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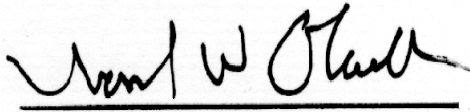
All Orange Production Up 1 Percent from March

The U.S. all orange forecast for the 2008-09 season is 9.16 million tons, up 1 percent from the March 1 forecast but 9 percent lower than the 2007-08 final utilization of 10.1 million tons. The Florida all orange forecast, at 158 million boxes (7.09 million tons), is relatively 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 84.6 million boxes (3.81 million tons), down slightly from the March forecast but up 1 percent from last season. The Florida Valencia forecast, at 73.0 million boxes (3.29 million tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but 16 percent less than the 2007-08 crop. The row count survey conducted at the end of March showed over 98 percent of the early, midseason, and navel rows harvested. Weekly utilization declined sharply the last two weeks of the month indicating harvest was near completion. For the Valencia crop, objective survey measurements taken during March indicated a slightly above average rate of fruit drop and a smaller than average fruit size. The row count survey showed that only 19 percent of the Valencia rows had been picked but harvest was increasing rapidly.

The California all orange forecast is 53.0 million boxes (1.99 million tons), up 7 percent from the previous forecast but down 15 percent from last season. The California navel orange utilization is forecast at 38.0 million boxes (1.43 million tons), up 10 percent from the January forecast but down 16 percent from last season. The Valencia orange forecast in California is forecast at 15.0 million boxes (563,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but down 6 percent from last season's final utilization. Harvest of navel oranges continued during March and Valencia orange harvest got underway. Fruit size and quality were reported as good but the fruit set per tree was lighter than average for both varieties. The Texas all orange forecast is 1.70 million boxes (72,000 thousand tons), up 3 percent from the January 1 forecast but down 2 percent from 2007-08. The Arizona all orange forecast is 300,000 boxes (12,000 tons), up 20 percent from the previous forecast but down 21 percent from last season.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield forecast for the 2008-09 season is 1.64 gallons per box at 42 degrees Brix, unchanged from the March forecast but 2 percent lower than last season's final record yield of 1.67 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion is final at a record high 1.60 gallons per box, up 3 percent from last season's final yield of 1.55 gallons per box. The Valencia portion remains at 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 April 9, 2009.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Joseph W. Glauber



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
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**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
2006-07, 2007-08 and Forecasted April 1, 2009^{1 2}**

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 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	200	230	150	7	9	6
CA	34,500	45,000	38,000	1,294	1,688	1,425
FL	65,600	83,500	84,600	2,952	3,757	3,807
TX	1,600	1,500	1,550	68	64	66
US	101,900	130,230	124,300	4,321	5,518	5,304
Valencia						
AZ	100	150	150	4	6	6
CA	11,500	17,000	15,000	431	638	563
FL	63,400	86,700	73,000	2,853	3,902	3,285
TX	380	234	150	16	10	6
US	75,380	104,084	88,300	3,304	4,556	3,860
All						
AZ	300	380	300	11	15	12
CA	46,000	62,000	53,000	1,725	2,326	1,988
FL	129,000	170,200	157,600	5,805	7,659	7,092
TX	1,980	1,734	1,700	84	74	72
US	177,280	234,314	212,600	7,625	10,074	9,164
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	5,200	4,400	184	174	147
FL	27,200	26,600	23,000	1,156	1,131	978
TX	7,100	6,100	6,200	284	244	248
US	39,900	38,000	33,750	1,627	1,552	1,378
Tangerines and Mandarins						
AZ ⁵	300	400	250	11	15	9
CA ⁵	3,500	6,700	6,700	131	251	251
FL	4,600	5,500	4,000	219	261	190
US	8,400	12,600	10,950	361	527	450
Lemons						
AZ	2,500	1,500	2,500	95	57	95
CA	18,500	14,800	19,000	703	562	722
US	21,000	16,300	21,500	798	619	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 2007-08 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; tangerines and mandarins-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 Includes tangelos and tangors.

**Potatoes: Area Planted and 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	240	2,258	2,530	2,160
Spring									
AZ	3.5	4.1	3.5	4.1	300	280	1,120	1,050	1,148
CA	15.4	16.2	15.4	16.2	450	430	6,123	6,930	6,966
FL	28.5	29.3	27.9	28.6	285	271	7,807	7,952	7,759
Hastings	17.4	17.8	17.0	17.4	285	285	4,617	4,845	4,959
Other FL	11.1	11.5	10.9	11.2	285	250	3,190	3,107	2,800
NC	14.5	16.0	14.0	15.0	180	200	2,700	2,520	3,000
TX	8.4	8.8	8.0	8.3	210	235	2,070	1,680	1,951
Total	70.3	74.4	68.8	72.2	293	288	19,820	20,132	20,824
Summer ¹									
AL	1.3		1.2		170		154	204	
CA	3.6		3.6		360		1,548	1,296	
CO	4.4		4.1		370		945	1,517	
DE	1.7		1.7		250		540	425	
IL	5.5		5.3		395		2,440	2,094	
KS	5.0		4.8		320		1,789	1,536	
MD	2.5		2.5		300		960	750	
MO	7.2		6.5		190		1,980	1,235	
NJ	2.0		2.0		230		636	460	
TX	8.0		7.4		395		3,871	2,923	
VA	5.8		5.7		220		1,134	1,254	
Total	47.0		44.8		306		15,997	13,694	

¹ 2008 revised.

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>
Jan	2,040	2,290	1,430	1,340	2,880	2,080
Feb	2,040	2,330	1,430	1,400	2,645	2,300

¹ Utilized fresh production.

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	3,953.0	3,767.0	
Corn for Grain ²	85,982.0	84,986.0	78,640.0	
Corn for Silage			5,965.0	
Hay, All			60,062.0	60,297.0
Alfalfa			20,980.0	
All Other			39,082.0	
Oats	3,217.0	3,400.0	1,395.0	
Proso Millet	520.0		460.0	
Rice	2,995.0	3,183.0	2,976.0	
Rye	1,260.0		269.0	
Sorghum for Grain ²	8,284.0	6,960.0	7,271.0	
Sorghum for Silage			408.0	
Wheat, All	63,147.0	58,638.0	55,685.0	
Winter	46,281.0	42,889.0	39,614.0	
Durum	2,731.0	2,445.0	2,584.0	
Other Spring	14,135.0	13,304.0	13,487.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,011.0	857.3	989.0	
Cottonseed ³				
Flaxseed	354.0	386.0	340.0	
Mustard Seed	79.5		71.5	
Peanuts	1,534.0	1,124.0	1,507.0	
Rapeseed	0.2		0.2	
Safflower	202.0		195.0	
Soybeans for Beans	75,718.0	76,024.0	74,641.0	
Sunflower	2,516.5	2,069.5	2,396.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	9,470.0	8,811.5	7,728.4	
Upland	9,296.0	8,668.0	7,559.0	
Amer-Pima	174.0	143.5	169.4	
Sugarbeets	1,090.8	1,151.6	1,004.6	
Sugarcane			868.5	
Tobacco			354.2	353.2
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	17.5	19.0	8.0	
Dry Edible Beans	1,495.0	1,546.1	1,445.2	
Dry Edible Peas	882.5	966.0	847.3	
Lentils	271.0	375.0	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	1,058.8		1,045.7	
Winter	11.0	9.0	11.0	9.0
Spring	70.3	74.4	68.8	72.2
Summer	47.0		44.8	
Fall	930.5		921.1	
Spearmint Oil			20.4	
Sweet Potatoes	102.9	101.9	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		412,742	
Winter	"	230	240	2,530	2,160
Spring	"	293	288	20,132	20,824
Summer	"	306		13,694	
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.

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	1,599,740	1,524,470	
Corn for Grain ²	34,796,060	34,392,980	31,824,820	
Corn for Silage			2,413,980	
Hay, All ³			24,306,490	24,401,590
Alfalfa			8,490,400	
All Other			15,816,090	
Oats	1,301,890	1,375,950	564,540	
Proso Millet	210,440		186,160	
Rice	1,212,050	1,288,130	1,204,360	
Rye	509,910		108,860	
Sorghum for Grain ²	3,352,450	2,816,640	2,942,500	
Sorghum for Silage			165,110	
Wheat, All ³	25,554,960	23,730,210	22,535,160	
Winter	18,729,460	17,356,750	16,031,390	
Durum	1,105,210	989,470	1,045,720	
Other Spring	5,720,290	5,384,000	5,458,050	
Oilseeds				
Canola	409,140	346,940	400,240	
Cottonseed ⁴				
Flaxseed	143,260	156,210	137,590	
Mustard Seed	32,170		28,940	
Peanuts	620,790	454,870	609,870	
Rapeseed	80		80	
Safflower	81,750		78,910	
Soybeans for Beans	30,642,320	30,766,150	30,206,470	
Sunflower	1,018,400	837,510	969,640	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ³	3,832,410	3,565,930	3,127,610	
Upland	3,762,000	3,507,850	3,059,050	
Amer-Pima	70,420	58,070	68,550	
Sugarbeets	441,440	466,040	406,550	
Sugarcane			351,470	
Tobacco			143,340	142,940
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	7,080	7,690	3,240	
Dry Edible Beans	605,010	625,690	584,860	
Dry Edible Peas	357,140	390,930	342,890	
Lentils	109,670	151,760	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	428,490		423,180	
Winter	4,450	3,640	4,450	3,640
Spring	28,450	30,110	27,840	29,220
Summer	19,020		18,130	
Fall	376,560		372,760	
Spearmint Oil			8,260	
Sweet Potatoes	41,640	41,240	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	44.24		18,721,660	
Winter	25.78	26.90	114,760	97,980
Spring	32.80	32.33	913,170	944,560
Summer	34.26		621,150	
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 Summary: 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	1,552	1,378
Lemons	"	798	619	817
Oranges	"	7,625	10,075	9,164
Tangelos (FL)	"	56	68	54
Tangerines and Mandarins	"	361	527	450
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.

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

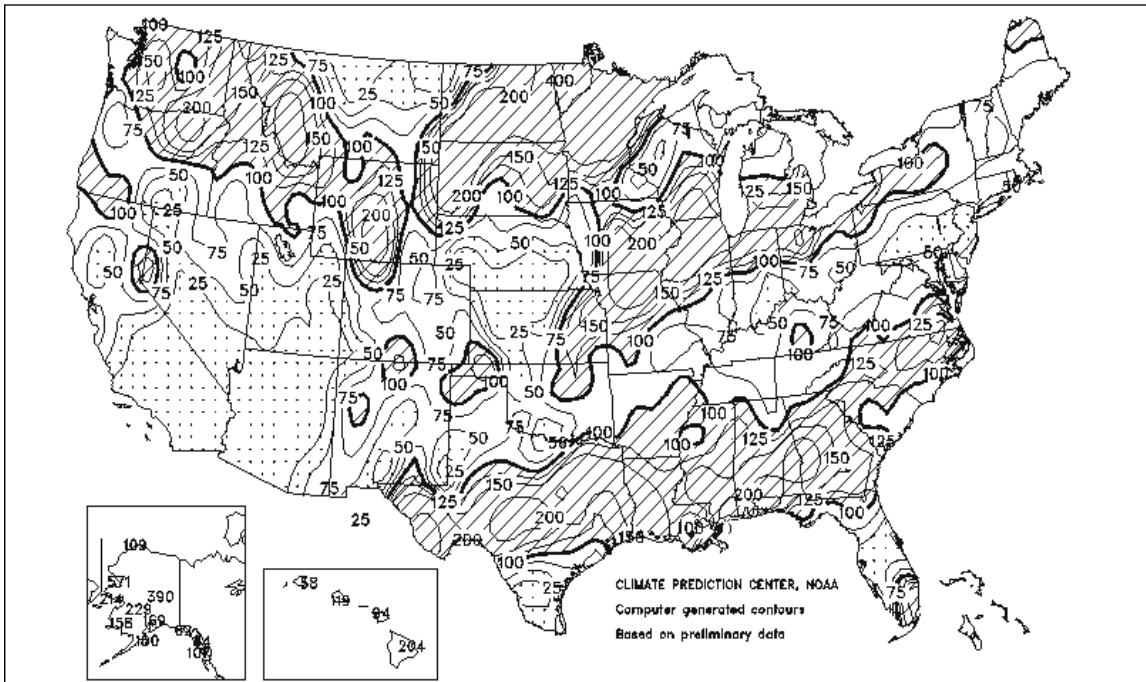
Crop	Production		
	2007	2008	2009
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>
Citrus ²			
Grapefruit	1,475,990	1,407,950	1,250,100
Lemons	723,930	561,550	741,170
Oranges	6,917,280	9,139,890	8,313,440
Tangelos (FL)	50,800	61,690	48,990
Tangerines and Mandarins	327,490	478,090	408,230
Noncitrus			
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	

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.

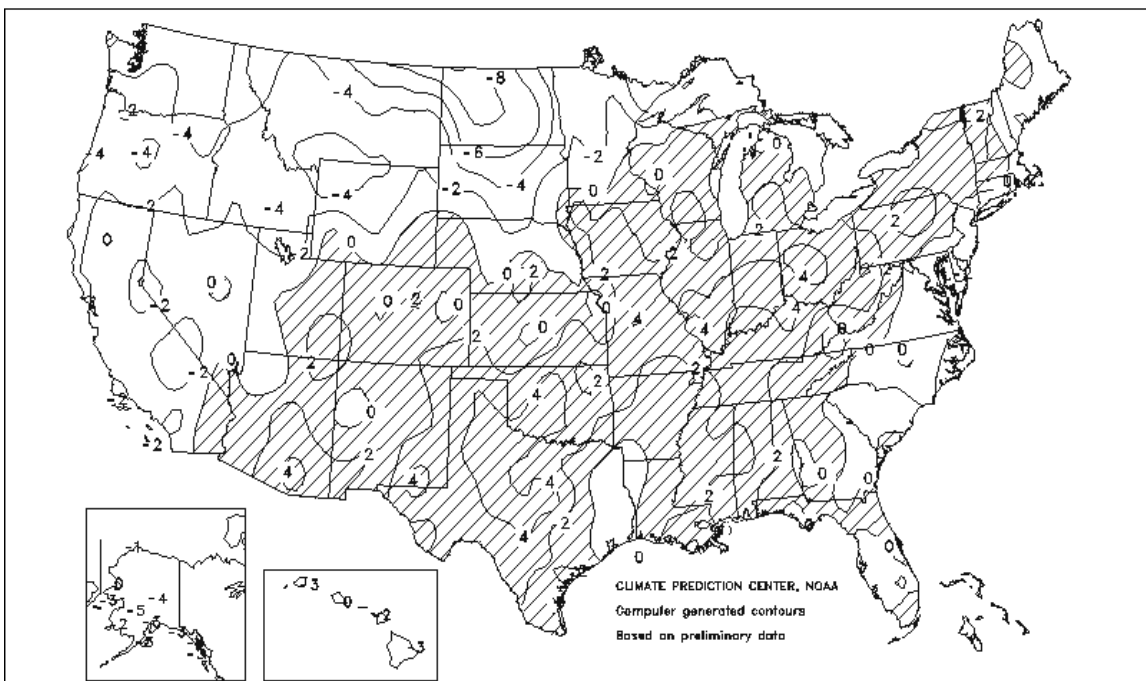
Percent Of Normal Precipitation

March 2009



Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

March 2009



March Weather Summary

Following the Nation's driest start to a year on record in January and February, a stormier weather pattern developed during March. Rain storms stretched from central Texas into the Southeast, excluding Florida's peninsula. Rain slowed Southern planting, following a quick start to spring fieldwork, but eased or eradicated drought. In Florida, however, mostly dry weather maintained heavy irrigation demand for citrus and vegetables.

Farther north, wet weather also prevailed in parts of Midwest, although relatively drier conditions in a few areas, including the Ohio Valley, allowed producers to begin some fieldwork operations. Especially wet weather was observed in the far upper Midwest and from the lower Missouri Valley into the lower Great Lakes region. Extensive lowland flooding affected several areas, such as northern Indiana and the Red River Valley of Minnesota and North Dakota.

The Red River Valley was part of a larger wet area covering the north-central U.S. A record setting Red River crest reached Fargo, North Dakota, on March 28, following a mid-month thaw and subsequent major spring storm. Across the southern half of the Plains, drought-stressed winter wheat benefited from the moisture associated with a significant late-season snow storm from March 26-28, but was threatened by cold weather that followed in late March.

Elsewhere, cold, stormy weather in the Northwest contrasted with generally warm, dry conditions in the Southwest. In California, where water-supply prospects improved slightly with another round of storminess in early March, late-season precipitation was insufficient to prevent the completion of a third consecutive year of drought.

March Agricultural Summary

Strong storm systems throughout March brought a tremendous amount of precipitation to areas in the Delta and Southeast. Locations in southern Mississippi and Alabama received more than 14 inches of rainfall, with Geneva County in Alabama recording over 16 inches, causing localized flooding and slowing spring fieldwork. Eastern North Dakota and most of Minnesota accumulated monthly precipitation totals of up to 6 inches, or 400 percent of normal. During the last week of March, heavy rainfall and melting snow caused extensive flooding in North Dakota, where the Red River crested at 40.82 feet, breaking the 112 year-old record of 40.10 feet set in 1897 and potentially affecting the United States sugarbeet crop by severely delaying planting.

In stark contrast, the Southwest, southern Nebraska, northern Kansas, and the Trans-Pecos region of Texas received less than 2 percent of normal precipitation during March. The lack of available soil moisture prompted Texas wheat producers to irrigate and hard-packed soils limited field cultivation for cotton producers. In addition to the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys, the southern Corn Belt and northern Atlantic Coast received monthly precipitation totaling between 1 and 4 inches, or 25 to 75 percent of normal.

Average temperatures during the month were below normal along the Atlantic Coast and across much of the northern and western regions of the country. In North Dakota, temperatures were recorded between 15 and 30 degrees Fahrenheit, more than 10 degrees Fahrenheit below average. Warmer weather prevailed in the Southwest, western Texas, and the Corn Belt, where temperatures were as many as 8 degrees Fahrenheit above normal.

Crop Comments

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 2008-09 U.S. grapefruit crop is 1.38 million tons, up 1 percent from the March 1 forecast but 11 percent lower than 2007-08 final utilization of 1.55 million tons. Florida's grapefruit production is forecast at 23.0 million boxes (978,000 tons), unchanged from the March forecast but 14 percent below last season.

The Florida all white grapefruit forecast is 7.00 million boxes (298,000 tons), unchanged from March 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 March 1 forecast but 9 percent lower than last season. With the lack of rainfall over the past several months, growers and caretakers were irrigating regularly to keep the trees and fruit in good condition. Field personnel reported a uniform bloom and a fully expanded flush on grapefruit. Approximately 81 percent of the rows observed in March in the row count survey were harvested. The majority of the survey rows were located in the Indian River District, where over 75 percent had been harvested.

The Texas grapefruit forecast, at 6.20 million boxes (248,000 tons) is up 9 percent from the January forecast and up 2 percent from the previous season. California's grapefruit production forecast is 4.40 million boxes (147,000 tons), down 2 percent from the January forecast and 15 percent lower than last season. Harvest of the Desert Rio Red variety continued and small sizes were reported. Arizona's grapefruit production forecast is 150,000 boxes (5,000 tons), unchanged from January but up 50 percent from the 2007-08 final utilization.

Tangerines and Mandarins: The U.S. tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 450,000 tons, down 3 percent from the March 1 forecast and 15 percent lower than the 2007-08 season. California's tangerine and mandarin forecast is 6.70 million boxes (251,000 tons), up 18 percent from the January forecast but unchanged from last season's final utilization. W. Murcott and Fairchild mandarin harvest ended in March while Shasta Gold, Royal, Pixie, and Honey mandarin harvesting continued. An early season frost coupled with freezing temperatures in mid-March caused scattered freeze damage.

Florida's tangerine crop is forecast at 4.00 million boxes (190,000 tons), unchanged from the March forecast but down 27 percent from 2007-08 final utilization. Harvest of the Honey tangerine variety continued. The row count survey conducted at the end of March showed that over 86 percent of the Honey variety rows visited had already been harvested. The majority of fruit had been harvested for the fresh market. Arizona's tangerine and mandarin forecast is 250,000 boxes (9,000 tons), unchanged from the January forecast but down 38 percent from last season.

Lemons: The forecast for the 2008-09 U.S. lemon crop is 817,000 tons, unchanged from the January 1 forecast but up 32 percent from 2007-08. California's production is forecast at 19.0 million boxes (722,000 tons), unchanged from January but up 28 percent from last season. Fruit size of California lemons was small but fruit quality was good. Freezing temperatures in March were a concern for growers in some areas, forcing them to use wind machines and irrigation to raise temperatures in unharvested groves. 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 January forecast. Fruit size and quality were reported as good.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast is 1.20 million boxes (54,000 tons), unchanged from the March 1 forecast but 20 percent lower than last season's final production. Tangelo harvest was relatively complete for the season.

Florida Citrus: A cold front moved across the State in early March bringing freezing temperatures to many locations but causing no damage to the citrus crop. A gradual warming trend followed almost immediately, raising temperatures to the low-50's at night and high-80's during the day. Warm, seasonal temperatures continued the remainder of the month. Many areas, especially in the south, have received very little appreciable precipitation in the past three months and are experiencing severe drought conditions. Growers and caretakers were irrigating regularly in an attempt to keep the trees and fruit in good condition. Other grove activities included fertilizing, hedging, topping, aerial spraying, and mowing. Trees were recovering well from the January and February freezes. Field personnel observed widespread spring citrus bloom and a fully expanded flush by the end of the month.

Several packinghouses reported that they had finished or were planning to finish packing Honey tangerines within the next couple weeks. Early and midseason orange harvesting was relatively complete for the season. Valencia orange harvesting picked up steadily the last half of the month but ratios of sugar solids to acid continued to be reported as low and inconsistent. Grapefruit harvesting slowed to under a million boxes weekly, with the majority of white grapefruit being processed and almost equal amounts of red grapefruit going to processing and fresh.

Arizona Citrus: Tangerines, lemons, and grapefruit continued to be harvested during March, while the navel orange harvest ended. It was reported that some of the grapefruit crop may not be harvested due to lack of a market. Fruit size and quality were reported as good for lemons and excellent for tangerines and mandarins.

Texas Citrus: Many citrus groves continued to recover from damage suffered from Hurricane Dolly, which made landfall in southern Texas in July. Harvesting of oranges and grapefruit continued during March. Fruit was reported to be of very good quality and size overall.

California Citrus: Valencia orange harvest began in early March, while picking of Washington, Nucellar, and Atwood navel oranges continued. Harvest progressed for lemons, Minneola and W. Murcott mandarins, and Pummelo, Oro Blanco, and Melo Gold grapefruit. Cold temperatures early and late in the month forced growers in the San Joaquin Valley to use wind machines and irrigation to keep temperatures above freezing in unharvested groves. Some

mandarin orchards in the San Joaquin Valley were covered with nets to discourage cross pollination. New growth and buds were apparent on citrus trees but bloom had not yet arrived.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: Freezing temperatures the second week of March resulted in reports of scattered freeze damage to tree fruit crops in the San Joaquin Valley. Many growers, however, were still assessing the damage, primarily in kiwifruit and grape vineyards. Spraying and cane tying wrapped up in grape vineyards during March and irrigation and site preparation began. Grape buds began to swell and bloom commenced in apple, apricot, peach, cherry, nectarine, pluot, prune, and pear orchards. Wet weather conditions in northern areas of the State prompted growers to begin fungicide treatments for bloom protection. In the Sacramento Valley, Cling peach bloom was complete, trees were leafing out, and growers began mowing orchard center rows. Persimmon trees also started leafing out. Blight treatments were applied in peach orchards and weed control treatments continued in peach and prune orchards. Lack of significant rainfall in the San Joaquin Valley during the month forced farmers to begin irrigation practices for most tree crops. Kiwifruit vines began leafing out but blossoms had not yet developed. Spring strawberries and blueberries were blooming. Olive orchard maintenance continued.

Pre-planting fumigation continued in new almond and walnut orchards. Cool temperatures extended the almond bloom in parts of the Sacramento Valley, but in the San Joaquin Valley, petal fall was nearly complete and trees began leafing out. Early mite damage to almonds was reported, primarily in areas of the San Joaquin Valley where last year's water restrictions increased tree susceptibility to water stress. Damage to almonds from the early March freeze had not yet been quantified. Walnut orchards were fertilized, irrigated, and treated for blight. Pollen sacks continued to develop on male pistachio trees and female pistachio trees were blooming.

Winter Potatoes: California winter potato production for 2009 is estimated at 2.16 million cwt, up 14 percent from January's forecast but down 15 percent from 2008. Harvested area in California is forecast at 9,000 acres, down 18 percent from 2008. Yield is estimated at 240 cwt per acre, 30 cwt more than expected in January and 10 cwt higher than last year. California winter potato harvest was completed in March.

Spring Potatoes: Production for 2009 is forecast at 20.8 million cwt, up 3 percent from 2008 and 5 percent above 2007. Area for harvest is forecast at 72,200 acres, 5 percent more than 2008 and up 3 percent from 2007. The average yield of 288 cwt per acre is down 5 cwt from 2008 but 6 cwt higher than 2007.

Florida production is estimated at 7.76 million cwt, down 1 percent from 2008 and 2 percent lower than the 2007 production. Freezing temperatures during January damaged potato vines, which reduced yields. California spring potato production is forecast at 6.97 million cwt, up 1 percent from last year. Although average yield is forecast to decrease 35 cwt from last year, the increase in planted acres was enough to increase total production. Production in Texas is forecast to increase 16 percent from 2008 due to increases in both harvested area and average yield. Growers in North Carolina are expected to produce 19 percent more spring potatoes than the previous year and production in Arizona is forecast to increase 9 percent from last year.

Summer Potatoes: The final estimate of 2008 summer potato crop production is 13.7 million cwt, up 1 percent from the preliminary estimate in the January *Crop Production 2008 Summary* but down 14 percent from the 2007 crop. Harvested area covered 44,800 acres, up 2 percent from the 2008 preliminary estimate but down 7 percent from 2007. The average yield of 306 cwt per acre is down 3 cwt from the 2008 preliminary estimate and 25 cwt below the 2007 crop.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya production is estimated at 2.30 million pounds for February 2009, up 11 percent from January but down 13 percent from a year ago. Total crop area for February is estimated at 2,330 acres, up 2 percent from January and 14 percent above February 2008. Harvested area totaled 1,400 acres, up 4 percent from the previous month but 2 percent lower than last year. Wet weather and cool temperatures continued into February, along with variable trade winds. The soggy conditions resulted in disease outbreaks and root rot problems, especially in poorly drained soils, which negatively affected fruit quality. Despite the rainy weather and wet field conditions, growers tried to keep up with disease control efforts and usual field maintenance. Planting of new fields was underway. Newly planted seedlings benefited from the additional soil moisture.

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 1.8 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 1.8 percent, excluding abnormal seasons. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.9 percent, or 3.1 percent, excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the April 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 171,000 tons (164,000 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 8 times and above 12 times (below 5 times and above 10 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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