## March Agricultural Summary

March was warmer than usual coast to coast, except in the Northeast where it was slightly cooler than usual. Temperatures averaged 5 to 10 degrees F above normal from the High Plains through the Mississippi Valley and into the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys, and were generally within 5 degrees F of normal elsewhere. Total monthly precipitation was well-above normal in the extreme Pacific Northwest, throughout the Great Plains, and in portions of the middle and upper Mississippi Valley, upper Ohio Valley, Great Lakes, and Northeast.

Significant precipitation – 2 to 4 times normal in Texas, and up to or over 2 times normal further north – increased moisture levels across the Great Plains to the benefit of most crops, pastures, and water supplies. The unusually warm weather combined with the abundant moisture to promote rapid greening and development of the winter wheat crop. Favorable conditions allowed farmers in the northern Plains to start planting barley, oats, and spring wheat earlier than usual. In the central and southern Plains, planting of corn, cotton, soybeans, and sorghum was underway, but moderate to heavy rainfall late in the month slowed field preparation activities. Some replanting of corn, cotton, and sorghum may be necessary due to flooding in portions of Texas.

Mild weather across the Corn Belt eased stress on livestock, but melting snow, together with moderate to heavy precipitation late in the month, contributed to lowland flooding and soggy soils from the eastern Dakotas into Indiana. The overly wet conditions hampered farmers efforts to prepare fields for planting, especially in eastern portions of the region. Winter wheat broke dormancy, but development lagged behind normal.

Warm, dry weather allowed farmers in the Delta and Southeast to make good progress with field preparations. Spring planting began earlier than usual and advanced well-ahead of schedule. Persistent dry conditions increased stress on emerging crops and pastures, causing farmers to irrigate some small grains and spring planted crops.

In California, warmer than normal temperatures promoted rapid growth of small grains and vegetable crops, but drier than normal conditions increased irrigation requirements and caused dryland crops to show signs of stress. The unseasonably warm weather accelerated bloom and development of stone fruit and almonds. In the Pacific Northwest, winter wheat was in mostly good condition and spring planting was underway.

**Grapefruit:** The forecast of the 2006-07 U.S. grapefruit crop is 1.61 million tons, unchanged from the March 1 forecast but 31 percent higher than last season's final utilization of 1.23 million tons. Florida's grapefruit production is forecast at 28.0 million boxes (1.19 million tons), unchanged from last month but 45 percent above last season's hurricane-reduced final utilization of 19.3 million boxes (820,000 tons). The all white grapefruit forecast is 10.0 million boxes (425,000 tons), unchanged from March but 54 percent above last season's final utilization. The colored grapefruit forecast, at 18.0 million boxes (765,000 tons), is unchanged from last month but 41 percent above last season's utilization. The row count survey conducted March 28-29 showed 75 percent of all grapefruit rows harvested, with a lower percentage of colored grapefruit harvested than white. Unlike last season, due to the overall excellent quality of this season's crop, the majority of colored grapefruit have been harvested for fresh use.

California's grapefruit forecast, at 4.80 million boxes (161,000 tons), is unchanged from the March 1 forecast but down 20 percent from the previous season. As a result of the January freeze, grapefruit and pummelo harvests remained slow. The Texas grapefruit forecast is 6.50 million boxes (260,000 tons), unchanged from the March 1 forecast but up 25 percent from last season's utilized production. Arizona's grapefruit forecast is 100,000 boxes (3,000 tons), unchanged from both the previous forecast and last season's utilization.

**Tangerines:** The 2006-07 U.S. tangerine forecast is 328,000 tons, down 3 percent from the March forecast and 21 percent lower than last season's final utilization of 417,000 tons. Florida's tangerine crop is forecast at 4.60 million boxes (219,000 tons), down 4 percent from the March forecast and 16 percent lower than last season's utilization of 5.50 million boxes. Early variety tangerine harvest is complete, and the row count survey conducted March 28-29 showed that the later maturing Honey tangerine harvest was further along at this point than in any of the previous ten seasons. Honey tangerines are normally harvested through the month of April and into May.

California's forecast of tangerine production, at 2.60 million boxes (98,000 tons), is unchanged from the March 1 forecast but 28 percent below last season's utilized production. Most Clementines were picked before the January freeze but Murcott harvest increased in March with good fruit quality reported. The Arizona tangerine forecast, at 300,000 boxes (11,000 tons), is unchanged from the previous month but 45 percent below last year's utilization.

**Lemons:** The forecast for the 2006-07 U.S. lemon crop, at 722,000 tons, is unchanged from the March 1 forecast but 23 percent below last season's utilization. California production is forecast at 16.5 million boxes (627,000 tons), unchanged from March but 21 percent lower than utilization for the 2005-06 season. Packing houses in the desert areas of California had exhausted their lemon supplies. Elsewhere in the State, lemons were still being picked and packed. Volumes in the Central Valley and south coastal regions of the State were low, but fruit quality in the coastal areas was reported as very good. Arizona's 2006-07 lemon forecast, at 2.50 million boxes (95,000 tons), is unchanged from the March forecast but down 34 percent from the previous season. Harvest had ended for this season.

**Tangelos:** Florida's tangelo forecast is 1.25 million boxes (56,000 tons), unchanged from the March 1 forecast but down 11 percent from last season's final utilized production. Tangelo harvest is complete with 66 percent of this season's crop being processed.

**Florida Citrus:** Bloom was evident in all citrus growing areas during March. By the third week of the month, full bloom was noted on most citrus varieties in coastal and upper interior areas and a few Valencia orange groves had begun showing petal drop. Field personnel in lower interior groves reported an even, heavy bloom on all varieties. Rainfall for the month was below average in all areas. The east coast and the southern citrus producing areas were very dry, having received about an inch of rainfall for the month. Many days in the lower to mid 80s were recorded in all areas. Most growers were irrigating frequently, but the dry, warm weather could cause problems if rain does not come shortly after the bloom period.

Early and midseason orange harvests were completed during March. Valencia harvest increased significantly during the second week of the month. The Valencia harvest was running ahead of the last two years, indicating an earlier maturing crop. Grapefruit harvest continued throughout the month with about two thirds of the harvested fruit being processed. Honey tangerine harvest was steady at between 100,000 and 200,000 boxes per week. Growers and caretakers continued hedging and topping programs and applying

pesticides in preparation for the next season's crop. In addition to normal maintenance programs, growers scouted for greening and removed diseased trees.

**Arizona Citrus:** With the exception of Valencia oranges, this season's citrus harvest was mostly complete. Packers reported that some grapefruit might still be harvested but most remaining fruit would be used for juice. Packers were optimistic about the prospects for next season's crop. Bloom appeared to be good in grapefruit and tangerine groves but light in lemon groves.

**Texas Citrus:** Grapefruit and Valencia orange harvests continued throughout the month, while navel oranges were finished. Growers generally reported good quality and size of fruit.

**California Citrus:** Citrus packing houses continued to monitor for freeze damaged fruit. Recovery of citrus groves continued with removal of frost damaged limbs. Hedging and topping of trees continued. Citrus bloom began in most growing areas although growers in some areas fear that bud and tree damage will seriously affect next season's crop. Harvest of oranges, tangerines, tangelos, mandarins, and grapefruit continued throughout the month. Some growers applied foliar nutrients as well as pesticides to control fungus and weeds.

**California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts:** Grape vineyard operators applied fertilizer, irrigated, and sprayed to control weeds throughout the month of March. Pruning and trellis system repairs were completed for the season. Several varieties of grapes had begun leafing out. Stone fruit, nut, and pomegranate orchards were irrigated, fertilized, and herbicides were applied. New orchards were still being planted. Warm weather toward the end of the month encouraged the bloom in stone fruit orchards. Early blooms on peaches, nectarines, and plums were winding down by month's end in Tulare County. Kiwi pruning was almost complete. Cherry and prune orchards were in bloom and blueberry fields were beginning to bloom. Winter cover crops were mowed and disked. Bee pollination was active with recent weather making conditions ideal. Almonds were in full bloom throughout March with petal fall occurring later in the month. Walnut orchards were pruned and limbs were shredded as weather permitted. The addition of soil amendments and applications of pre-emergent herbicides continued.

**Winter Potatoes:** Production for 2007 is forecast at 2.47 million cwt, 14 percent below the January forecast and 45 percent below last year. Florida winter potatoes were combined with their spring potatoes for the 2007 crop. The California production is 21 percent below 2006. Area for harvest in California, at 11,500 acres, is unchanged from January but down 4 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 215 cwt per acre is down 35 cwt from January and 45 cwt below a year ago. Freezing temperatures in January damaged the crop, resulting in lower yield potential.

**Spring Potatoes:** Spring production in 2007 is forecast at 20.8 million cwt, up 5 percent from last year and 11 percent above two years ago. Area for harvest is forecast at 69,800 acres, 3 percent above 2006. The average yield is forecast at 298 cwt per acre, up 5 cwt from a year ago.

Spring potato production in Florida is forecast at 7.89 million cwt, up 22 percent from a year ago. Florida's winter potatoes were combined with spring potatoes in 2007. Mild weather during December kept planting on schedule and aided crop development in southern Florida. Dry weather from January to March aided planting progress around the Hastings area and in the northern Peninsula. California's spring potato production forecast, at 6.12 million cwt, is 1 percent above last year. Freezing temperatures in January caused some delays in planting, slowed growth, and caused some crop damage. However, growers rate the overall crop condition better than the 2006 crop. North Carolina's spring potato crop is forecast at 2.90 million cwt, down 11 percent from last year. As of April 1, the crop was rated 85 percent good to excellent and planting was nearing completion. Texas spring potato production is forecast at 2.87 million cwt, virtually unchanged from last season. Producers report good growing conditions with high levels of moisture available. Arizona's production is forecast at 1.05 million cwt, down 10 percent from last year.

**Summer Potatoes, 2006 Revisions:** The final estimate of 2006 summer potato crop production is 18.4 million cwt, down 1 percent from the preliminary estimate in the January *Crop Production 2006 Summary* but up 4 percent from the 2005 crop. Harvested area covered 54,300 acres, unchanged from the 2006 preliminary estimate but up 6 percent from 2005. The average yield of 338 cwt per acre is down 2 cwt from the 2006 preliminary estimate and 4 cwt below the 2005 crop.

**Papayas:** Hawaii fresh papaya utilization is estimated at 2.16 million pounds for March, up 4 percent from February but 2 percent less than March 2006. Area in crop totaled 1,935 acres, down 18 percent from last month and 7 percent less than a year ago. Harvested area totaled 870 acres in March, down 24 percent from February and 51 percent lower than March 2006. Conditions in papaya growing areas were generally favorable during March. Normal field activities were conducted as weather permitted.



## 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. Due to severe weather conditions in California and the Desert Southwest in January, some survey procedures were changed for this season. The grower and packer surveys normally used to set the April forecast were conducted a month earlier than normal and the California Valencia objective measurement survey was discontinued for this season. All citrus estimating States submitted new analyses of current citrus utilization for this report based on additional survey indications and/or administrative data.

**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 (4 freeze seasons and 2 hurricane seasons), 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 192,000 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 7 times and above 13 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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