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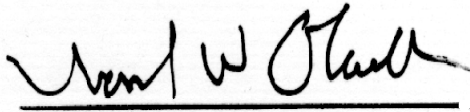
All Orange Production Up 1 Percent from February

The U.S. all orange forecast for the 2008-09 season is 9.05 million tons, up 1 percent from the February 1 forecast but 11 percent lower than the 2007-08 final utilization of 10.2 million tons. Florida's all orange forecast, at 158 million boxes (7.11 million tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but down 7 percent from last season's final utilization. Early, midseason, and navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 85.0 million boxes (3.83 million tons), up 2 percent from the February forecast and last season. Florida's Valencia forecast, at 73.0 million boxes (3.29 million tons), is down 3 percent from the previous forecast and is 16 percent less than the 2007-08 crop. Weather conditions over the past two months have had a significant impact on remaining oranges. Two freezes, one in late January and one in early February, caused some damage to unharvested fruit, primarily for late orange varieties. Also, citrus producing areas received minimal precipitation during the winter months, resulting in drought conditions. Objective survey measurements taken during February showed a decrease in fruit size and an increase in the drop rate for the Valencia crop.

The California Valencia orange forecast is 15.0 million boxes (563,000 tons), up 25 percent from the previous forecast but down 6 percent from last season's final utilization. This brings California's all orange forecast to 49.5 million boxes, up 6 percent from the January 1 forecast but down 23 percent from the 2007-08 crop. Limited harvesting of Valencia oranges began at the end of February and fruit quality was good. Objective survey measurements taken during January and February indicated a lighter than normal average fruit set, while average fruit size measured larger than last year.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield forecast for the 2008-09 season is 1.64 gallons per box at 42 degrees Brix, up 2 percent from the February forecast but 2 percent lower than last season's final yield of 1.67 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion increased to 1.60 gallons per box, up 3 percent from last season's final yield of 1.55 gallons per box. The Valencia portion increased to 1.70 gallons per box, 5 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 March 11, 2009.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Joseph W. Glauber



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Carol C. House

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**Sugarcane: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Use, State, and United States, 2007-2008**

Use and State	Area Harvested		Yield ¹		Production ¹	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
For Sugar						
FL	375.0	384.0	36.0	33.7	13,500	12,941
HI ²	20.4	20.0	73.2	80.0	1,493	1,600
LA ²	390.0	380.0	30.4	29.0	11,856	11,020
TX ²	42.5	40.0	33.5	39.8	1,424	1,592
US	827.9	824.0	34.2	33.0	28,273	27,153
For Seed						
FL	18.0	16.0	37.6	39.4	677	630
HI ²	2.5	2.0	28.3	34.0	71	68
LA ²	30.0	25.0	30.4	29.0	912	725
TX ²	1.2	1.5	30.4	39.8	36	60
US	51.7	44.5	32.8	33.3	1,696	1,483
For Sugar and Seed						
FL	393.0	400.0	36.1	33.9	14,177	13,571
HI ²	22.9	22.0	68.3	75.8	1,564	1,668
LA ²	420.0	405.0	30.4	29.0	12,768	11,745
TX ²	43.7	41.5	33.4	39.8	1,460	1,652
US	879.6	868.5	34.1	33.0	29,969	28,636

¹ Net tons.

² Estimates are carried forward from the "Crop Production 2008 Summary."

Papayas: Area and Fresh Production by Month, Hawaii, 2008-2009

Month	Area				Fresh Production ¹	
	Total in Crop		Harvested		2008	2009
	2008	2009	2008	2009		
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Dec	2,410		1,465		2,785	
Jan	2,040	2,290	1,430	1,340	2,880	2,080

¹ Utilized fresh production.

**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
2006-07, 2007-08 and Forecasted March 1, 2009¹**

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 Boxes²</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes²</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes²</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
Oranges						
Early, Mid & Navel ³						
AZ ⁴	200	230	150	7	9	6
CA ⁴	34,500	48,500	34,500	1,294	1,819	1,294
FL	65,600	83,500	85,000	2,952	3,757	3,825
TX ⁴	1,600	1,500	1,450	68	64	62
US	101,900	133,730	121,100	4,321	5,649	5,187
Valencia						
AZ ⁴	100	150	100	4	6	4
CA	11,500	16,000	15,000	431	600	563
FL	63,400	86,700	73,000	2,853	3,902	3,285
TX ⁴	380	234	200	16	10	9
US	75,380	103,084	88,300	3,304	4,518	3,861
All						
AZ ⁴	300	380	250	11	15	10
CA	46,000	64,500	49,500	1,725	2,419	1,857
FL	129,000	170,200	158,000	5,805	7,659	7,110
TX ⁴	1,980	1,734	1,650	84	74	71
US	177,280	236,814	209,400	7,625	10,167	9,048
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 ⁴	100	100	150	3	3	5
CA ⁴	5,500	5,700	4,500	184	191	151
FL	27,200	26,600	23,000	1,156	1,131	978
TX ⁴	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 ^{4,5}	300	400	250	11	15	9
CA ^{4,5}	3,500	5,700	7,000	131	214	263
FL	4,600	5,500	4,000	219	261	190
US	8,400	11,600	11,250	361	490	462
Lemons ⁴						
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	1,200	56	68	54

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 and mandarins-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 Includes tangelos and tangors.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2008-2009
(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			868.5	
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, 2008-2009
(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	"	33.0		28,636	
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	9,048
Tangelos (FL)	"	56	68	54
Tangerines and Mandarins	"	361	490	462
Noncitrus				
Apples	1,000 Lbs	9,089.4	10,035.2	
Apricots	Tons	88.5	81.5	
Bananas (HI)	Lbs	25,600.0	22,800.0	
Grapes	Tons	7,037.3	7,434.9	
Olives (CA)	"	132.5	66.8	
Papayas (HI)	Lbs	33,400.0	33,100.0	
Peaches	Tons	1,127.2	1,121.9	
Pears	"	873.0	818.5	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	"	83.0	126.0	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	"	12.1	15.6	
Nuts & Misc.				
Almonds (CA) (shelled)	Lbs	1,390,000	1,550,000	
Hazelnuts (OR) (in-shell)	Tons	37.0	32.0	
Pecans (in-shell)	Lbs	387,305	191,080	
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, 2008-2009
(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			351,470	
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, 2008-2009
(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	73.91		25,978,140	
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

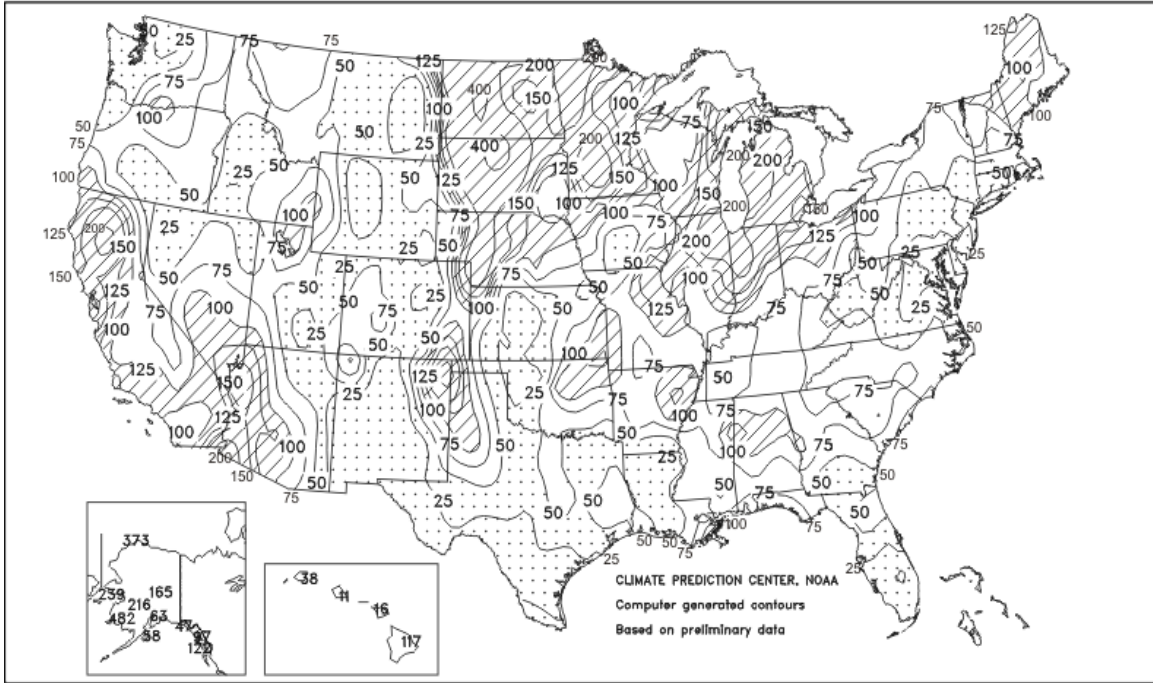
Crop	Production		
	2007	2008	2009
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>
Citrus ²			
Grapefruit	1,475,990	1,423,370	1,235,590
Lemons	723,930	637,750	741,170
Oranges	6,917,280	9,223,350	8,208,210
Tangelos (FL)	50,800	61,690	48,990
Tangerines and Mandarins	327,490	444,520	419,120
Noncitrus			
Apples	4,122,880	4,551,890	
Apricots	80,250	73,940	
Bananas (HI)	11,610	10,340	
Grapes	6,384,090	6,744,840	
Olives (CA)	120,200	60,600	
Papayas (HI)	15,150	15,010	
Peaches	1,022,530	1,017,780	
Pears	791,930	742,490	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	75,300	114,310	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	10,980	14,150	
Nuts & Misc.			
Almonds (CA) (shelled)	630,490	703,070	
Hazelnuts (OR) (in-shell)	33,570	29,030	
Pecans (in-shell)	175,680	86,670	
Walnuts (CA) (in-shell)	297,560	340,190	
Maple Syrup	7,580	8,170	

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

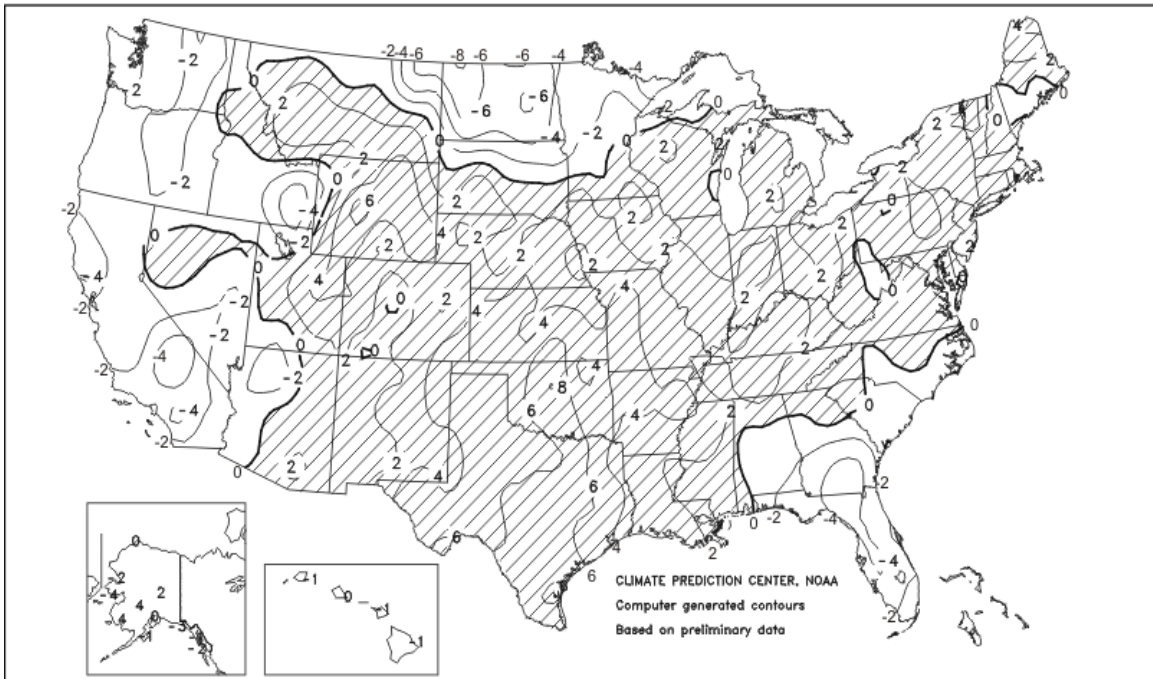
Percent Of Normal Precipitation

February 2009



Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

February 2009



February Weather Summary

Much-needed precipitation doubled the water content of the Sierra Nevada snow pack and aided California's drought-stressed pastures and rangeland. According to the California Department of Water Resources, the water equivalent of the Sierra Nevada snow pack climbed from 10 to 20 inches (from 58 to 77 percent of average for the date) during February. In contrast, winter wheat conditions continued to decline across the southern Plains due to drought intensification. In Texas, nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of the winter wheat was rated in very poor to poor condition on March 1, up from 46 percent on January 3 and 16 percent on November 23. By early March, very poor to poor conditions were also noted on 42 and 15 percent of the wheat acreage in Oklahoma and Kansas, respectively. Farther north and east, however, heavy precipitation occurred from the Dakotas eastward into the Great Lakes region, maintaining adequate to locally excessive moisture reserves. Elsewhere, drier-than-normal conditions prevailed during February across the majority of the South and East. Southeastern drought concerns were greatest, however, across Florida's peninsula, where citrus producers irrigated to ensure favorable moisture in orchards for the upcoming bloom season.

Warmer-than-normal conditions were observed during February in a broad area stretching from the Rockies into the Midwest. Monthly temperatures averaged at least 5 degrees F above normal across the southern half of the Plains. In contrast, cooler-than-normal weather prevailed across the northernmost Plains, the lower Southeast, and the Far West. February readings averaged at least 5 degrees F below normal in much of North Dakota and a few locations in Florida and southern Georgia. On February 5, Florida's peninsula experienced a freeze similar to the one observed on January 22. Like the earlier freeze, citrus and sugarcane appeared to escape significant harm, while tender vegetables, such as tomatoes, beans, and sweet corn, suffered varying degrees of freeze damage.

February Agricultural Summary

Conditions were abnormally wet in areas along the Pacific Coast, throughout most of the Corn Belt, and in some central locations of the Delta where upwards of 200 percent of normal precipitation fell during the month. Locations in northern California received between 12 and 15 inches of precipitation during the month which lessened irrigation demands and aided wheat development in the area.

Areas of the Southwest suffered from unusually dry conditions, showing precipitation totals less than 5 percent of normal. Due to the lack of rain, wheat producers in the Northern High Plains of Texas were irrigating their crop. The Southeast and several Mid-Atlantic States were drier than normal with monthly precipitation totaling less than 25 percent of normal in many areas. Producers without irrigation capabilities were concerned that spring planting may be delayed as a result of the dry weather.

With the exception of portions of the Southeast and northeastern Montana and western North Dakota where temperatures averaged 6 to 10 degrees below normal, temperatures across much of the country were above average for the month. A freeze in early February damaged vegetables and sugarcane in Florida and left citrus growers busy taking preventative measures to lessen the impact of the cold temperatures. Freezing temperatures in Georgia damaged some high bush blueberries and prevented growers from transplanting cabbage. In contrast, several locations in the central and southern Great Plains felt temperatures as much as 8 to 10 degrees warmer than normal.

Crop Comments

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2008 is estimated at 28.6 million tons, down 5 percent from February and 4 percent below 2007. Area harvested and to be harvested for sugar and seed, at 868,500 acres, is down 3,000 acres from last month, down 11,000 acres from last year, and is the smallest acreage harvested since 1990. Yield is estimated at 33.0 tons per acre, down 1.6 tons from last month and 1.1 tons below the 2007 crop.

Production in Florida is estimated at 13.6 million tons for the 2008 crop year, down 10 percent from February and 4 percent lower than 2007. Florida's yield, at 33.9 tons per acre, is down 3.5 tons from last month and 2.2 tons from the previous year. Harvested area, at 400,000 acres, is down 3,000 acres from last month but up 7,000 acres from 2007. Florida's estimates for acreage, yield, and production were reduced due to freeze damage suffered in January and February. Estimates for Hawaii, Louisiana, and Texas are carried forward from January.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya production is estimated at 2.08 million pounds for January 2009, down 25 percent from December and down 28 percent from a year ago. Total crop area for January is estimated at 2,290 acres, down 5 percent from December but up 12 percent from January 2008. Harvested area totaled 1,340 acres, down 9 percent from the previous month and 6 percent lower than January 2008. Wet weather and cool temperatures continued into early January. Recovery was slow for plantings exposed to the heavy December rains, and growers were concerned about controlling fungal disease after weeks of wet weather. Intermittent clear days allowed usual field maintenance and schedules to resume.

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 2008-09 U.S. grapefruit crop is 1.36 million tons, unchanged from the February 1 forecast but 13 percent lower than 2007-08 final utilization of 1.57 million tons. Florida's grapefruit production is forecast at 23.0 million boxes (978,000 tons), unchanged from the February forecast but 14 percent below last season.

The Florida all white grapefruit forecast is 7.00 million boxes (298,000 tons), unchanged from February 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 February 1 forecast but 9 percent lower than last season. Although considered final in January, an additional monthly size and drop survey was conducted in February for both white and colored varieties. Results showed that very little growth occurred in white grapefruit, with fruit size still measuring slightly above average. As of March 1, approximately 42 percent of the crop had been harvested. Average fruit size for the colored variety continued to closely follow the average of the past eight non-hurricane seasons, and the final drop rate continued to measure near average. Arizona, California, and Texas grapefruit production forecasts are carried forward from the January forecast.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast is 1.20 million boxes (54,000 tons), down 8 percent from the February 1 forecast and 20 percent lower than last season's final production. As of March 1, approximately 68 percent of the crop had been harvested.

Tangerines and Mandarins: The U.S. tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 462,000 tons, down 6 percent from both the February 1 forecast and the 2007-08 season. Florida's tangerine crop is forecast at 4.00 million boxes (190,000 tons), down 13 percent from the February forecast and down 27 percent from 2007-08 final utilization. The Honey tangerine variety, which accounts for more than 40 percent of Florida's total tangerine production, suffered considerable damage from the freezing temperatures of late-January and early-February. The freeze stunted fruit growth and a significant amount of fruit in the southernmost citrus counties was unable to maintain the quality necessary for the fresh markets. Honey variety fruit continued to measure below average in size and above average in drop. Harvest of the early Fallglo variety was complete for the season and the Sunburst harvest was nearing completion. Arizona and California tangerine and mandarin production forecasts are carried forward from the January forecast.

Florida Citrus: Freezing temperatures returned to the State on February 5 as early morning lows dropped into the mid-20's in Arcadia and Palmdale and temperatures in the southernmost areas of the State dropped just below freezing. Some citrus growers increased irrigation to lessen the impact of the freezing temperatures to their citrus crop, while others took advantage of relaxed truck load weight restrictions and harvested their fruit. Temperatures returned to more seasonal levels the following weekend, and by mid-month, daily highs were in the low to mid-80's in all areas. With warmer afternoon temperatures, many trees began sprouting new shoots and leafing out. No significant rainfall was received during February so abnormally dry conditions continued in all citrus producing areas.

Fieldwork during the month included hedging, topping, irrigating, fertilizing, aerial spraying, and mowing. Early and midseason oranges continued to be harvested and processed. Grapefruit was harvested and tangerines and tangelos were picked in small quantities each week.

California Citrus: Despite the receipt of needed rainfall during February, drought conditions and forecasted reductions in water deliveries remained a concern for citrus growers. Wet conditions hampered citrus harvest activities at times, but harvest continued for lemons, Murcott tangerines, Minneola tangelos, navel, Moro and Cara Cara oranges, and Pummelo and Melo Gold grapefruit. Overall, fruit size and color were good, but some navels showed drying due to over-maturity. Picking of Valencia oranges was expected to begin soon in parts of Kern County.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: Needed rain was received during February but the continuous rainfall in the northern two-thirds of the State did not significantly reduce forecasted drought conditions for later in the year. Water rationing continued to be implemented in many locations. Orchard site preparation such as pruning, spraying, and tree

planting was winding down. Grape pruning and tying continued. Early variety nectarine and apricot trees began to bloom and other stone fruit varieties were pushing buds. Kiwifruit harvest continued and spring strawberries were growing well. Raspberry and strawberry nursery stock digging was complete. Bee hives were placed in cherry and almond orchards to assist in pollination but wet weather conditions slowed bee activity. Almond trees were in full bloom. Pruning, tree planting, and disking continued in almond, walnut, and pistachio orchards. Bloom was expected to progress slowly given the wet and cold weather conditions.

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 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 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 2.6 percent. However, if you exclude the 5 abnormal production seasons (3 freeze seasons and 2 hurricane seasons), the "Root Mean Square Error" is 2.0 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 2.6 percent, or 2.0 percent excluding abnormal seasons. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.4 percent, or 3.5 percent when excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the March 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 215,000 tons (203,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 18,000 tons to 520,000 tons (18,000 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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