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Crop Production

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All Orange Production Up 1 Percent From February

The U.S. all orange forecast for the 2007-08 season is 10.0 million tons, up 1 percent from the February 1 forecast and 32 percent higher than the 2006-07 final utilization of 7.59 million tons. Florida's all orange forecast, at 167 million boxes (7.52 million tons), is up 1 percent from the previous forecast and 29 percent higher than last season's final utilization of 129 million boxes. Early, midseason, and navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 82.0 million boxes (3.69 million tons), up 1 percent from February 1 and 25 percent above last season. Florida's Valencia forecast, at 85.0 million boxes (3.83 million tons), is unchanged from the last forecast but 34 percent higher than 2006-07. Average fruit size for Valencia oranges remains small and is still expected to be smaller at harvest than any of the last eight non-hurricane seasons. Although the drop rate increased over the past month, it remained below average.

The California Valencia forecast is 16.0 million boxes (600,000 tons), up 7 percent from the previous forecast and 45 percent above 2006-07. This brings California's all orange forecast to 64.0 million boxes, up 2 percent from the January 1 forecast and 42 percent higher than last season. Harvest of Valencia oranges has begun and the crop looks good. The average fruit set per tree is higher than most years, while the fruit size is smaller than average.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield forecast for the 2007-08 season is 1.63 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, up from 1.62 last month, but down from last season's final yield of 1.65 gallons per box. The early-mid portion remains at 1.53 gallons per box, 2 percent below last season's final of 1.56 gallons per box. The Valencia portion increased to 1.73 gallons per box, 2 percent lower than last season's final of 1.77 gallons per box. All yield projections include the assumption that the processing relationships this season will be similar to those of the past several seasons.

This report was approved on March 11, 2008.

Secretary of
Agriculture
Edward T. Schafer

Agricultural Statistics Board
Acting Chairperson
Jeffrey K. Geuder

Contents

Page

Noncitrus Fruits & Tree Nuts
Papayas 4

Citrus Fruits
Grapefruit 5
Lemons 5
Oranges 5
Tangelos 5
Tangerines 5
Temples 5

Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops
Sugarcane 4

Crop Comments 14
Crop Summary 6
Information Contacts 17
Reliability of Production Data in this Report 16
Weather Maps 12
Weather Summary 13

Sugarcane: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by Use, State, and United States, 2006-2007

Use and State	Area Harvested		Yield [1]		Production [1]	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*1,000 Tons*	*1,000 Tons*
For Sugar						
FL	382.0	378.0	35.8	36.8	13,676	13,910
HI [2]	20.4	20.2	79.1	84.5	1,614	1,707
LA [2]	405.0	390.0	27.3	30.0	11,057	11,700
TX [2]	39.2	43.5	41.2	41.0	1,615	1,784
US	846.6	831.7	33.0	35.0	27,962	29,101
For Seed						
FL	18.0	18.0	37.2	39.4	670	709
HI [2]	1.6	2.3	32.0	30.7	51	71
LA [2]	30.0	30.0	27.3	30.0	819	900
TX [2]	1.5	1.5	41.0	37.0	62	56
US	51.1	51.8	31.4	33.5	1,602	1,736
For Sugar and Seed						
FL	400.0	396.0	35.9	36.9	14,346	14,619
HI [2]	22.0	22.5	75.7	79.0	1,665	1,778
LA [2]	435.0	420.0	27.3	30.0	11,876	12,600
TX [2]	40.7	45.0	41.2	40.9	1,677	1,840
US	897.7	883.5	32.9	34.9	29,564	30,837

[1] Net tons.
[2] Estimates are carried forward from the "Crop Production 2007 Summary."

Papayas: Area and Fresh Production by Month, Hawaii, 2007-2008

Month	Area				Fresh Production [1]	
	Total in Crop		Harvested		2007	2008
	2007	2008	2007	2008		
	Acres	*Acres*	*Acres*	*Acres*	*1,000 Pounds*	*1,000 Pounds*
Dec	2,050		1,255		2,805	
Jan	2,330	2,045	1,400	1,260	2,465	2,880

[1] Utilized fresh production.

Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States, 2005-06, 2006-07 and Forecasted March 1, 2008 [1]

Crop and State	Utilized Production Boxes			Utilized Production Ton Equivalent		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
	1,000 Boxes [2]	*1,000 Boxes [2]*	*1,000 Boxes [2]*	*1,000 Tons*	*1,000 Tons*	*1,000 Tons*
Oranges						
Early, Mid & Navel [3]						
AZ [4]	250	200	250	9	8	9
CA [4]	47,000	34,000	48,000	1,763	1,275	1,800
FL [5]	75,000	65,600	82,000	3,375	2,952	3,690
TX [4]	1,400	1,600	1,400	60	68	60
US	123,650	101,400	131,650	5,207	4,303	5,559
Valencia						
AZ [4]	200	100	100	8	4	4
CA	14,000	11,000	16,000	525	413	600
FL	72,700	63,400	85,000	3,272	2,853	3,825
TX [4]	200	380	385	9	16	16
US	87,100	74,880	101,485	3,814	3,286	4,445
All						
AZ [4]	450	300	350	17	12	13
CA	61,000	45,000	64,000	2,288	1,688	2,400
FL	147,700	129,000	167,000	6,647	5,805	7,515
TX [4]	1,600	1,980	1,785	69	84	76
US	210,750	176,280	233,135	9,021	7,589	10,004
Temples [5]						
FL	700			32		
Grapefruit						
White						
FL	6,500	9,300	7,500	276	395	319
Colored						
FL	12,800	17,900	17,000	544	761	723
All						
AZ [4]	100	100	150	3	3	5
CA [4]	6,000	4,000	5,000	201	134	168
FL	19,300	27,200	24,500	820	1,156	1,042
TX [4]	5,200	7,100	6,600	208	284	264
US	30,600	38,400	36,250	1,232	1,577	1,479
Tangerines						
AZ [4 6]	550	300	400	21	11	15
CA [4 6]	3,600	2,900	5,100	135	109	191
FL	5,500	4,600	4,800	261	219	228
US	9,650	7,800	10,300	417	339	434
Lemons [4]						
AZ	3,800	2,500	1,500	144	95	57
CA	22,000	16,000	17,000	836	608	646
US	25,800	18,500	18,500	980	703	703
Tangelos						
FL	1,400	1,250	1,500	63	56	68

[1] The crop year begins with the bloom of the first year shown and ends with the completion of harvest the following year.
[2] Net lbs. per box: oranges-AZ & CA-75, FL-90, TX-85; grapefruit-AZ & CA-67, FL-85, TX-80; lemons-76; tangelos-90; Temples-90; tangerines-AZ & CA-75, FL-95.
[3] Navel and miscellaneous varieties in AZ and CA. Early (including navel) and midseason varieties in FL and TX. Small quantities of tangerines in TX.
[4] Estimates for current year carried forward from previous forecast.
[5] Temples included in early and midseason orange varieties beginning with 2007-08 season.
[6] Includes tangelos and tangors.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2007-2008
(Domestic Units) [1]

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*
Grains & Hay				
Barley	4,020.0		3,508.0	
Corn for Grain [2]	93,600.0		86,542.0	
Corn for Silage			6,071.0	
Hay, All			61,625.0	
Alfalfa			21,670.0	
All Other			39,955.0	
Oats	3,760.0		1,505.0	
Proso Millet	570.0		515.0	
Rice	2,761.0		2,748.0	
Rye	1,376.0		289.0	
Sorghum for Grain [2]	7,718.0		6,805.0	
Sorghum for Silage			399.0	
Wheat, All	60,433.0		51,011.0	
Winter	44,987.0	46,610.0	35,952.0	
Durum	2,149.0		2,112.0	
Other Spring	13,297.0		12,947.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,183.0		1,163.0	
Cottonseed [3]				
Flaxseed	354.0		349.0	
Mustard Seed	56.0		52.8	
Peanuts	1,230.0		1,195.0	
Rapeseed	1.5		1.0	
Safflower	180.0		172.0	
Soybeans for Beans	63,631.0		62,820.0	
Sunflower	2,068.0		2,009.5	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	10,830.3		10,492.2	
Upland	10,538.0		10,204.0	
Amer-Pima	292.3		288.2	
Sugarbeets	1,269.8		1,246.9	
Sugarcane			883.5	
Tobacco			356.0	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	29.0		11.0	
Dry Edible Beans	1,526.9		1,478.7	
Dry Edible Peas	847.5		811.3	
Lentils	303.0		295.0	
Wrinkled Seed Peas [3]				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			6.4	
Ginger Root (HI)			0.1	
Hops			30.9	
Peppermint Oil			73.3	
Potatoes, All	1,148.8		1,129.0	
Winter	11.5	11.0	11.5	11.0
Spring	73.0		70.4	
Summer	53.7		50.4	
Fall	1,010.6		996.7	
Spearmint Oil			19.6	
Sweet Potatoes	100.6		97.5	
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 2008 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, 2007-2008
(Domestic Units) [1]

Crop	Units	Yield		Production	
		2007	2008	2007	2008
				1,000	*1,000*
Grains & Hay					
Barley	Bu	60.4		211,825	
Corn for Grain	"	151.1		13,073,893	
Corn for Silage	Tons	17.5		106,328	
Hay, All	"	2.44		150,304	
Alfalfa	"	3.35		72,575	
All Other	"	1.95		77,729	
Oats	Bu	60.9		91,599	
Proso Millet	"	32.3		16,615	
Rice [2]	Cwt	7,185		197,456	
Rye	Bu	27.4		7,914	
Sorghum for Grain	"	74.2		504,993	
Sorghum for Silage	Tons	15.6		6,206	
Wheat, All	Bu	40.5		2,066,722	
Winter	"	42.2		1,515,989	
Durum	"	33.9		71,686	
Other Spring	"	37.0		479,047	
Oilseeds					
Canola	Lbs	1,250		1,453,830	
Cottonseed [3]	Tons			6,596.0	
Flaxseed	Bu	16.9		5,904	
Mustard Seed	Lbs	603		31,826	
Peanuts	"	3,130		3,740,650	
Rapeseed	"	1,300		1,300	
Safflower	"	1,215		208,995	
Soybeans for Beans	Bu	41.2		2,585,207	
Sunflower	Lbs	1,437		2,888,555	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops					
Cotton, All [2]	Bales	871		19,033.0	
Upland [2]	"	857		18,208.0	
Amer-Pima [2]	"	1,374		825.0	
Sugarbeets	Tons	25.6		31,912	
Sugarcane	"	34.9		30,837	
Tobacco	Lbs	2,187		778,624	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils					
Austrian Winter Peas [2]	Cwt	1,155		127	
Dry Edible Beans [2]	"	1,716		25,371	
Dry Edible Peas [2]	"	1,960		15,903	
Lentils [2]	"	1,155		3,408	
Wrinkled Seed Peas [3]	"			541	
Potatoes & Misc.					
Coffee (HI)	Lbs	1,170		7,500	
Ginger Root (HI)	"	35,000		2,800	
Hops	"	1,949		60,253.1	
Peppermint Oil	"	93		6,794	
Potatoes, All	Cwt	398		449,156	
Winter	"	215	250	2,473	2,750
Spring	"	294		20,694	
Summer	"	335		16,907	
Fall	"	410		409,082	
Spearmint Oil	Lbs	121		2,379	
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt	189		18,452	
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 2008 crop year.
[2] Yield in pounds.
[3] Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2006-2008
(Domestic Units) [1]

Crop	Units	Production		
		2006	2007	2008
		1,000	*1,000*	*1,000*
Citrus [2]				
Grapefruit	Tons	1,232	1,577	1,479
Lemons	"	980	703	703
Oranges [3]	"	9,021	7,589	10,004
Tangelos (FL)	"	63	56	68
Tangerines	"	417	339	434
Temples (FL) [3]	"	32		
Noncitrus				
Apples	1,000 Lbs	9,851.7	9,342.6	
Apricots	Tons	44.5	88.3	
Bananas (HI)	Lbs	20,000.0	21,000.0	
Grapes	Tons	6,377.2	6,729.7	
Olives (CA)	"	23.5	132.5	
Papayas (HI)	Lbs	28,700.0	33,300.0	
Peaches	Tons	1,010.1	1,112.7	
Pears	"	842.0	881.0	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	"	198.0	81.0	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	"	21.5	11.9	
Nuts & Misc.				
Almonds (CA) (shelled)	Lbs	1,120,000	1,360,000	
Hazelnuts (OR) (in-shell)	Tons	43.0	36.0	
Pecans (in-shell)	Lbs	206,300	349,155	
Walnuts (CA) (in-shell)	Tons	346.0	320.0	
Maple Syrup	Gals	1,449	1,258	

[1] Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2008 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2007-08 season.
[2] Production years are 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08.
[3] Temples included in oranges beginning with the 2006-07 season.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2007-2008
(Metric Units) [1]

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Hectares	*Hectares*	*Hectares*	*Hectares*
Grains & Hay				
Barley	1,626,850		1,419,650	
Corn for Grain [2]	37,878,980		35,022,680	
Corn for Silage			2,456,870	
Hay, All [3]			24,939,020	
Alfalfa			8,769,630	
All Other			16,169,390	
Oats	1,521,630		609,060	
Proso Millet	230,670		208,420	
Rice	1,117,350		1,112,090	
Rye	556,850		116,960	
Sorghum for Grain [2]	3,123,400		2,753,920	
Sorghum for Silage			161,470	
Wheat, All [3]	24,456,630		20,643,640	
Winter	18,205,790	18,862,600	14,549,410	
Durum	869,680		854,710	
Other Spring	5,381,160		5,239,520	
Oilseeds				
Canola	478,750		470,650	
Cottonseed [4]				
Flaxseed	143,260		141,240	
Mustard Seed	22,660		21,370	
Peanuts	497,770		483,600	
Rapeseed	610		400	
Safflower	72,840		69,610	
Soybeans for Beans	25,750,830		25,422,630	
Sunflower	836,900		813,220	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All [3]	4,382,910		4,246,090	
Upland	4,264,620		4,129,460	
Amer-Pima	118,290		116,630	
Sugarbeets	513,880		504,610	
Sugarcane			357,540	
Tobacco			144,070	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	11,740		4,450	
Dry Edible Beans	617,920		598,420	
Dry Edible Peas	342,970		328,320	
Lentils	122,620		119,380	
Wrinkled Seed Peas [4]				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			2,590	
Ginger Root (HI)			30	
Hops			12,510	
Peppermint Oil			29,660	
Potatoes, All [3]	464,910		456,900	
Winter	4,650	4,450	4,650	4,450
Spring	29,540		28,490	
Summer	21,730		20,400	
Fall	408,980		403,350	
Spearmint Oil			7,930	
Sweet Potatoes	40,710		39,460	
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 2008 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, 2007-2008
(Metric Units) [1]

Crop	Yield		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Metric Tons	*Metric Tons*	*Metric Tons*	*Metric Tons*
Grains & Hay				
Barley	3.25		4,611,940	
Corn for Grain	9.48		332,092,180	
Corn for Silage	39.26		96,459,140	
Hay, All [2]	5.47		136,353,500	
Alfalfa	7.51		65,838,930	
All Other	4.36		70,514,560	
Oats	2.18		1,329,560	
Proso Millet	1.81		376,820	
Rice	8.05		8,956,450	
Rye	1.72		201,020	
Sorghum for Grain	4.66		12,827,410	
Sorghum for Silage	34.87		5,629,990	
Wheat, All [2]	2.72		56,246,960	
Winter	2.84		41,258,460	
Durum	2.28		1,950,970	
Other Spring	2.49		13,037,520	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.40		659,450	
Cottonseed [3]			5,983,790	
Flaxseed	1.06		149,970	
Mustard Seed	0.68		14,440	
Peanuts	3.51		1,696,730	
Rapeseed	1.46		590	
Safflower	1.36		94,800	
Soybeans for Beans	2.77		70,357,800	
Sunflower	1.61		1,310,230	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All [2]	0.98		4,143,950	
Upland	0.96		3,964,330	
Amer-Pima	1.54		179,620	
Sugarbeets	57.37		28,950,080	
Sugarcane	78.24		27,974,860	
Tobacco	2.45		353,180	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	1.29		5,760	
Dry Edible Beans	1.92		1,150,810	
Dry Edible Peas	2.20		721,350	
Lentils	1.29		154,580	
Wrinkled Seed Peas [3]			24,540	
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)	1.31		3,400	
Ginger Root (HI)	39.23		1,270	
Hops	2.18		27,330	
Peppermint Oil	0.10		3,080	
Potatoes, All [2]	44.59		20,373,370	
Winter	24.10	28.02	112,170	124,740
Spring	32.95		938,660	
Summer	37.60		766,890	
Fall	46.00		18,555,650	
Spearmint Oil	0.14		1,080	
Sweet Potatoes	21.21		836,970	
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 2008 crop year.
[2] Production may not add due to rounding.
[3] Yield is not estimated.

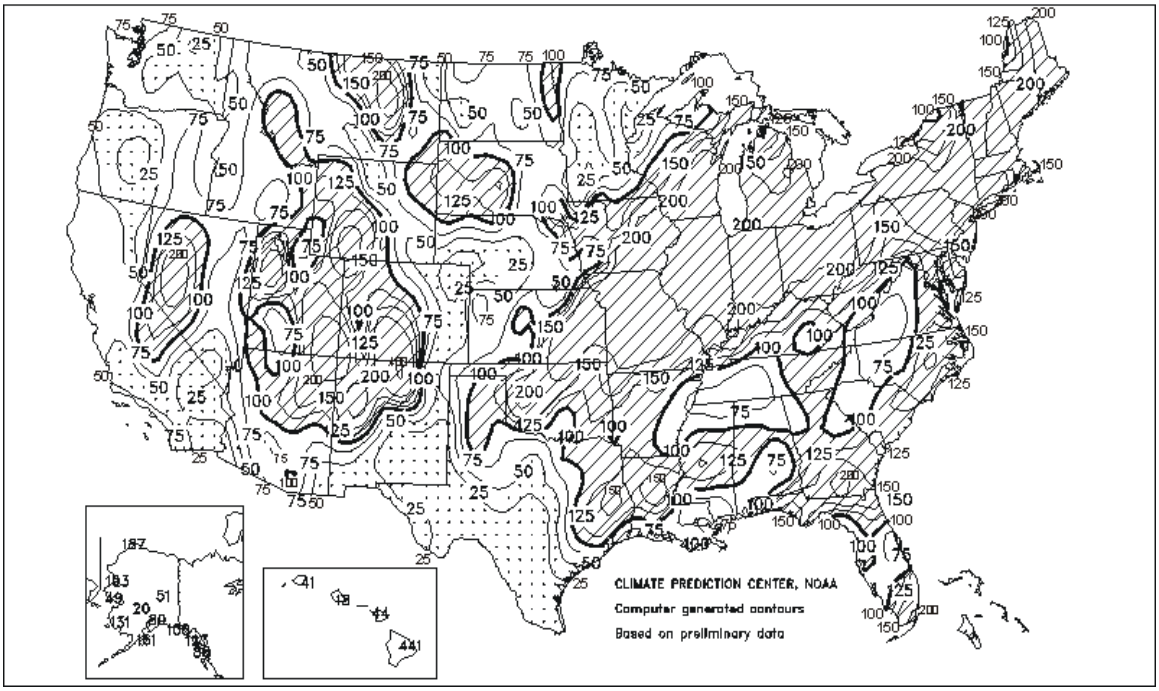
Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2006-2008
(Metric Units) [1]

Crop	Production		
	2006	2007	2008
	Metric tons	*Metric tons*	*Metric tons*
Citrus [2]			
Grapefruit	1,117,650	1,430,630	1,341,730
Lemons	889,040	637,750	637,750
Oranges [3]	8,183,710	6,884,620	9,075,480
Tangelos (FL)	57,150	50,800	61,690
Tangerines	378,300	307,540	393,720
Temples (FL) [3]	29,030		
Noncitrus			
Apples	4,468,660	4,237,730	
Apricots	40,350	80,070	
Bananas (HI)	9,070	9,530	
Grapes	5,785,250	6,105,080	
Olives (CA)	21,320	120,200	
Papayas (HI)	13,020	15,100	
Peaches	916,370	1,009,460	
Pears	763,880	799,180	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	179,620	73,480	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	19,500	10,800	
Nuts & Misc.			
Almonds (CA) (shelled)	508,020	616,890	
Hazelnuts (OR) (in-shell)	39,010	32,660	
Pecans (in-shell)	93,580	158,370	
Walnuts (CA) (in-shell)	313,890	290,300	
Maple Syrup	7,240	6,290	

[1] Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2008 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2007-08 season.
[2] Production years are 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08.
[3] Temples included in oranges beginning with the 2006-07 season.

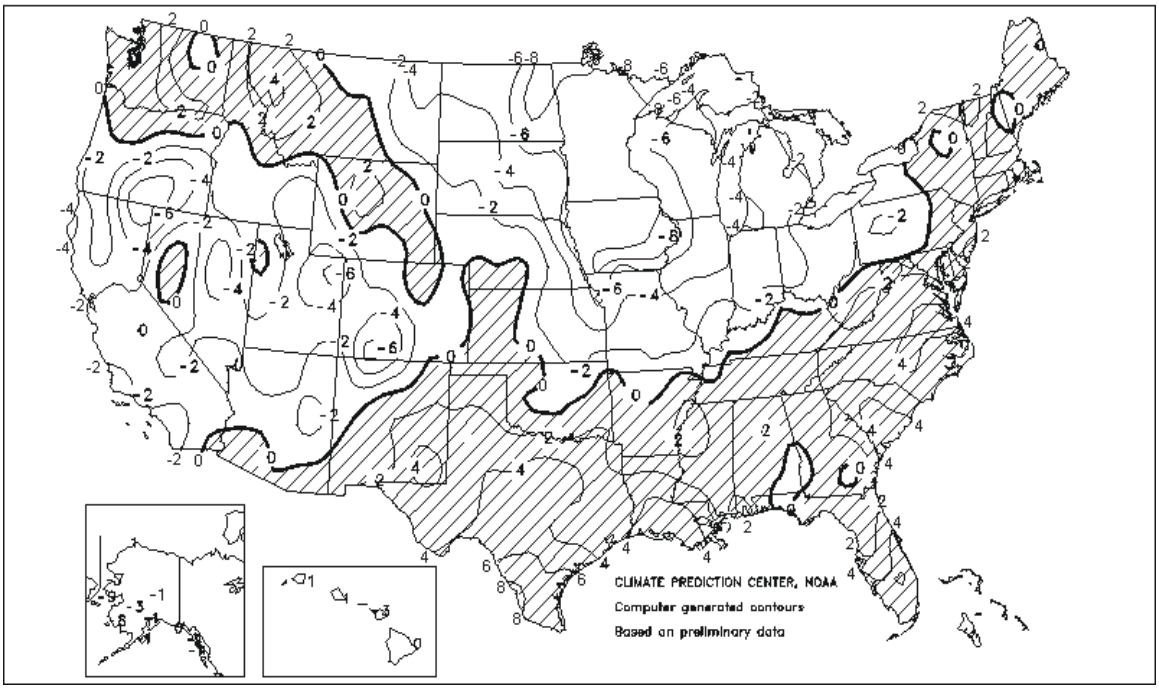
Percent Of Normal Precipitation

February 2008



Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

February 2008



February Weather Summary

Multiple storms dumped heavy precipitation from the southeastern Plains into the Northeast, including a broad swath of the Midwest. As a result, periodic flooding returned to the central and eastern Corn Belt, while record-setting snowfall blanketed areas from Iowa into New England. Farther south, rain continued to ease or eradicate drought, especially across southern Georgia and northern Florida. Some of the Southern rainfall was accompanied by strong thunderstorms, including a February 5-6 tornado swarm that was the nation's deadliest outbreak since May 1985. However, heavy showers largely bypassed several areas, including the central portion of Florida's peninsula and much of the interior Southeast, leaving long-term rainfall deficits intact. Meanwhile, mostly dry weather prevailed across the nation's mid-section, excluding the aforementioned heavy precipitation on the southeastern Plains. In fact, intensifying drought across central, southern, and western Texas contributed to a major rash of wildfires that peaked in intensity during a high-wind event on February 25. By month's end, the percentage of winter wheat rated very poor to poor included 21 percent in Kansas, 23 percent in Oklahoma, and 63 percent in Texas. As spring approached, dryness was also a concern on parts of the northern High Plains. Elsewhere, significant Western precipitation was mostly confined to interior portions of the region. Nevertheless, enough snow fell to add 9 inches of water equivalency (from 20 to 29 inches) to the Sierra Nevada snow pack. Overall, Western water supply prospects for the spring and summer were superior to this time last year, when the average water content of the Sierra Nevada snow pack stood at just 17 inches.

The coldest February weather in more than a decade gripped much of the northern Plains and the upper Midwest, where monthly temperatures generally averaged 5 to 10 degrees F below normal. Colder-than-normal weather also prevailed across much of the remainder of the Plains and Midwest, except for near-normal temperatures on the High Plains and southern Plains. In contrast, warmer-than-normal conditions covered much of the South, particularly in southern Texas and the southern Atlantic States. In fact, monthly temperatures averaged at least 5 degrees F above normal in Deep South Texas. Elsewhere, Western temperatures were variable, generally ranging from somewhat below normal across the Intermountain region to slightly above normal in parts of the Northwest.

February Agricultural Summary

By midmonth, spring corn planting preparations were underway in Texas. However, rainfall in the Blacklands and south central Texas regions delayed field activity. During February, sugarcane harvest was ongoing in Texas and Florida, and sugarbeets were growing well in California, as producers fertilized, irrigated, and cultivated fields. During the first half of the month, potato planting was ongoing in south Texas and neared completion in central Florida, while potato harvest continued in both California and southern Florida. In early February, cotton fieldwork on the Texas High Plains continued, and harvest neared completion on the southern Low Plains. By February 15, Texas cotton producers were preparing for planting along the Upper Coast, while harvest in the Low Plains neared completion. A week later, producers in the Panhandle were preparing their fields for planting, while in the Lower Valley planting was underway. By February 22, sorghum planting was underway in Texas. By the end of the month, growers in the Texas Low Plains and Trans-Pecos regions were preparing fields and planting continued in the Lower Valley.

Early in the month, small grain planting continued in Arizona but progress was behind last year and normal. In California, rains promoted growth of oat, barley, winter forage, and wheat crops. In Texas, the lack of moisture continued to negatively impact small grains. By February 15, half of Arizona's alfalfa crop had been harvested. By February 22, Arizona producers nearly completed the planting of small grain acreage behind the pace of last year and the 5-year average pace. Durum wheat and barley acreage was 65 percent or more emerged by this date. In Texas, showers in the Blacklands and the Panhandle were beneficial for small grain development. Georgia producers were top dressing small grains, fertilizing pastures, and spraying for weeds. The Florida panhandle received heavy rains leaving wheat fields soaked. By month's end, herbicide applications were ongoing in California small grain fields and alfalfa was growing well across the State as weevil spraying continued. In Texas, irrigation continued on many wheat and oat fields with showers in eastern Texas providing only limited relief to small grains. Frequent showers in Georgia during the month were beneficial for crops and pastures, although in some areas, wet soil conditions hampered applications of nitrogen on small grain fields.

Early in the month, almond producers in California were clearing downed trees from January's damaging winds, while new planting of almond trees was evident in some areas. By mid-month, almond buds were swelling, pruning continued in nut groves, and dormant sprays were applied. By February 29, almond groves were blooming and progressing well in California's Sacramento Valley. Warm weather conditions were excellent for pollination and reduced disease threat. Texas pecan growers were pruning trees early in the month.

In California, field preparation for new vineyards started early in the month and was nearly complete by month's end. In existing vineyards, irrigation, cultivation, and chemical treatments were ongoing and growers were tying vines. Some blueberry bush planting was evident in California and Georgia. In Florida, strawberry harvest began and fields were prepared for watermelon planting. Harvesting, packing, and shipping continued for a multitude of vegetables and herbs during the month of February in Arizona, California, Florida, and Texas.

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2007 is 30.8 million tons, of which 29.1 million tons are for sugar and 1.74 million tons are for seed. Total production for sugar and seed is down fractionally from February but 4 percent above the 2006 production. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 883,500 acres for sugar and seed during the 2007 crop year, unchanged from last month but 2 percent less than last year. If realized, this will be the smallest area harvested for sugar and seed since 1990. Yield is forecast at 34.9 tons per acre, the same as the last forecast but up 2.0 tons from last year.

The yield in Florida for sugar and seed, at 36.9 tons per acre, is down 0.1 ton from last month but up 1.0 ton from last year. Harvest continued in the Lake Okeechobee area in Florida and wetland sugarcane harvest was progressing at a steady pace throughout the month of February. Estimates for Hawaii, Louisiana, and Texas are carried forward from January.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya production is estimated at 2.88 million pounds for January 2008, up 3 percent from December and 17 percent higher than the comparable month a year ago. Total area in crop for January is estimated at 2,045 acres, down slightly from last month and 12 percent less than January 2007. Harvested area totaled 1,260 acres, virtually unchanged from last month but down 10 percent from January 2007. January weather was mostly dry with continuous trade winds. Warm daytime temperatures were beneficial for crop progress and fruit development. However, at the end of the month, drenching rains caused some minor flooding and damage to roads and young plantings. Orchard maintenance was delayed due to wet conditions.

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 2007-08 U.S. grapefruit crop is 1.48 million tons, unchanged from the February 1 forecast but 6 percent lower than the previous season. Florida's grapefruit production is forecast at 24.5 million boxes (1.04 million tons), unchanged from the February forecast but 10 percent below last season.

The Florida all white grapefruit forecast is 7.50 million boxes (319,000 tons), the same as February's forecast but 19 percent below last season's final utilization. Although the previous data were considered final, an additional monthly size and drop survey was conducted in February. Very little growth occurred in white grapefruit and the average volume was the smallest on record for February. The droppage rate for white grapefruit continued slightly above the maximum of recent non-hurricane years. The Florida colored grapefruit forecast, at 17.0 million boxes (723,000 tons), is unchanged from the February forecast but 5 percent below the 2006-07 final utilization. Average fruit sizes were the smallest on record in a series dating back to 1968. The average drop rate slowed in February and ended slightly below average. Arizona, California, and Texas grapefruit production forecasts are carried forward from the January forecast.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast is 1.50 million boxes (68,000 tons), up 15 percent from the February 1 forecast and 20 percent above the 2006-07 final utilized production. Nearly 93 percent of the rows included in the monthly route survey have been harvested.

Tangerines: The U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at 434,000 tons, unchanged from the February forecast but 28 percent higher than the final utilization in 2006-07. Florida's tangerine crop is forecast at 4.80 million boxes (228,000 tons), unchanged from February's forecast but 4 percent higher than the 2006-07 utilization of 4.60 million boxes. Harvest of Fallglo, an early tangerine, was completed and Sunburst, another early tangerine, was nearly completed. The current volume for the later maturing Honey tangerines was the smallest on record since 1996, excluding the hurricane seasons. Arizona and California tangerine production forecasts are carried forward from January.

Florida Citrus: The citrus crop escaped serious damage from several cold fronts that passed through the State during February. Temperatures dropped to the lower 30s across the citrus producing region on several mornings with the lowest temperatures reported in Ona and several upper interior regions. By the end of the month, daily highs were in the mid 80s in all areas. Weekly harvest amounts of early-mid oranges were in the mid 5 million boxes range most of the month with harvest expected to be nearly complete by mid-March. Grapefruit harvest stayed under a million boxes

per week until late in the month when processing harvest increased. Navel orange and Sunburst tangerine harvest was nearly complete and crews were transitioning to harvest of Temple oranges and Honey tangerines. With frequent irrigation and timely rainfall, trees and fruit were reported in good condition. Aggressive production practices, scouting techniques, and removal of abandoned groves were being used to control greening. Grove care included irrigating, mowing, pesticide spraying, fertilizing, and hedging and topping.

California Citrus: Citrus harvest was delayed due to wet conditions during the first week of February. Severe storms containing hail brought damage to some citrus groves. Warm weather later in the month increased rind puff and fruit drop in navel orange groves.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: At the beginning of February, excessive rainfall delayed orchard and vineyard activities and caused damage in some strawberry fields in the south. By mid-month, activities resumed and vineyard pruning was mostly complete by the end of the month. New blueberry bushes were planted during February. Cherry blocks were budding throughout the month. Early nectarine varieties began to bloom in Tulare County. Dormant sprays and pre-emergent herbicides were applied to some stone fruit orchards as weather permitted. Almond, pistachio, and walnut groves were being pruned, with dormant sprays still being applied in some areas. Almond trees were budding throughout February and blooming had begun in some groves by the end of the month.

Reliability of March 1 Orange Forecast

Survey Procedures: The orange objective yield survey for the March 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which accounts for nearly 75 percent of the U.S. production. Bearing tree numbers are determined at the start of the season based on a fruit tree census conducted every other year, combined with ongoing review based on administrative data or special surveys. From mid-July to mid-September, the number of fruit per tree is determined. In September and subsequent months, fruit size measurement and fruit droppage surveys are conducted, which are combined with the previous components to develop the current forecast of production. Arizona, California, and Texas conduct grower and packer surveys on a quarterly basis in October, January, April, and July. California also conducts objective measurement surveys in September for navel oranges and in March for Valencia oranges.

Estimating Procedures: State level objective yield estimates for Florida oranges were reviewed for errors, reasonableness, and consistency with historical estimates. Reports from growers and packers in Arizona, California, and Texas were also used for setting estimates. These 4 States submit their analyses of the current situation to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB). The ASB uses the survey data and the State analyses to prepare the published March 1 forecast.

Revision Policy: The March 1 production forecasts will not be revised. A new forecast will be made each month throughout the growing season. End-of-season estimates will be published in the *Citrus Fruits Summary* released in September. The production estimates are based on all data available at the end of the marketing season, including information from marketing orders, shipments, and processor records. Allowances are made for recorded local utilization and home use.

Reliability: To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the March 1 production forecasts, the "Root Mean Square Error," a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the March 1 production forecast and the final estimate is expressed as a percentage of the final estimate. The average of squared percentage deviations for the latest 20-year period is computed. The square root of the average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error." Probability statements can be made concerning expected differences in the current forecast relative to the final end-of-season estimate, assuming that factors affecting this year's forecast are not different from those influencing recent years.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the March 1 orange production forecast is 2.5 percent. However, if you exclude the 5 abnormal production seasons (3 freeze seasons and 2 hurricane seasons), the "Root Mean Square Error" is 1.9 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current orange production forecast will not be above or below the final estimates by more than 2.5 percent, or 1.9 percent excluding abnormal seasons. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.3 percent, or 3.3 percent when excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the March 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 206,000 tons (191,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 8,000 tons to 520,000 tons (3,000 tons to 503,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons). The March 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 8 times and above 12 times (below 6 times and above 9 times, excluding abnormal seasons). The difference does not imply that the March 1 forecasts this year are likely to understate or overstate final production.

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