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All Orange Production Down Slightly from December

The U.S. all orange forecast for the 2008-09 season is 9.12 million tons, down slightly from the December 1 forecast and 10 percent lower than the 2007-08 final utilization. Florida's all orange forecast, at 162 million boxes (7.29 million tons), decreased 2 percent from the previous forecast and is down 5 percent from last season's final utilization. Early, midseason, and navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 84.0 million boxes (3.78 million tons), down 3 percent from December but up slightly from last season. Florida's Valencia forecast, at 78.0 million boxes (3.51 million tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but down 10 percent from the 2007-08 crop. Fruit size is below average for the early, midseason, and navel crop and fruit drop continued to increase at a faster than average rate. Current fruit size and drop remained below average for the Valencia crop.

The all orange forecast in California, at 46.5 million boxes (1.74 million tons), is 6 percent higher than October's forecast but 28 percent below last season. The navel forecast is 34.5 million boxes (1.29 million tons), up 8 percent from the October forecast but down 29 percent from 2007-08's final utilization. California's Valencia orange forecast is 12.0 million boxes (450,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but 25 percent below last season. Navel harvest was slightly behind schedule, with picking slowed due to fog, rain, and cold temperatures. Fruit quality was reported as good.

The Texas all orange forecast is 1.65 million boxes (71,000 tons), up 10 percent from October but 5 percent lower than last season. The early and midseason forecast is 1.45 million boxes (62,000 tons), up 12 percent from October but 3 percent less than the 2007-08 season. Texas Valencia oranges are forecast at 200,000 boxes (9,000 tons), unchanged from the October forecast but 15 percent below last season. The Arizona all orange forecast is 250,000 boxes (10,000 tons), unchanged from October but down 34 percent from the previous season. Navel utilization in Arizona is forecast at 150,000 boxes (6,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but 35 percent lower than last season. Valencia oranges in Arizona are forecast at 100,000 boxes (4,000 tons), unchanged from October but 33 percent below last season's final utilization.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield forecast for the 2008-09 season is 1.62 gallons per box at 42 degrees Brix, up 3 percent from the December forecast but 3 percent lower than last season's final yield of 1.67 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion is projected at 1.58 gallons per box, up 2 percent from last season's final yield of 1.55 gallons per box. The Valencia portion is expected to total 1.66 gallons per box, 7 percent lower than last year's final yield of 1.79 gallons per box. All projections of yield assume the processing relationships this season will be similar to those of the past several seasons.

This report was approved on January 12, 2009.



Acting Secretary of
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Charles F. Conner



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
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**Potatoes: Area Planted, Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Seasonal Group, State, and United States, 2007-2009**

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
	2008	2009	2008	2009					
	<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	11.0	9.0	11.0	9.0	230	210	2,258	2,530	1,890
Total	11.0	9.0	11.0	9.0	230	210	2,258	2,530	1,890
Spring ¹									
AZ	3.5		3.5		300		1,120	1,050	
CA	15.4		15.4		450		6,123	6,930	
FL	28.5		27.9		285		7,807	7,952	
Hastings	17.4		17.0		285		4,617	4,845	
Other FL	11.1		10.9		285		3,190	3,107	
NC	14.5		14.0		180		2,700	2,520	
TX	8.4		8.0		210		2,070	1,680	
Total	70.3		68.8		293		19,820	20,132	

¹ 2008 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>
Oct	2,105	2,210	1,535	1,350	3,340	2,965
Nov	2,100	2,425	1,365	1,460	3,075	2,645

¹ Utilized fresh production.

**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
2006-07, 2007-08 and Forecasted January 1, 2009 ¹**

Crop and State	Utilized Production Boxes			Utilized Production Ton Equivalent		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
	<i>1,000 Boxes ²</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes ²</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes ²</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel ³						
AZ	200	230	150	7	9	6
CA	34,500	48,500	34,500	1,294	1,819	1,294
FL	65,600	83,500	84,000	2,952	3,757	3,780
TX	1,600	1,500	1,450	68	64	62
US	101,900	133,730	120,100	4,321	5,649	5,142
Valencia						
AZ	100	150	100	4	6	4
CA	11,500	16,000	12,000	431	600	450
FL	63,400	86,700	78,000	2,853	3,902	3,510
TX	380	234	200	16	10	9
US	75,380	103,084	90,300	3,304	4,518	3,973
All						
AZ	300	380	250	11	15	10
CA	46,000	64,500	46,500	1,725	2,419	1,744
FL	129,000	170,200	162,000	5,805	7,659	7,290
TX	1,980	1,734	1,650	84	74	71
US	177,280	236,814	210,400	7,625	10,167	9,115
Grapefruit						
White						
FL	9,300	9,000	7,000	395	383	298
Colored						
FL	17,900	17,600	16,000	761	748	680
All						
AZ	100	100	150	3	3	5
CA	5,500	5,700	4,500	184	191	151
FL	27,200	26,600	23,000	1,156	1,131	978
TX	7,100	6,100	5,700	284	244	228
US	39,900	38,500	33,350	1,627	1,569	1,362
Tangerines and Mandarins						
AZ ⁴	300	400	250	11	15	9
CA ⁴	3,500	5,700	7,000	131	214	263
FL	4,600	5,500	4,900	219	261	233
US	8,400	11,600	12,150	361	490	505
Lemons						
AZ	2,500	1,500	2,500	95	57	95
CA	18,500	17,000	19,000	703	646	722
US	21,000	18,500	21,500	798	703	817
Tangelos						
FL	1,250	1,500	1,500	56	68	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; 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 Includes tangelos and tangors.

**Hay: Stocks on Farms by State and United States,
December 1 and May 1, 2006-2008**

State	Dec 1			May 1	
	2006	2007	2008	2007	2008
	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
AL	1,065	1,318	1,540	144	150
AZ	350	260	475	35	36
AR	2,140	2,700	3,020	160	530
CA	1,785	1,890	2,380	202	250
CO	2,130	2,400	1,975	290	520
CT	65	69	65	12	8
DE	18	8	20	4	1
FL	380	492	587	21	66
GA	878	1,013	1,319	82	145
ID	2,575	2,400	2,012	320	300
IL	1,690	1,100	1,386	325	210
IN	1,475	973	1,191	198	93
IA	3,900	3,500	3,918	684	640
KS	4,390	5,465	5,700	600	1,100
KY	4,550	3,312	4,169	600	186
LA	690	820	921	57	100
ME	140	160	145	27	27
MD	452	240	431	60	52
MA	84	74	77	13	12
MI	2,385	1,700	1,998	350	320
MN	4,200	3,140	3,891	740	535
MS	1,186	1,459	1,365	78	196
MO	5,415	6,662	7,744	625	900
MT	4,105	4,530	3,831	760	1,025
NE	3,575	4,205	4,115	840	990
NV	879	767	1,000	202	90
NH	66	57	70	12	6
NJ	97	68	94	10	5
NM	470	580	600	105	125
NY	1,451	1,674	1,453	326	283
NC	1,280	682	962	120	79
ND	4,375	4,990	4,032	609	1,260
OH	2,155	1,653	1,992	356	165
OK	3,275	6,100	4,595	400	1,600
OR	1,840	1,700	1,561	180	150
PA	3,485	1,750	2,500	520	500
RI	8	6	10	3	1
SC	468	350	451	65	55
SD	5,120	7,816	7,660	1,150	1,930
TN	3,103	2,121	3,038	425	215
TX	7,550	13,400	8,483	885	4,906
UT	1,410	1,130	1,300	185	215
VT	223	228	175	38	60
VA	2,190	1,705	2,174	268	226
WA	1,339	1,335	1,182	240	200
WV	816	720	916	136	92
WI	3,577	3,467	3,603	1,308	790
WY	1,600	1,900	1,532	220	240
US	96,400	104,089	103,658	14,990	21,585

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

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	4,234.0		3,767.0	
Corn for Grain ²	85,982.0		78,640.0	
Corn for Silage			5,965.0	
Hay, All			60,062.0	
Alfalfa			20,980.0	
All Other			39,082.0	
Oats	3,217.0		1,395.0	
Proso Millet	520.0		460.0	
Rice	2,995.0		2,976.0	
Rye	1,260.0		269.0	
Sorghum for Grain ²	8,284.0		7,271.0	
Sorghum for Silage			408.0	
Wheat, All	63,147.0		55,685.0	
Winter	46,281.0	42,098.0	39,614.0	
Durum	2,731.0		2,584.0	
Other Spring	14,135.0		13,487.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,011.0		989.0	
Cottonseed ³				
Flaxseed	354.0		340.0	
Mustard Seed	79.5		71.5	
Peanuts	1,534.0		1,507.0	
Rapeseed	0.2		0.2	
Safflower	202.0		195.0	
Soybeans for Beans	75,718.0		74,641.0	
Sunflower	2,516.5		2,396.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	9,470.0		7,728.4	
Upland	9,296.0		7,559.0	
Amer-Pima	174.0		169.4	
Sugarbeets	1,090.8		1,004.6	
Sugarcane			869.5	
Tobacco			354.2	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	17.5		8.0	
Dry Edible Beans	1,495.0		1,445.2	
Dry Edible Peas	882.5		847.3	
Lentils	271.0		263.0	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			6.3	
Ginger Root (HI)			0.1	
Hops			40.9	
Peppermint Oil			60.0	
Potatoes, All	1,057.8		1,044.7	
Winter	11.0	9.0	11.0	9.0
Spring	70.3		68.8	
Summer	46.0		43.8	
Fall	930.5		921.1	
Spearmint Oil			20.4	
Sweet Potatoes	102.9		97.0	
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 2009 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	
		2008	2009	2008	2009
				<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Grains & Hay					
Barley	Bu	63.6		239,498	
Corn for Grain	"	153.9		12,101,238	
Corn for Silage	Tons	18.7		111,619	
Hay, All	"	2.43		145,672	
Alfalfa	"	3.32		69,620	
All Other	"	1.95		76,052	
Oats	Bu	63.5		88,635	
Proso Millet	"	32.3		14,880	
Rice ²	Cwt	6,846		203,733	
Rye	Bu	29.7		7,979	
Sorghum for Grain	"	65.0		472,342	
Sorghum for Silage	Tons	13.8		5,646	
Wheat, All	Bu	44.9		2,499,524	
Winter	"	47.2		1,867,903	
Durum	"	32.8		84,877	
Other Spring	"	40.5		546,744	
Oilseeds					
Canola	Lbs	1,461		1,445,064	
Cottonseed ³	Tons			4,429.0	
Flaxseed	Bu	16.8		5,716	
Mustard Seed	Lbs	577		41,255	
Peanuts	"	3,416		5,147,900	
Rapeseed	"	1,500		300	
Safflower	"	1,592		310,433	
Soybeans for Beans	Bu	39.6		2,959,174	
Sunflower	Lbs	1,429		3,422,840	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops					
Cotton, All ²	Bales	810		13,035.6	
Upland ²	"	799		12,589.0	
Amer-Pima ²	"	1,265		446.6	
Sugarbeets	Tons	26.7		26,820	
Sugarcane	"	35.3		30,690	
Tobacco	Lbs	2,260		800,527	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils					
Austrian Winter Peas ²	Cwt	1,300		104	
Dry Edible Beans ²	"	1,768		25,558	
Dry Edible Peas ²	"	1,448		12,270	
Lentils ²	"	917		2,411	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³	"			580	
Potatoes & Misc.					
Coffee (HI)	Lbs	1,160		7,300	
Ginger Root (HI)	"	30,000		1,800	
Hops	"	1,971		80,630.1	
Peppermint Oil	"	92		5,499	
Potatoes, All	Cwt	395		412,580	
Winter	"	230	210	2,530	1,890
Spring	"	293		20,132	
Summer	"	309		13,532	
Fall	"	409		376,386	
Spearmint Oil	Lbs	118		2,399	
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt	189		18,345	
Taro (HI) ³	Lbs			4,400	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2009 crop year.

² Yield in pounds.

³ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2007-2009
(Domestic Units)¹

Crop	Units	Production		
		2007	2008	2009
		<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Citrus ²				
Grapefruit	Tons	1,627	1,569	1,362
Lemons	"	798	703	817
Oranges	"	7,625	10,167	9,115
Tangelos (FL)	"	56	68	68
Tangerines	"	361	490	505
Noncitrus				
Apples	1,000 Lbs	9,089.4	9,242.2	
Apricots	Tons	88.5	86.8	
Bananas (HI)	Lbs	25,600.0		
Grapes	Tons	7,037.3	7,206.1	
Olives (CA)	"	132.5	65.0	
Papayas (HI)	Lbs	33,400.0		
Peaches	Tons	1,127.2	1,093.9	
Pears	"	873.0	821.8	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	"	83.0	120.0	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	"	12.1	18.8	
Nuts & Misc.				
Almonds (CA) (shelled)	Lbs	1,390,000	1,500,000	
Hazelnuts (OR) (in-shell)	Tons	37.0	34.0	
Pecans (in-shell)	Lbs	387,305	189,060	
Walnuts (CA) (in-shell)	Tons	328.0	375.0	
Maple Syrup	Gals	1,517	1,635	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2009 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2008-09 season.

² Production years are 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09.

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

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	1,713,460		1,524,470	
Corn for Grain ²	34,796,060		31,824,820	
Corn for Silage			2,413,980	
Hay, All ³			24,306,490	
Alfalfa			8,490,400	
All Other			15,816,090	
Oats	1,301,890		564,540	
Proso Millet	210,440		186,160	
Rice	1,212,050		1,204,360	
Rye	509,910		108,860	
Sorghum for Grain ²	3,352,450		2,942,500	
Sorghum for Silage			165,110	
Wheat, All ³	25,554,960		22,535,160	
Winter	18,729,460	17,036,640	16,031,390	
Durum	1,105,210		1,045,720	
Other Spring	5,720,290		5,458,050	
Oilseeds				
Canola	409,140		400,240	
Cottonseed ⁴				
Flaxseed	143,260		137,590	
Mustard Seed	32,170		28,940	
Peanuts	620,790		609,870	
Rapeseed	80		80	
Safflower	81,750		78,910	
Soybeans for Beans	30,642,320		30,206,470	
Sunflower	1,018,400		969,640	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ³	3,832,410		3,127,610	
Upland	3,762,000		3,059,050	
Amer-Pima	70,420		68,550	
Sugarbeets	441,440		406,550	
Sugarcane			351,880	
Tobacco			143,340	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	7,080		3,240	
Dry Edible Beans	605,010		584,860	
Dry Edible Peas	357,140		342,890	
Lentils	109,670		106,430	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ⁴				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			2,550	
Ginger Root (HI)			20	
Hops			16,550	
Peppermint Oil			24,280	
Potatoes, All ³	428,080		422,780	
Winter	4,450	3,640	4,450	3,640
Spring	28,450		27,840	
Summer	18,620		17,730	
Fall	376,560		372,760	
Spearmint Oil			8,260	
Sweet Potatoes	41,640		39,250	
Taro (HI) ⁵			160	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2009 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	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	3.42		5,214,450	
Corn for Grain	9.66		307,385,600	
Corn for Silage	41.95		101,259,050	
Hay, All ²	5.44		132,151,420	
Alfalfa	7.44		63,158,200	
All Other	4.36		68,993,210	
Oats	2.28		1,286,530	
Proso Millet	1.81		337,470	
Rice	7.67		9,241,170	
Rye	1.86		202,680	
Sorghum for Grain	4.08		11,998,040	
Sorghum for Silage	31.02		5,121,970	
Wheat, All ²	3.02		68,025,900	
Winter	3.17		50,835,990	
Durum	2.21		2,309,970	
Other Spring	2.73		14,879,930	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.64		655,470	
Cottonseed ³			4,017,920	
Flaxseed	1.06		145,190	
Mustard Seed	0.65		18,710	
Peanuts	3.83		2,335,050	
Rapeseed	1.68		140	
Safflower	1.78		140,810	
Soybeans for Beans	2.67		80,535,520	
Sunflower	1.60		1,552,570	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ²	0.91		2,838,170	
Upland	0.90		2,740,930	
Amer-Pima	1.42		97,240	
Sugarbeets	59.85		24,330,690	
Sugarcane	79.12		27,841,500	
Tobacco	2.53		363,110	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	1.46		4,720	
Dry Edible Beans	1.98		1,159,290	
Dry Edible Peas	1.62		556,560	
Lentils	1.03		109,360	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³			26,310	
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)	1.30		3,310	
Ginger Root (HI)	33.63		820	
Hops	2.21		36,570	
Peppermint Oil	0.10		2,490	
Potatoes, All ²	44.26		18,714,320	
Winter	25.78	23.54	114,760	85,730
Spring	32.80		913,170	
Summer	34.63		613,800	
Fall	45.80		17,072,580	
Spearmint Oil	0.13		1,090	
Sweet Potatoes	21.20		832,120	
Taro (HI) ³			2,000	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2009 crop year.

² Production may not add due to rounding.

³ Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2007-2009
(Metric Units) ¹

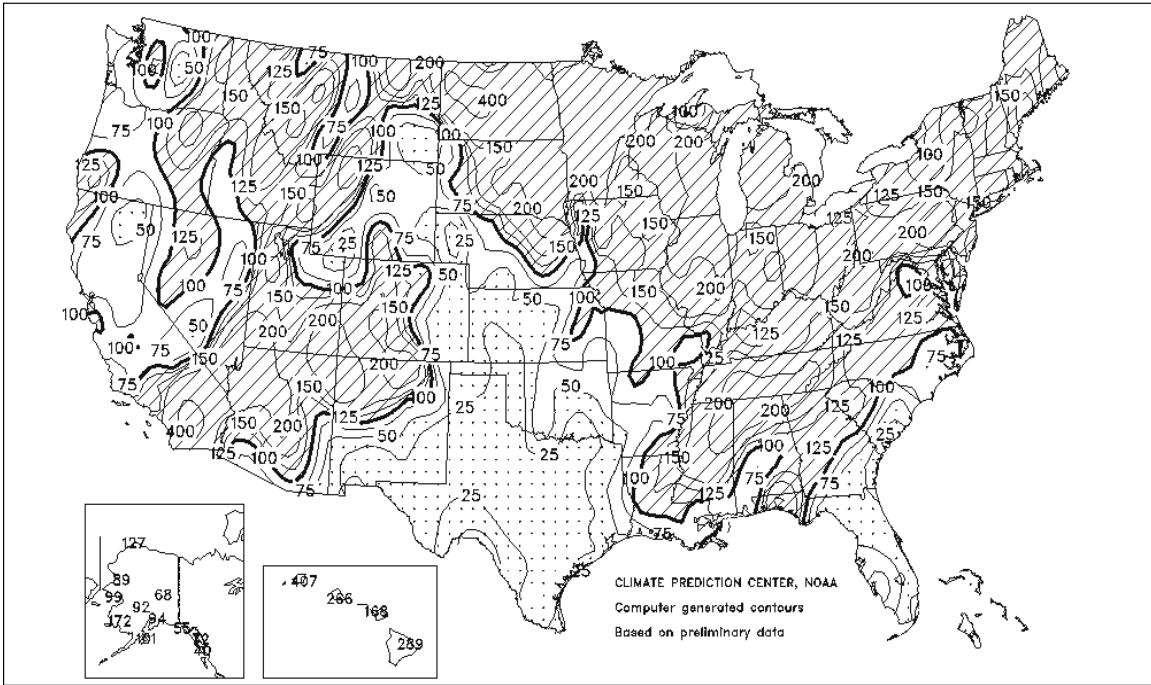
Crop	Production		
	2007	2008	2009
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>
Citrus ²			
Grapefruit	1,475,990	1,423,370	1,235,590
Lemons	723,930	637,750	741,170
Oranges	6,917,280	9,223,350	8,268,990
Tangelos (FL)	50,800	61,690	61,690
Tangerines	327,490	444,520	458,130
Noncitrus			
Apples	4,122,880	4,192,190	
Apricots	80,250	78,780	
Bananas (HI)	11,610		
Grapes	6,384,090	6,537,260	
Olives (CA)	120,200	58,970	
Papayas (HI)	15,150		
Peaches	1,022,530	992,320	
Pears	791,930	745,480	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	75,300	108,860	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	10,980	17,060	
Nuts & Misc.			
Almonds (CA) (shelled)	630,490	680,390	
Hazelnuts (OR) (in-shell)	33,570	30,840	
Pecans (in-shell)	175,680	85,760	
Walnuts (CA) (in-shell)	297,560	340,190	
Maple Syrup	7,580	8,170	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2009 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2008-09 season.

² Production years are 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09.

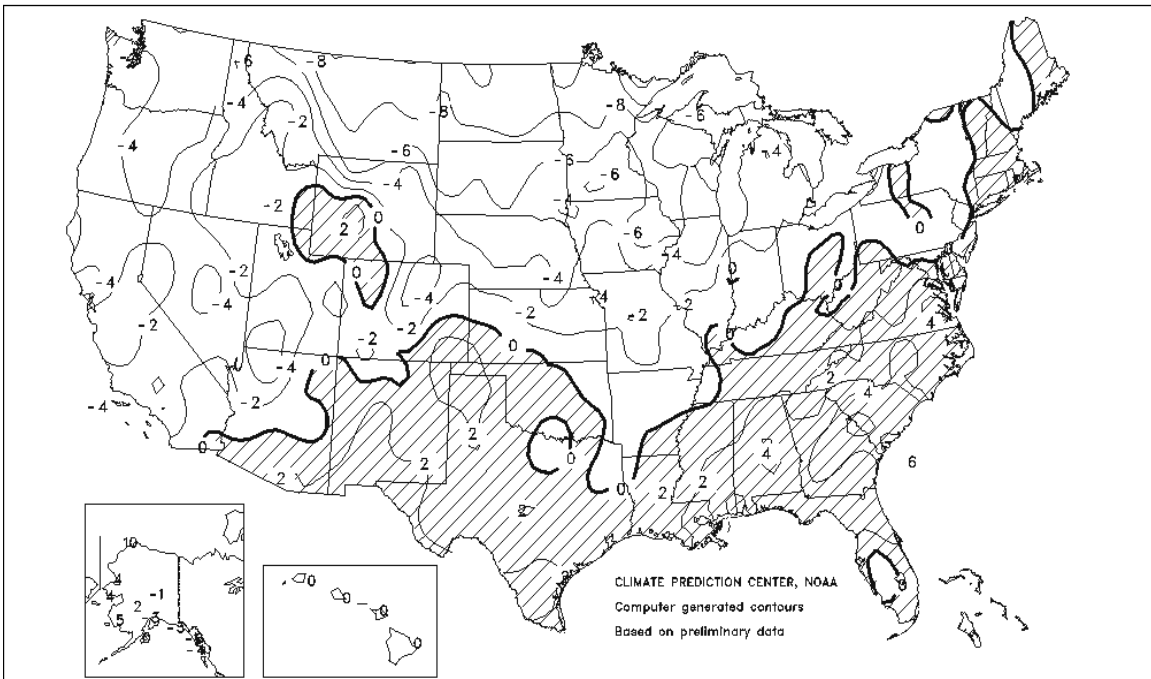
Percent Of Normal Precipitation

December 2008



Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

December 2008



December Weather Summary

Stormy weather across the Nation's northern tier buried winter grains beneath a protective blanket of snow but disrupted rural travel and increased stress on winter-weary livestock. December snowfall records were established in dozens of locations from Washington to New York, and a few all-time monthly snowfall records were also broken.

The remainder of the West also received some precipitation, although not as consistently. For example, the Sierra Nevada Region received a monthly average of 6 inches of precipitation, boosting the water equivalency of the mountain snow pack from 1 inch (13 percent of average for the date) on November 30 to 7 inches (74 percent) by the end of December. At lower elevations, rain provided some relief for California's drought-stressed pastures and rangeland.

Farther east, a dry regime across the southern Plains resulted in a deterioration in the condition of the winter wheat crop. In addition, high winds raised dust on several occasions across the southern High Plains. By January 3, nearly half (46 percent) of the Texas winter wheat crop was rated in very poor to poor condition, up from 16 percent on November 23. Similarly, one-fifth of Oklahoma's wheat was rated very poor to poor on January 3, up from 6 percent on November 23. In contrast, just 9 percent of the winter wheat in Kansas was rated very poor to poor in early January, along with 4 to 5 percent of the crop in Montana, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

Elsewhere, December rainfall significantly eased long-term drought across the interior Southeast, while occasional rain, freezing rain, sleet, and snow fell in the Northeast. In contrast, most of the lower Southeast, including Florida, remained dry during December. As a result, irrigation requirements increased in Florida's citrus and winter crop areas.

December Agricultural Summary

Drier than normal weather occurred in the southern Great Plains, Florida, and Northern California, while above normal precipitation occurred in much of the northern half of the country and the Southeast. Snow cover was adequate in the Dakotas, Montana, and Nebraska for winter wheat protection. Winter wheat conditions in Oklahoma and Kansas declined due to lack of moisture.

Below-normal temperatures prevailed across most of the Corn Belt, maintaining snow cover in northern areas of the region. Several States in the region experienced delays in row crop harvest due to the wet conditions.

Above average precipitation and near normal to above normal temperatures across the Southeast encouraged winter wheat growth and improved soil moisture conditions. Cotton and soybean harvests continued to lag behind normal due to the wet weather while Louisiana sugarcane harvest was complete by January 1. California and Florida producers continued to harvest seasonal fruits and vegetables.

Crop Comments

Winter Potatoes: California's winter potato production for 2009 is forecast at 1.89 million cwt, down 25 percent from the previous year and 16 percent below 2007. Harvested area in California is forecast at 9,000 acres, down 18 percent from 2008. Yield is expected to average 210 cwt per acre, 20 cwt below last year. If realized, this will be California's lowest winter potato yield since 1993. A light tuber set for this year's crop has led to lower yield expectations.

Spring Potatoes: Production for 2008 is estimated at 20.1 million cwt, up 3 percent from the May forecast and 2 percent above 2007. Harvested area totaled 68,800 acres, up 2 percent from the previous forecast but down 2 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 293 cwt per acre is up 4 cwt from the May forecast and 11 cwt above 2007.

Florida production is estimated at 7.95 million cwt, down 1 percent from the May 1 forecast but 2 percent above the 2007 production. In California, production increased 13 percent from last year due to a yield increase of 55 cwt per acre. Most growers reported excellent growing conditions with better than average yields. Production in Texas decreased 19 percent from 2007 largely due to an 11 percent decrease in harvested acres. Growers in North Carolina produced 7 percent fewer spring potatoes than in the previous year and production in Arizona decreased 6 percent from last year.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya production is estimated at 2.65 million pounds for November 2008, down 11 percent from October and 14 percent lower than a year ago. Total crop area for November is estimated at 2,425 acres, up 10 percent from October and up 15 percent from November 2007. Harvested area totaled 1,460 acres, up 8 percent

from the previous month and 7 percent higher than November 2007. Weather conditions during November were generally dry, but periods of heavy showers helped replenish soil moisture levels in a few locations. In orchards exposed to prolonged dry weather, gaps in fruit columns remained evident. Young orchards made steady progress and regular spraying programs kept weeds and insects under control. Although production was good for some growers, low demand hampered sales, resulting in unsold fruit.

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 2008-09 U.S. grapefruit crop is 1.36 million tons, down 1 percent from the December 1 forecast and 13 percent lower than 2007-08 final utilization of 1.57 million tons. Florida's grapefruit production is forecast at 23.0 million boxes (978 million tons), unchanged from the December forecast but 14 percent below last season. Weather was dry in the principal grapefruit growing regions of Florida during December, prompting growers to increase irrigation to keep both the trees and fruit in good condition. A short cold snap during the third week of November was beneficial to the color and overall quality of the fruit.

The Florida all white grapefruit forecast is 7.00 million boxes (298,000 tons), unchanged from December but down 22 percent from 2007-08 final utilization. The colored grapefruit forecast, at 16.0 million boxes (680,000 tons), is unchanged from the December 1 forecast but 9 percent lower than last season. Average fruit size of both white and colored varieties is expected to be larger than average at harvest. Approximately two-thirds of the colored grapefruit harvested to date was for fresh market consumption and fruit quality was excellent.

The Texas grapefruit production forecast is 5.70 million boxes (228,000 tons), up 8 percent from the October forecast but 7 percent lower than last season. Grapefruit production in California is forecast at 4.50 million boxes (151,000 tons), down 18 percent from the October forecast and 21 percent below last season. Melo Gold and Cocktail grapefruit and Chandler pummelos were harvested in the Central Valley. Smaller than average fruit sizes were reported. Arizona grapefruit production is forecast at 150 thousand boxes (5,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but up 50 percent from last season.

Lemons: The forecast for the 2008-09 U.S. lemon crop is 817,000 tons, unchanged from the October 1 forecast but up 16 percent from 2007-08. California's production is forecast at 19.0 million boxes (722,000 tons), unchanged from October but up 12 percent from last season. Demand of California lemons has kept up with supply and supply levels have remained about normal. Quality of harvested fruit was reported as good but some fruit drop occurred in desert locations. The production forecast for Arizona is 2.50 million boxes (95,000 tons), up 67 percent from the previous crop year but unchanged from the October forecast. Fruit quality was reported as good, with above average fruit size.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast is 1.50 million boxes (68,000 tons), unchanged from the December 1 forecast and equal to last season's final production. The fruit size for the 2008-09 crop is slightly above average and the drop rate is below average. As of January 1, approximately 35 percent of the crop had been harvested.

Tangerines and Mandarins: The U.S. tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 505,000 tons, up 5 percent from the December 1 forecast and up 3 percent from the 2007-08 season. California's tangerine and mandarin forecast is a record-high 7.00 million boxes (263,000 tons), up 11 percent from the October forecast and 23 percent higher than last season. Harvesting of Satsuma, Clementine, and Fairchild varieties was underway. Picking was slowed at times due to cold, wet weather but fruit quality was reported as excellent. Florida's tangerine crop is forecast at 4.90 million boxes (233,000 tons), unchanged from December but down 11 percent from 2007-08 final utilization. Harvest of early tangerine varieties was nearly 80 percent complete. Fruit size of the later maturing Honey variety has been below average and fruit drop has been slightly above average. Arizona's forecast, at 250,000 boxes (9,000 tons), is down 17 percent from October and 38 percent lower than last season.

Florida Citrus: Overall, temperatures were average for the month of December in all citrus producing counties. Weather conditions were generally dry, with less than an inch of rain falling in many areas during the month. Growers irrigated regularly, minimizing any potential negative affect from the dry weather.

Weekly processing of early midseason oranges peaked the third week of December. Navel orange harvesting increased after Thanksgiving, but dropped significantly after the holidays when the heavy emphasis on gift fruit packing subsided. Grapefruit quality improved to excellent after a beneficial cold snap the third week of November.

Grove activity, other than harvesting, included irrigating, preparing groves for harvest, fertilizing, and post-harvest hedging. Scouting for greening and removal of affected trees continued in all areas.

Arizona Citrus: Citrus groves were reported to be in good condition, with good fruit quality and size. Tangerines, navel oranges, and lemons were harvested during December.

Texas Citrus: Many citrus groves suffered damage from Hurricane Dolly, which made landfall in southern Texas in July. Affected operations experienced an estimated 20 percent crop loss, but in December remaining fruit was reported to be of very good quality and size overall.

California Citrus: Harvest of Navel oranges, lemons, pummelos, Satsuma and Clementine mandarins, grapefruit, and tangerines continued. Harvest slowed during the second half of December due to wet and cold weather, but the cooler temperatures helped advance citrus color. Citrus growers were irrigating, applying foliar nutrients, protecting their crops from freezing temperatures, and treating to control fungus, insects, and weeds. Thrips were also being monitored.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: Grape growers continued to prune, irrigate, cultivate, and remove old vineyards. Only a few grape varieties were still being picked, including Autumn Royal, Christmas Rose, Crimson Seedless, and Kyoho. Harvesting of pomegranates and jujubes ended in Fresno County and kiwifruit harvest was complete in Tulare County. Post-harvest activities such as pruning and irrigation were underway in stone-fruit orchards. Harvest of raspberry and strawberry nursery stock continued. Olives were harvested for oil. Almond and pistachio trees were being planted and pruning was underway in established orchards.

Hay Stocks on Farms: Stocks of all hay stored on farms totaled 104 million tons on December 1, 2008, down less than 1 percent from a year ago. Disappearance of hay from May-December 2008 totaled 63.6 million tons, compared with 57.8 million tons for the same period a year ago.

Compared with December 1, 2007, hay stocks increased in most areas east of the Mississippi and portions of the Southwest. The growing conditions were favorable in the South in 2008 in contrast to the extreme drought conditions that prevailed in the region in 2007. The Rocky Mountain and northern Great Plain States showed decreases in stocks for 2008. Stocks in Texas and Oklahoma showed the largest decreases with 37 and 25 percent, respectively.

Reliability of January 1 Orange Forecast

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

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

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

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

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1 orange production forecast is 4.8 percent. However, if you exclude the 5 abnormal production years (3 freeze seasons and 2 hurricane seasons), the "Root Mean Square Error" is 3.6 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 4.8 percent, or 3.6 percent excluding abnormal seasons. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 8.3 percent, or 6.2 percent excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the January 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 385,000 tons (355,000 tons excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 106,000 tons to 1.13 million tons (106,000 tons to 638,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons). The January 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 6 times and above 14 times (below 5 times and above 10 times, excluding abnormal seasons). The difference does not imply that the January 1 forecast this year is likely to understate or overstate final production.

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