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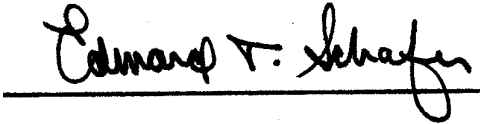
All Orange Production Up 1 Percent From March

The U.S. all orange forecast for the 2007-08 season is 10.1 million tons, up 1 percent from the March 1 forecast and 33 percent higher than the 2006-07 final utilization of 7.63 million tons. Florida's all orange forecast, at 169 million boxes (7.58 million tons), is up 1 percent from the previous forecast and 31 percent higher than last season's final utilization of 129 million boxes. Early, midseason, and navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 83.5 million boxes (3.76 million tons), up 2 percent from the March 1 forecast and 27 percent above last season. Weekly harvest of the early, midseason, and navel varieties has declined sharply, indicating harvest is near completion. 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. The monthly row count survey indicated that only 12 percent of the Valencia orange rows had been harvested. All orange varieties experienced a heavy bloom in March and trees were in excellent condition.

California's all orange forecast is 65.5 million boxes (2.46 million tons), 2 percent above the previous forecast and 42 percent higher than last season. California's navel orange utilization is forecast at 49.5 million boxes (1.86 million tons), up 3 percent from the previous forecast and 43 percent higher than 2006-07. The navel season got off to a good start with above average yields and good fruit color, maturity, and sugar content. The Valencia orange forecast in California is 16.0 million boxes (600,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but 39 percent above last season. Valencia harvest began early with limited picking. The crop looked good with a heavier than average fruit set per tree. The Texas all orange forecast is 1.79 million boxes (76,000 tons), up slightly from the January 1 forecast but down 10 percent from 2006-07. Arizona's all orange forecast is 350,000 boxes (13,000 tons), unchanged from January but 17 percent higher than last season.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield forecast for the 2007-08 season is 1.63 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, unchanged from last month, but down from last season's final yield of 1.65 gallons per box. The early-mid portion is final at 1.55 gallons per box, down slightly from last season's final of 1.56 gallons per box. The Valencia portion remains at 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 April 9, 2008.



Secretary of
Agriculture
Edward T. Schafer



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Carol C. House

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**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
2005-06, 2006-07 and Forecasted April 1, 2008^{1 2}**

Crop and State	Utilized Production Boxes			Utilized Production Ton Equivalent		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
	<i>1,000 Boxes³</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes³</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes³</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel ⁴						
AZ	250	200	250	9	8	9
CA	47,000	34,500	49,500	1,763	1,294	1,856
FL ⁵	75,000	65,600	83,500	3,375	2,952	3,758
TX	1,400	1,600	1,400	60	68	60
US	123,650	101,900	134,650	5,207	4,322	5,683
Valencia						
AZ	200	100	100	8	4	4
CA	14,000	11,500	16,000	525	431	600
FL	72,700	63,400	85,000	3,272	2,853	3,825
TX	200	380	388	9	16	16
US	87,100	75,380	101,488	3,814	3,304	4,445
All						
AZ	450	300	350	17	12	13
CA	61,000	46,000	65,500	2,288	1,725	2,456
FL	147,700	129,000	168,500	6,647	5,805	7,583
TX	1,600	1,980	1,788	69	84	76
US	210,750	177,280	236,138	9,021	7,626	10,128
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	100	100	150	3	3	5
CA	6,000	5,500	5,000	201	184	168
FL	19,300	27,200	24,500	820	1,156	1,042
TX	5,200	7,100	6,400	208	284	256
US	30,600	39,900	36,050	1,232	1,627	1,471
Tangerines						
AZ ⁶	550	300	400	21	11	15
CA ⁶	3,600	3,500	5,100	135	131	191
FL	5,500	4,600	4,800	261	219	228
US	9,650	8,400	10,300	417	361	434
Lemons						
AZ	3,800	2,500	1,500	144	95	57
CA	22,000	18,500	17,000	836	703	646
US	25,800	21,000	18,500	980	798	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 2006-07 revised.

³ Net lbs. per box: oranges-AZ & CA-75, FL-90, TX-85; grapefruit-AZ & CA-67, FL-85, TX-80; lemons-76; tangelos-90; Temples-90; tangerines-AZ & CA-75, FL-95.

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

⁵ Temples included in early and midseason orange varieties beginning with 2006-07 season.

⁶ Includes tangelos and tangors.

**Potatoes: Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Seasonal Group, State, and United States, 2006-2008**

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	2007	2008	2007	2008					
	<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	11.5	11.0	11.5	11.0	215	240	3,120	2,473	2,640
FL ¹							1,375		
Total	11.5	11.0	11.5	11.0	215	240	4,495	2,473	2,640
Spring									
AZ	4.0	3.5	4.0	3.5	280	300	1,170	1,120	1,050
CA	15.5	13.3	15.5	13.3	395	415	6,044	6,123	5,520
FL ¹	27.8	28.5	27.2	27.9	287	290	6,441	7,807	8,091
Hastings	16.5	17.3	16.2	17.0	285	290	4,731	4,617	4,930
Other FL	11.3	11.2	11.0	10.9	290	290	1,710	3,190	3,161
NC	16.0	15.0	14.5	14.0	186	200	3,255	2,700	2,800
TX	9.7	8.9	9.2	8.5	320	290	2,856	2,944	2,465
Total	73.0	69.2	70.4	67.2	294	297	19,766	20,694	19,926
Summer ²									
AL	1.4		1.3		140		240	182	
CA	7.0		7.0		360		2,111	2,520	
CO	3.0		2.8		350		1,296	980	
DE	2.0		2.0		270		504	540	
IL	6.3		6.1		400		2,489	2,440	
KS	5.0		4.9		365		1,824	1,789	
MD	3.0		3.0		320		928	960	
MO	6.8		6.6		300		2,394	1,980	
NJ	2.4		2.4		265		600	636	
TX	11.2		9.8		395		4,268	3,871	
VA	5.6		5.4		210		1,512	1,134	
Total	53.7		51.3		332		18,166	17,032	

¹ Winter potatoes combined with spring potatoes in 2007.

² 2007 revised.

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		
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Jan	2,330	2,045	1,400	1,260	2,465	2,880
Feb	1,930	2,040	1,160	1,430	2,015	2,695

¹ Utilized fresh production.

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

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	4,020.0	4,147.0	3,508.0	
Corn for Grain ²	93,600.0	86,014.0	86,542.0	
Corn for Silage			6,071.0	
Hay, All			61,625.0	60,583.0
Alfalfa			21,670.0	
All Other			39,955.0	
Oats	3,760.0	3,420.0	1,505.0	
Proso Millet	570.0		515.0	
Rice	2,761.0	2,770.0	2,748.0	
Rye	1,376.0		289.0	
Sorghum for Grain ²	7,718.0	7,415.0	6,805.0	
Sorghum for Silage			399.0	
Wheat, All	60,433.0	63,803.0	51,011.0	
Winter	44,987.0	46,840.0	35,952.0	
Durum	2,149.0	2,630.0	2,112.0	
Other Spring	13,297.0	14,333.0	12,947.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,183.0	1,010.0	1,163.0	
Cottonseed ³				
Flaxseed	354.0	360.0	349.0	
Mustard Seed	56.0		52.8	
Peanuts	1,230.0	1,430.0	1,195.0	
Rapeseed	1.5		1.0	
Safflower	180.0		172.0	
Soybeans for Beans	63,631.0	74,793.0	62,820.0	
Sunflower	2,068.0	2,153.0	2,009.5	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	10,830.3	9,389.6	10,492.2	
Upland	10,538.0	9,186.0	10,204.0	
Amer-Pima	292.3	203.6	288.2	
Sugarbeets	1,269.8	1,131.8	1,246.9	
Sugarcane			883.5	
Tobacco			356.0	350.9
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	29.0	25.5	11.0	
Dry Edible Beans	1,526.9	1,398.5	1,478.7	
Dry Edible Peas	847.5	820.0	811.3	
Lentils	303.0	277.0	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		1,129.9	
Winter	11.5	11.0	11.5	11.0
Spring	73.0	69.2	70.4	67.2
Summer	53.7		51.3	
Fall	1,010.6		996.7	
Spearmint Oil			19.6	
Sweet Potatoes	100.6	103.8	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
				<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
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		449,281	
Winter	"	215	240	2,473	2,640
Spring	"	294	297	20,694	19,926
Summer	"	332		17,032	
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
		<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Citrus ²				
Grapefruit	Tons	1,232	1,627	1,471
Lemons	"	980	798	703
Oranges ³	"	9,021	7,626	10,128
Tangelos (FL)	"	63	56	68
Tangerines	"	417	361	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
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	1,626,850	1,678,250	1,419,650	
Corn for Grain ²	37,878,980	34,809,010	35,022,680	
Corn for Silage			2,456,870	
Hay, All ³			24,939,020	24,517,330
Alfalfa			8,769,630	
All Other			16,169,390	
Oats	1,521,630	1,384,040	609,060	
Proso Millet	230,670		208,420	
Rice	1,117,350	1,120,990	1,112,090	
Rye	556,850		116,960	
Sorghum for Grain ²	3,123,400	3,000,780	2,753,920	
Sorghum for Silage			161,470	
Wheat, All ³	24,456,630	25,820,440	20,643,640	
Winter	18,205,790	18,955,680	14,549,410	
Durum	869,680	1,064,330	854,710	
Other Spring	5,381,160	5,800,420	5,239,520	
Oilseeds				
Canola	478,750	408,740	470,650	
Cottonseed ⁴				
Flaxseed	143,260	145,690	141,240	
Mustard Seed	22,660		21,370	
Peanuts	497,770	578,710	483,600	
Rapeseed	610		400	
Safflower	72,840		69,610	
Soybeans for Beans	25,750,830	30,267,980	25,422,630	
Sunflower	836,900	871,300	813,220	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ³	4,382,910	3,799,880	4,246,090	
Upland	4,264,620	3,717,480	4,129,460	
Amer-Pima	118,290	82,390	116,630	
Sugarbeets	513,880	458,030	504,610	
Sugarcane			357,540	
Tobacco			144,070	142,010
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	11,740	10,320	4,450	
Dry Edible Beans	617,920	565,960	598,420	
Dry Edible Peas	342,970	331,850	328,320	
Lentils	122,620	112,100	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		457,260	
Winter	4,650	4,450	4,650	4,450
Spring	29,540	28,000	28,490	27,200
Summer	21,730		20,760	
Fall	408,980		403,350	
Spearmint Oil			7,930	
Sweet Potatoes	40,710	42,010	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
	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>
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	44.57		20,379,040	
Winter	24.10	26.90	112,170	119,750
Spring	32.95	33.23	938,660	903,830
Summer	37.21		772,560	
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
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>
Citrus ²			
Grapefruit	1,117,650	1,475,990	1,334,470
Lemons	889,040	723,930	637,750
Oranges ³	8,183,710	6,918,190	9,187,970
Tangelos (FL)	57,150	50,800	61,690
Tangerines	378,300	327,490	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	

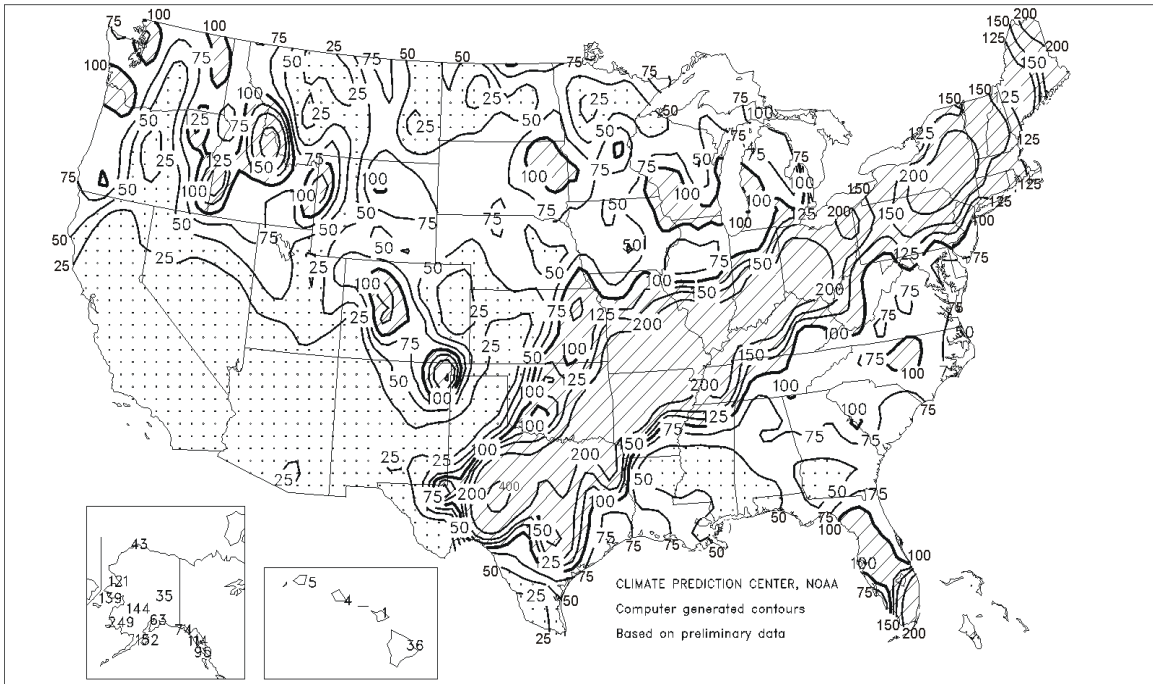
¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2008 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2007-08 season.

² Production years are 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08.

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

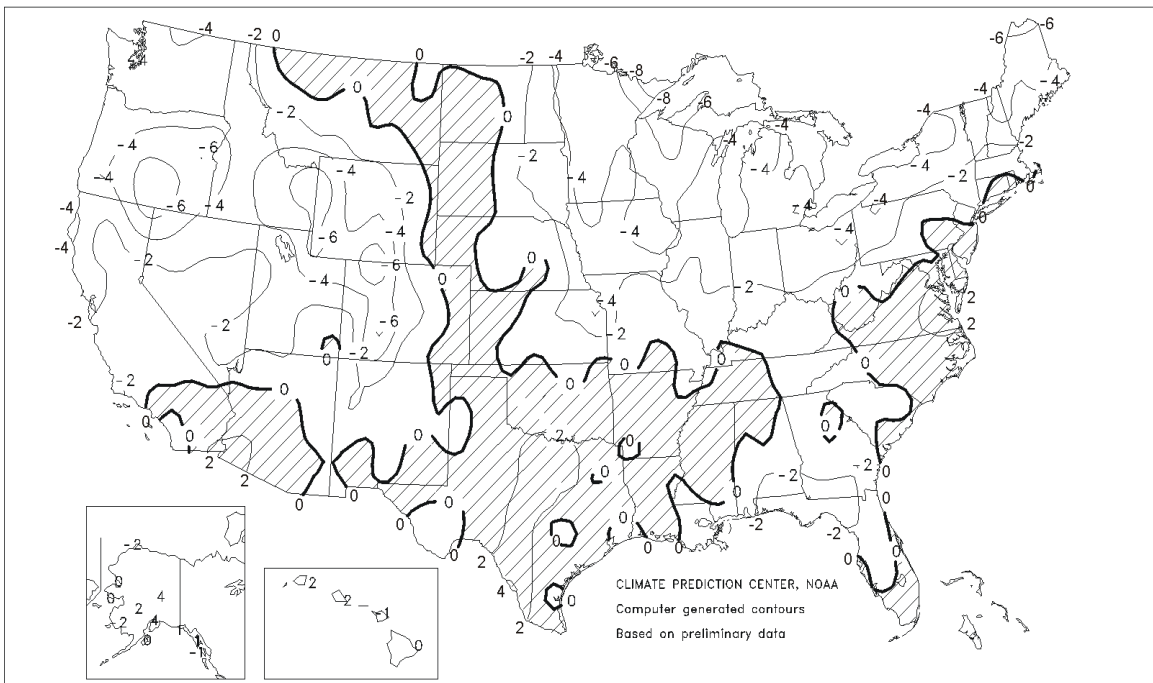
Percent Of Normal Precipitation

March 2008



Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

March 2008



March Weather Summary

A furious barrage of storms dumped heavy rain and snow in a band more than 2000 miles long and roughly 200 to 300 miles wide from central Texas into the Northeast, delaying spring fieldwork and causing widespread flooding. Lowland flooding was most extensive from the Mid-South into the lower Ohio Valley, especially in the wake of a tremendous storm that dropped more than a foot of rain on parts of the Missouri Bootheel and neighboring areas on March 17-19. In stark contrast, drier-than-normal conditions covered much of the remainder of the nation. Exceptions to the dryness included southern Florida and scattered locations from the Pacific Northwest into the northern and central Rockies. Areas from California into the Southwest were especially dry, although spring fieldwork advanced with few delays. Dry weather was less favorable on the High Plains, where winter wheat continued to suffer from the effects of poor autumn establishment and below-normal precipitation thereafter. By month's end, USDA rated nearly half of the Texas winter wheat in very poor to poor condition, along with nearly one-third of the crop in Colorado and approximately one-fifth of the wheat in Kansas and Oklahoma. In Texas, there was a remarkable contrast between drought (western and southern areas) and wetness (central and northeastern locations). Elsewhere, generally drier-than-normal weather prevailed in the upper Midwest and from the central Gulf coast region to the middle and southern Atlantic Coast. However, late-month snow provided beneficial moisture in parts of the upper Midwest, while Southeastern rainfall was sufficient to promote summer crop emergence and the development of pastures and winter grains.

Wintry conditions refused to let go from the upper Midwest into northern New England, where temperatures averaged at least 5 degrees F below normal in many locations and where deep snow still covered the ground by month's end. In Caribou, Maine, for example, March began and ended with a snow depth of 30 inches, with the depth peaking at 36 inches on March 21. Meanwhile, chilly conditions also prevailed across the Northwest and Intermountain West, especially during the mid- to late-month period. In the Northwest, cold, occasionally snowy conditions slowed fieldwork and limited the development of winter grains and fruit crops. Cold air also surged into the Southeast, culminating in generally light freezes on March 25-26. Nevertheless, Southeastern producers monitored the effects of the cold snap on blooming peaches, boot-stage winter wheat, and emerging summer crops, such as corn. In contrast, warmer-than-normal conditions were most prevalent across the High Plains, the Southwest, and the Mid-Atlantic coastal plain.

March Agricultural Summary

Early in the month, California small grain producers were applying herbicides, Arizona small grains were emerging, and seeding of spring barley in Colorado was at the pace of last year, but behind normal. By March 17, herbicide applications in California were winding down, Arizona small grain emergence was nearly complete, and wet weather in Florida was impacting small grain condition in some areas. In Oklahoma, winter wheat jointing was behind last year by 20 points, rye jointing was ahead of the normal pace by 6 points, and oat planting was nearly complete. By March 24, Kansas wheat had entered the jointing stage, behind the pace of last year and normal. By month's end, winter wheat in Oklahoma had made rapid developmental progress with half of the crop in the jointing stage. Small grain condition in Texas was rated mostly fair to poor, but had improved slightly in some areas.

In California, sugarbeet producers were fertilizing, irrigating, cultivating, and applying chemicals early in the month. Seedbed preparations were ongoing for most row crops in Oklahoma, and in Texas, sugarcane harvest and cotton planting were underway. Rain delayed corn planting in some areas. Louisiana sugarcane producers were destroying old stubble and applying herbicides while rice planting preparations were ongoing. By March 17, row crop seedbed preparations were underway in many States, while cotton and corn planting had begun in Arizona, Louisiana, and Texas. Wet weather in Louisiana led to planting delays. By March 17, corn planting progress was behind last year's pace by 41 points. During the week of March 24, moderate precipitation delayed fieldwork in the Pacific Northwest and across a band stretching from central Texas to Ohio. By month's end, row crop field preparations were underway in most southern areas. California sugarbeet planting was ongoing, and in Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana, producers were planting corn. In Louisiana, rice planting progress was well ahead of last year and normal. Texas sugarcane producers were applying herbicides.

Vegetable harvest and packing continued in Arizona, California, Florida, and Texas throughout the month. Planting of summer vegetables was evident early in the month in Texas, and by March 24, was gaining momentum in Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina. By month's end, frost damage was being assessed by many Georgia vegetable producers.

Texas producers were planting melons and Louisiana producers were harvesting and marketing strawberries early in the month. In California, grape buds were swelling and vineyard pruning was complete by March 10, while stone fruit bloom was evident in some areas. By mid-month, almond trees in California were nearly at full bloom. Spring strawberries were also blooming in California, while blueberry bushes were being planted and grape buds were breaking open. Louisiana strawberry harvest continued. By month's end, orchards and vineyards in California were being treated for weeds and insects.

Crop Comments

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 2007-08 U.S. grapefruit crop is 1.47 million tons, down 1 percent from the March 1 forecast and 10 percent lower than the previous season. Florida's grapefruit production is forecast at 24.5 million boxes (1.04 million tons), unchanged from the March forecast but 10 percent below last season. The all white grapefruit forecast is 7.50 million boxes (319,000 tons), the same as March's forecast but 19 percent below last season's final utilization. Florida's colored grapefruit forecast, at 17.0 million boxes (723,000 tons), is unchanged from the March forecast but 5 percent below the 2006-07 final utilization. Nearly 75 percent of the rows observed this month in the row count survey were harvested with highest harvest percents noted in the southern and western areas of the State. Over 85 percent of the survey rows were located in the Indian River District, where 75 percent of the rows were harvested.

The Texas grapefruit forecast, at 6.40 million boxes (256,000 tons), is 3 percent lower than the January 1 forecast and 10 percent less than the previous season. Grapefruit harvest was nearly complete and the groves looked good. California's grapefruit production forecast is 5.00 million boxes (168,000 tons), unchanged from January's forecast but 9 percent lower than last season. Desert Rio Reds and Pummelo varieties were being picked in the State. Arizona's grapefruit production forecast is 150,000 boxes (5,000 tons), unchanged from the January 1 forecast but 50 percent higher than the 2006-07 final utilization.

Tangerines: The U.S. tangerine crop is forecast at 434,000 tons, unchanged from the March forecast but 20 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 March's forecast but 4 percent higher than the 2006-07 utilization of 4.60 million boxes. Harvest of early tangerines is final at 2.60 million boxes and the later maturing Honey tangerine forecast remains at 2.20 million boxes. Honey tangerine harvest progressed rapidly through March and 56 percent of the rows surveyed were harvested.

California's tangerine forecast is 5.10 million boxes (191,000 tons), unchanged from the January 1 forecast but 46 percent higher than 2006-07. W. Murcott and Minneola tangerine harvests were complete or nearly complete in the desert area, while picking of these varieties was ongoing in other parts of the State. Pixie, Royal, and Honey mandarin harvests remain strong. Arizona's tangerine forecast, at 400,000 boxes (15,000 tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but 33 percent higher than last season.

Lemons: The forecast for the 2007-08 U.S. lemon crop is 703,000 tons, unchanged from the January 1 forecast but down 12 percent from 2006-07. California's forecast is 17.0 million boxes (646,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but 8 percent lower than last season. Harvest in the desert area was complete while picking in the Central Valley was light. Harvest was increasing on the south coast but inventories remained tight. The forecast for Arizona is 1.50 million boxes (57,000 tons), unchanged from January's forecast but 40 percent lower than last season.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast is 1.50 million boxes (68,000 tons), unchanged from the March 1 forecast but 20 percent above the 2006-07 final utilized production. Nearly all fruit picked were being processed.

Florida Citrus: Warm afternoons and beneficial rainfalls over the past month contributed to new growth and helped bring out a uniform, prolific bloom in citrus groves. Fertilizer was applied with irrigation to assist in the process. Trees in well-cared for groves were reported as healthy and in excellent condition. Some growers were hedging and topping trees after harvest to maintain a tree surface conducive to large size fruit for next season. Weekly harvest of early-midseason oranges began dropping quickly at the beginning of the month and by the end of the month was nearly over. Weekly grapefruit harvest amounts have been over one million boxes, with about one-third of these fresh and two-thirds processed. Tangelo harvest was almost over for the season. Honey tangerine harvest continued steadily all month and was expected to last through April. Other grove activity included mowing and pesticide spraying.

Arizona Citrus: The citrus season was winding down in Arizona. Lemon and tangerine harvests were nearly complete across the State. There was some wind scar reported this season. Valencia orange sizes were small this year. Grapefruit harvest was ongoing with reports of good sizes.

Texas Citrus: Many operations reported that the citrus crop was smaller than expected. The freeze in December may have slightly affected production. Grapefruit was mostly harvested and the groves were doing well.

California Citrus: Harvest was difficult in citrus groves in the beginning of the month due to excess moisture, but picked up speed as groves dried. Citrus growers irrigated, applied foliar nutrients, and treated groves to control fungus, insects, and weeds. Growers harvested tangerines, lemons, grapefruit, and Valencia and navel oranges. Rind puff and fruit drop were noted in orange groves due to the continued warm weather.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: Apples, grapes, pears, pomegranates, persimmons, and stone fruit began blooming and leafing out. Grape growers continued to irrigate, cultivate, tie vines, and apply treatments for weeds, diseases, and insects. Spring strawberries and blueberries started blooming and blueberry growers continued to plant new blueberry bushes. Kiwifruit pruning was completed and new kiwifruit vines were being planted. Groves and orchards benefitted from warm weather conditions, which were excellent for pollination. Olive growers were finishing maintenance in their groves for the new season. Almond orchards bloomed throughout March and ended the month in the petal fall stage. Warm weather also reduced the threat of disease in the Sacramento Valley. Walnut and pistachio orchards began blooming and leafing out.

Winter Potatoes: Production for 2008 is estimated at 2.64 million cwt, 4 percent below the January forecast but 7 percent above last year. Area harvested in California was 11,000 acres, unchanged from January but down 4 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 240 cwt per acre is down 10 cwt from January but 25 cwt above 2007. Demand for winter potatoes remained strong as harvest wound down.

Spring Potatoes: Spring production for 2008 is forecast at 19.9 million cwt, down 4 percent from 2007 but 1 percent above 2006. Area for harvest is forecast at 67,200 acres, down 5 percent from last year. The average yield is forecast at 297 cwt per acre, 3 cwt above 2007.

Florida's production is forecast at 8.09 million cwt, 4 percent above 2007. Florida's winter potatoes were combined with spring potatoes in 2007. Mild temperatures and adequate rainfall in Florida during January aided crop development. California spring production is forecast at 5.52 million cwt, down 10 percent from last year. Growers reported favorable growing conditions and expect to begin harvest by late April. Although yields have increased, harvested acres are expected to be 14 percent below last year. North Carolina's potato crop is forecast at 2.80 million cwt, up 4 percent from last year. Crop condition was rated at 65 percent good to excellent with 82 percent of the crop planted as of March 30. Production in Texas is forecast at 2.47 million cwt, down 16 percent from 2007. Acreage was down due to labor shortages and increases in operating costs. Arizona growers expect production to total 1.05 million cwt, down 6 percent from last year.

Summer Potatoes: The final estimate of 2007 summer potato crop production is 17.0 million cwt, up 1 percent from the preliminary estimate in the January *Crop Production 2007 Summary* but down 6 percent from the 2006 crop. Harvested area covered 51,300 acres, up 2 percent from the 2007 preliminary estimate but down 5 percent from 2006. The average yield of 332 cwt per acre is down 3 cwt from the 2007 preliminary estimate and 5 cwt below the 2006 crop.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya production is estimated at 2.70 million pounds for February 2008, down 6 percent from January but 34 percent higher than the comparable month a year ago. Total area in crop for February is estimated at 2,040 acres, down slightly from last month but 6 percent more than February 2007. Harvested area totaled 1,430 acres, up 13 percent from last month and 23 percent higher than February 2007. Orchards experienced wet weather in early February. Wind and water damage weakened older trees, allowing disease to set in. Young orchards coming into maturity more than offset older fields taken out of production. Young plantings made favorable progress as sunny, drier conditions returned toward the end of the month.

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, when combined with the previous components, are used to develop the current forecast of production. Arizona, California, and Texas conduct grower and packer surveys on a quarterly basis in October, January, April, and July. California also conducts objective measurement surveys in September for navel oranges and in March for Valencia oranges.

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

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

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

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the April 1 orange production forecast is 2.2 percent. However, if you exclude the 5 abnormal production seasons (3 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 2.2 percent, or 1.6 percent, excluding abnormal seasons. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.8 percent, or 2.8 percent, excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the April 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 168,000 tons (162,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 7,000 tons to 508,000 tons (7,000 tons to 368,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons). The April 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 9 times and above 11 times (below 7 times and above 8 times, excluding abnormal seasons). The difference does not imply that the April 1 forecast this year is likely to understate or overstate final production.

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