Crop Production

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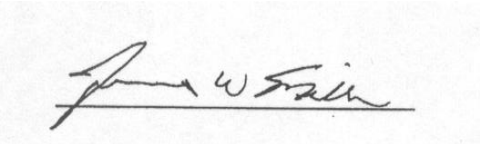
All Orange Production Up 1 Percent from March

The United States all orange forecast for the 2009-2010 season is 8.20 million tons, up 1 percent from the March 1 forecast but down 10 percent from the revised 2008-2009 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 132 million boxes (5.92 million tons), is up slightly from the previous forecast but down 19 percent from last season's revised final utilization. Early, midseason, and navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 68.6 million boxes (3.09 million tons), up 1 percent from March 1 but 19 percent lower than last season. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 63.0 million boxes (2.84 million tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but down 19 percent from the revised 2008-2009 estimate. The row count survey conducted in late March and declines in weekly utilization indicated harvest for early, midseason, and navel oranges was near completion. Objective survey measurements showed that the Valencia drop rate is average, while fruit size is measuring below average.

The California all orange forecast is 59.0 million boxes (2.21 million tons), up 4 percent from the previous forecast and up 27 percent from last season's revised final utilization. The California navel orange forecast is 42.0 million boxes (1.58 million tons), up 5 percent from the March 1 forecast and up 22 percent from last season. The California Valencia orange forecast is 17.0 million boxes (638,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but up 42 percent from last season's revised final utilization. Harvest of navel oranges continued during March, while Valencia orange harvest got underway. The Texas orange forecast, at 1.60 million boxes (68,000 tons), is up 1 percent from the previous forecast and up 10 percent from last season's final utilization.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield forecast for the 2009-2010 season is 1.56 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, up 2 percent from the March 1 forecast but down 6 percent from last season's final yield of 1.66 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion is final at 1.51 gallons per box, down 6 percent from last season's record yield of 1.60 gallons per box. The Valencia portion is projected at 1.65 gallons per box, 6 percent lower than last year's final yield of 1.75 gallons per box. All projections of yield assume the processing relationship this season will be similar to those of the past several seasons.

This report was approved on April 9, 2010.



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Contents

Utilized Production of Citrus Fruits by Crop - States and United States: 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and Forecasted April 1, 2010

[The crop year begins with the bloom of the first year shown and ends with the completion of harvest the following year]

Crop and State	Utilized production boxes [1]			Utilized production ton equivalent		
	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
Oranges						
Early, mid, and navel [2]						
Arizona [3]	230	150	(NA)	9	5	(NA)
California	45,000	34,500	42,000	1,688	1,294	1,575
Florida	83,500	84,600	68,600	3,758	3,807	3,087
Texas	1,600	1,300	1,350	68	55	57
United States	130,330	120,550	111,950	5,523	5,161	4,719
Valencia						
Arizona [3]	150	100	(NA)	6	4	(NA)
California	17,000	*12,000	17,000	637	*450	638
Florida	86,700	*77,900	63,000	3,901	*3,506	2,835
Texas	196	159	250	9	7	11
United States	104,046	*90,159	80,250	4,553	*3,967	3,484
All						
Arizona [3]	380	250	(NA)	15	9	(NA)
California	62,000	*46,500	59,000	2,325	*1,744	2,213
Florida	170,200	*162,500	131,600	7,659	*7,313	5,922
Texas	1,796	1,459	1,600	77	62	68
United States	234,376	*210,709	192,200	10,076	*9,128	8,203
Grapefruit						
White						
Florida	9,000	6,600	5,500	383	280	234
Colored						
Florida	17,600	15,100	13,500	748	642	574
All						
Arizona [3]	100	25	(NA)	3	1	(NA)
California	5,200	*4,800	4,200	174	*161	141
Florida	26,600	21,700	19,000	1,131	922	808
Texas	6,000	5,500	5,500	240	220	220
United States	37,900	*32,025	28,700	1,548	*1,304	1,169
Tangerines and mandarins						
Arizona [4]	400	250	450	15	9	17
California [4]	6,700	6,700	9,100	251	251	341
Florida	5,500	3,850	4,100	261	183	195
United States	12,600	10,800	13,650	527	443	553
Lemons						
Arizona	1,500	3,000	2,500	57	114	95
California	14,800	*21,000	20,000	562	*798	760
United States	16,300	*24,000	22,500	619	*912	855
Tangelos						
Florida	1,500	1,150	900	68	52	41

* Revised.

(NA) Not available.

[1] Net pounds per box: oranges in Arizona and California-75, Florida-90, Texas-85; grapefruit in Arizona and California-67, Florida-85, Texas-80; lemons-76; tangelos-90; tangerines and mandarins in Arizona and California-75, Florida-95.

[2] Navel and miscellaneous varieties in Arizona and California. Early (including navel) and midseason varieties in Florida and Texas. Small quantities of tangerines in Texas and Temples in Florida.

[3] Estimates discontinued beginning with the 2009-2010 crop year.

[4] Includes tangelos and tangors.

Potato Area Planted, Harvested, Yield, and Production by Seasonal Group - States and United States: 2008, 2009, and Forecasted April 1, 2010

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Seasonal group and State	Area				Yield		Production		
	Planted		Harvested						
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(cwt)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)
Winter									
California [1]	9.0	(NA)	8.7	(NA)	245	(NA)	2,530	2,132	(NA)
Spring									
Arizona	4.0	3.7	4.0	3.7	280	280	1,050	1,120	1,036
California [1]	17.8	31.0	17.5	31.0	410	380	6,930	7,175	11,780
Florida	32.6	32.4	28.9	31.0	266	244	7,952	7,700	7,550
Hastings	20.0	20.2	16.5	19.0	260	230	4,845	4,290	4,370
Other Florida	12.6	12.2	12.4	12.0	275	265	3,107	3,410	3,180
North Carolina	16.0	16.0	15.0	15.5	225	210	2,520	3,375	3,255
Texas	8.8	8.8	8.3	8.4	235	235	1,680	1,951	1,974
United States [1]	79.2	91.9	73.7	89.6	289	286	20,132	21,321	25,595
Summer									
Alabama [2]	(NA)		(NA)		(NA)		204	(NA)	
California [1]	*3.4		*3.4		*405		1,296	*1,377	
Colorado	4.0		3.9		400		1,628	1,560	
Delaware	1.7		1.6		300		425	480	
Illinois	5.4		5.2		385		2,094	2,002	
Kansas	5.0		4.8		*360		1,536	*1,728	
Maryland	2.4		2.3		320		750	736	
Missouri	7.3		7.1		*275		1,235	*1,953	
New Jersey	*2.1		*2.1		*260		460	*546	
Texas	5.9		5.4		460		2,923	2,484	
Virginia	7.0		6.9		240		1,254	1,656	
United States	*44.2		*42.7		*340		13,805	*14,522	

* Revised.
(NA) Not available.
[1] Beginning in 2010, winter and summer estimates included in spring total for California.
[2] Estimates discontinued in 2009.

Crop Area Planted and Harvested - United States: 2009 and 2010 (Domestic Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2010 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)
Grains and hay				
Barley	3,567.0	3,273.0	3,113.0	
Corn for grain [1]	86,482.0	88,798.0	79,620.0	
Corn for silage	(NA)		5,605.0	
Hay, all	(NA)	(NA)	59,755.0	60,460.0
Alfalfa	(NA)		21,227.0	
All other	(NA)		38,528.0	
Oats	3,404.0	3,364.0	1,379.0	
Proso millet	350.0		293.0	
Rice	3,135.0	3,411.0	3,103.0	
Rye	1,241.0		252.0	
Sorghum for grain [1]	6,633.0	6,360.0	5,520.0	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		254.0	
Wheat, all	59,133.0	53,827.0	49,868.0	
Winter	43,311.0	37,698.0	34,485.0	
Durum	2,554.0	2,223.0	2,428.0	
Other spring	13,268.0	13,906.0	12,955.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	827.0	1,228.1	814.0	
Cottonseed	(X)	(X)	(X)	
Flaxseed	317.0	420.0	314.0	
Mustard seed	51.5		49.8	
Peanuts	1,116.0	1,201.0	1,081.0	
Rapeseed	1.0		0.9	
Safflower	175.0		165.5	
Soybeans for beans	77,451.0	78,098.0	76,372.0	
Sunflower	2,030.0	2,181.0	1,953.5	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all	9,149.2	10,505.0	7,690.5	
Upland	9,007.5	10,315.0	7,552.0	
American Pima	141.7	190.0	138.5	
Sugarbeets	1,183.2	1,174.2	1,145.3	
Sugarcane	(NA)		877.7	
Tobacco	(NA)	(NA)	354.1	334.0
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	20.5	29.5	13.7	
Dry edible beans	1,537.5	1,766.6	1,463.0	
Dry edible peas	863.3	837.0	837.9	
Lentils	415.0	510.0	407.0	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	(NA)		6.3	
Hops	(NA)		39.7	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		69.8	
Potatoes, all	*1,069.5		*1,044.7	
Winter	9.0		8.7	
Spring	79.2	91.9	73.7	89.6
Summer	*44.2		*42.7	
Fall	937.1		919.6	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		20.5	
Sweet potatoes	109.6	117.1	97.7	
Taro (Hawaii) [2]	(NA)		0.4	

* Revised.
(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Area planted for all purposes.
[2] Area is total acres in crop, not harvested acreage.

Crop Yield and Production - United States: 2009 and 2010 (Domestic Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2010 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield		Production	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
			(1,000)	(1,000)
Grains and hay				
Barley ..... bushels	73.0		227,323	
Corn for grain ..... bushels	164.9		13,130,632	
Corn for silage ..... tons	19.3		108,209	
Hay, all ..... tons	2.47		147,442	
Alfalfa ..... tons	3.35		71,030	
All other ..... tons	1.98		76,412	
Oats ..... bushels	67.5		93,081	
Proso millet ..... bushels	33.7		9,865	
Rice [1] ..... cwt	7,085		219,850	
Rye ..... bushels	27.8		6,993	
Sorghum for grain ..... bushels	69.4		382,983	
Sorghum for silage ..... tons	14.5		3,680	
Wheat, all ..... bushels	44.4		2,216,171	
Winter ..... bushels	44.2		1,522,718	
Durum ..... bushels	44.9		109,042	
Other spring ..... bushels	45.1		584,411	
Oilseeds				
Canola ..... pounds	1,811		1,474,130	
Cottonseed ..... tons	(X)		4,178.0	
Flaxseed ..... bushels	23.6		7,423	
Mustard seed ..... pounds	991		49,364	
Peanuts ..... pounds	3,412		3,688,350	
Rapeseed ..... pounds	1,700		1,530	
Safflower ..... pounds	1,462		241,970	
Soybeans for beans ..... bushels	44.0		3,359,011	
Sunflower ..... pounds	1,554		3,036,460	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all [1] ..... bales	774		12,401.3	
Upland [1] ..... bales	763		12,011.0	
American Pima [1] ..... bales	1,353		390.3	
Sugarbeets ..... tons	25.8		29,519	
Sugarcane ..... tons	34.4		30,151	
Tobacco ..... pounds	2,325		823,290	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas [1] ..... cwt	1,328		182	
Dry edible beans [1] ..... cwt	1,733		25,360	
Dry edible peas [1] ..... cwt	2,045		17,137	
Lentils [1] ..... cwt	1,440		5,859	
Wrinkled seed peas ..... cwt	(NA)		874	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii) ..... pounds	1,270		8,000	
Hops ..... pounds	2,383		94,677.9	
Peppermint oil ..... pounds	91		6,379	
Potatoes, all ..... cwt	413		*431,478	
Winter ..... cwt	245		2,132	
Spring ..... cwt	289		21,321	25,595
Summer ..... cwt	*340		*14,522	
Fall ..... cwt	428		393,503	
Spearmint oil ..... pounds	132		2,698	
Sweet potatoes ..... cwt	201		19,647	
Taro (Hawaii) ..... pounds	(NA)		4,000	

* Revised.
(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Yield in pounds.

Crop Area Planted and Harvested - United States: 2009 and 2010 (Metric Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2010 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)
Grains and hay				
Barley	1,443,530	1,324,550	1,259,800	
Corn for grain [1]	34,998,400	35,935,660	32,221,420	
Corn for silage	(NA)		2,268,290	
Hay, all [2]	(NA)	(NA)	24,182,250	24,467,560
Alfalfa	(NA)		8,590,350	
All other	(NA)		15,591,900	
Oats	1,377,560	1,361,380	558,070	
Proso millet	141,640		118,570	
Rice	1,268,700	1,380,400	1,255,750	
Rye	502,220		101,980	
Sorghum for grain [1]	2,684,310	2,573,830	2,233,890	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		102,790	
Wheat, all [2]	23,930,530	21,783,250	20,181,080	
Winter	17,527,530	15,256,000	13,955,730	
Durum	1,033,580	899,630	982,590	
Other spring	5,369,430	5,627,620	5,242,760	
Oilseeds				
Canola	334,680	497,000	329,420	
Cottonseed	(X)	(X)	(X)	
Flaxseed	128,290	169,970	127,070	
Mustard seed	20,840		20,150	
Peanuts	451,630	486,030	437,470	
Rapeseed	400		360	
Safflower	70,820		66,980	
Soybeans for beans	31,343,650	31,605,480	30,906,980	
Sunflower	821,520	882,630	790,560	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all [2]	3,702,590	4,251,270	3,112,270	
Upland	3,645,250	4,174,380	3,056,220	
American Pima	57,340	76,890	56,050	
Sugarbeets	478,830	475,190	463,490	
Sugarcane	(NA)		355,200	
Tobacco	(NA)	(NA)	143,320	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	8,300	11,940	5,540	
Dry edible beans	622,210	714,930	592,060	
Dry edible peas	349,370	338,730	339,090	
Lentils	167,950	206,390	164,710	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	(NA)		2,550	
Hops	(NA)		16,080	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		28,250	
Potatoes, all [2]	*432,820		*422,780	
Winter	3,640		3,520	
Spring	32,050	37,190	29,830	36,260
Summer	*17,890		*17,280	
Fall	379,230		372,150	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		8,300	
Sweet potatoes	44,350	47,390	39,540	
Taro (Hawaii) [3]	(NA)		180	

* Revised.
(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Area planted for all purposes.
[2] Total may not add due to rounding.
[3] Area is total hectares in crop, not harvested hectares.

Crop Yield and Production - United States: 2009 and 2010 (Metric Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2010 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield		Production	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)
Grains and hay				
Barley	3.93		4,949,370	
Corn for grain	10.35		333,533,420	
Corn for silage	43.28		98,165,550	
Hay, all [1]	5.53		133,757,130	
Alfalfa	7.50		64,437,330	
All other	4.45		69,319,800	
Oats	2.42		1,351,070	
Proso millet	1.89		223,730	
Rice	7.94		9,972,230	
Rye	1.74		177,630	
Sorghum for grain	4.35		9,728,220	
Sorghum for silage	32.48		3,338,440	
Wheat, all [1]	2.99		60,314,290	
Winter	2.97		41,441,590	
Durum	3.02		2,967,640	
Other spring	3.03		15,905,060	
Oilseeds				
Canola	2.03		668,650	
Cottonseed	(X)		3,790,220	
Flaxseed	1.48		188,550	
Mustard seed	1.11		22,390	
Peanuts	3.82		1,673,010	
Rapeseed	1.91		690	
Safflower	1.64		109,760	
Soybeans for beans	2.96		91,417,300	
Sunflower	1.74		1,377,320	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all [1]	0.87		2,700,070	
Upland	0.86		2,615,090	
American Pima	1.52		84,980	
Sugarbeets	57.78		26,779,190	
Sugarcane	77.01		27,352,530	
Tobacco	2.61		373,440	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	1.49		8,260	
Dry edible beans	1.94		1,150,310	
Dry edible peas	2.29		777,320	
Lentils	1.61		265,760	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		39,640	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	1.42		3,630	
Hops	2.67		42,950	
Peppermint oil	0.10		2,890	
Potatoes, all [1]	*46.29		*19,571,510	
Winter	27.47		96,710	
Spring	32.43	32.02	967,100	1,160,970
Summer	*38.12		*658,710	
Fall	47.96		17,849,000	
Spearmint oil	0.15		1,220	
Sweet potatoes	22.54		891,170	
Taro (Hawaii)	(NA)		1,810	

* Revised.
(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Production may not add due to rounding.

Fruits and Nuts Production - United States: 2008-2010 (Domestic Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2010 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2009-2010 season. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production		
	2008	2009	2010
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Citrus [1]			
Grapefruit ..... tons	1,548.0	*1,304.0	1,169.0
Lemons ..... tons	619.0	*912.0	855.0
Oranges ..... tons	10,076.0	*9,128.0	8,203.0
Tangelos (Florida) ..... tons	68.0	52.0	41.0
Tangerines and mandarins ..... tons	527.0	443.0	553.0
Noncitrus			
Apples .....pounds	9,609.3	9,953.6	
Apricots ..... tons	81.6	68.3	
Bananas (Hawaii) .....pounds	17,400.0	15,400.0	
Grapes ..... tons	7,319.3	7,067.6	
Olives (California) ..... tons	66.8	42.8	
Papayas (Hawaii) .....pounds	33,500.0	31,300.0	
Peaches ..... tons	1,135.3	1,105.7	
Pears ..... tons	869.9	936.2	
Prunes, dried (California) ..... tons	129.0	157.0	
Prunes and plums (excludes California) ..... tons	15.5	18.8	
Nuts and miscellaneous			
Almonds, shelled (California) .....pounds	1,630,000.0	1,390,000.0	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon) ..... tons	32.0	47.0	
Pecans, in-shell .....pounds	194,080.0	290,500.0	
Walnuts, in-shell (California) ..... tons	436.0	415.0	
Maple syrup ..... gallons	1,912.0	2,327.0	

* Revised.

[1] Production years are 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and 2009-2010.

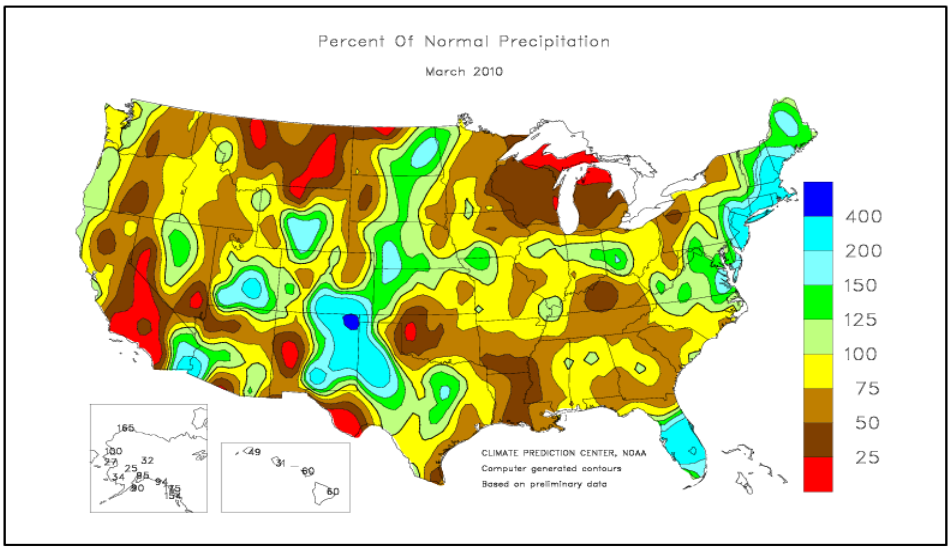
Fruits and Nuts Production - United States: 2008-2010 (Metric Units)

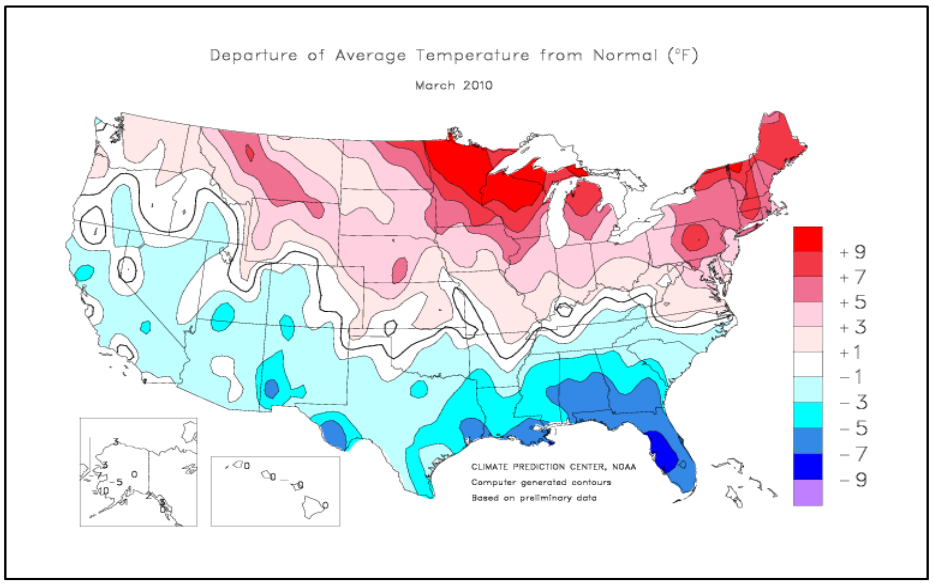
[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2010 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2009-2010 season]

Crop	Production		
	2008	2009	2010
	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)
Citrus [1]			
Grapefruit	1,404,320	*1,182,970	1,060,500
Lemons	561,550	*827,350	775,640
Oranges	9,140,790	*8,280,780	7,441,640
Tangelos (Florida)	61,690	47,170	37,190
Tangerines and mandarins	478,090	401,880	501,670
Noncitrus			
Apples	4,358,710	4,514,880	
Apricots	74,040	61,980	
Bananas (Hawaii)	7,890	6,990	
Grapes	6,639,920	6,411,660	
Olives (California)	60,600	38,830	
Papayas (Hawaii)	15,200	14,200	
Peaches	1,029,940	1,003,090	
Pears	789,110	849,320	
Prunes, dried (California)	117,030	142,430	
Prunes and plums (excludes California)	14,060	17,060	
Nuts and miscellaneous			
Almonds, shelled (California)	739,360	630,490	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon)	29,030	42,640	
Pecans, in-shell	88,030	131,770	
Walnuts in-shell (California)	395,530	376,480	
Maple syrup	9,560	11,630	

* Revised.

[1] Production years are 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and 2009-2010.


Percent Of Normal Precipitation
March 2010
400
200
150
125
100
75
50
25
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data


Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)
March 2010
+9
+7
+5
+3
+1
-1
-3
-5
-7
-9
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data

March Weather Summary

Dryness developed or expanded during March in a few areas, including the Great Lakes and the central Gulf Coast region. Meanwhile, unusually warm weather from the northern Plains into the Northeast contrasted with cool conditions across the Nation's southern tier. In fact, there was record-setting March warmth (locally more than 10 degrees Fahrenheit above normal) in the upper Great Lakes region, while record-low March temperatures (more than 5 degrees Fahrenheit below normal) were noted in parts of Florida.

Among the wettest regions was the northern Atlantic coastal plain, where three major March storms (along with another system in late February) induced several rounds of flooding. Hardest hit were Rhode Island and eastern Massachusetts, where record-setting monthly precipitation totals of 10 to 18 inches were common. Interestingly, most of the precipitation fell in the liquid form, with snow mostly confined to higher elevations of the Northeast.

Meanwhile, most of the South – excluding Florida's peninsula – dried out during March, promoting an acceleration of planting activities for crops such as corn, rice, and sorghum. In most cases, however, cool weather slowed summer crop emergence.

Farther north, most of the Midwest received enough precipitation during March to limit pre-planting fieldwork, although dryness began to expand across the Great Lakes region. Areas from the eastern Dakotas into the middle Mississippi Valley had to contend with spring flooding, triggered by the melting of an extensive snow cover and runoff from early-spring rainfall.

Elsewhere, highly variable conditions existed across the Plains and the West. The Rockies received significant precipitation, which was especially beneficial in drought-affected northern areas. On the central and southern High Plains, pastures and winter wheat benefited from abundant rain and snow. In contrast, California experienced a disappointingly dry end to an otherwise adequate wet season, while parts of the northern High Plains trended dry during March.

March Agricultural Summary

March delivered seasonable temperatures to much of the Nation, with average recordings varying from slightly below to slightly above normal. In contrast, the Great Lakes and New England continued to experience abnormally warm temperatures for a third consecutive month. Average temperatures reached as many as 12 degrees above normal in portions of Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Elsewhere, temperatures in parts of Alabama, Georgia, and much of Florida were cooler than normal, falling to as many as 9 degrees below average. Much of the country received less than normal precipitation during the month. Conversely, above average precipitation continued to fall on locations in the Southwest, southern Rocky Mountains, Great Plains, Florida, and along the northern Atlantic Coast where monthly accumulations reached 200 percent of normal or more.

Early in the month, row crop producers completed fieldwork where conditions allowed. Excessively wet fields in the Southern Low Plains of Texas slowed fieldwork and herbicide applications for cotton producers, while producers in the Northern High Plains waited for more favorable soil conditions and warmer temperatures before planting their crop. In Oklahoma, seedbed preparation remained behind normal throughout the month for all row crops except peanuts. Following the sluggish start to spring fieldwork, corn, cotton, and sorghum planting was underway in several States by month's end.

Small grain seeding was underway well ahead of normal in the major producing areas of Washington early in the month despite a limited snowpack and potential lack of irrigation supplies. Although the winter wheat crop in Oklahoma benefitted from mid-month precipitation, warmer temperatures were needed to accelerate crop growth. Barley and Durum wheat emergence was virtually complete in Arizona by March 21. The majority of Kansas's winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition with minimal insect, freeze, or wind damage. By month's end, heading was evident in South Texas oat fields, as well as barley and Durum wheat fields in Arizona. Some winter wheat fields were being harvested for silage in California.

Unseasonably cool temperatures continued to hamper vegetable growth throughout Florida, leading to below normal production for a variety of winter crops. Conversely, above average temperatures in the Yakima Valley in Washington pushed growing degree days to nearly two weeks ahead of normal. By month's end, hop plants in Washington were emerging and producers were busy stringing their yards. Strawberry fields in the San Joaquin Valley of California were setting fruit, while warmer temperatures along the Central Coast aided budding in wine grape vineyards.

Crop Comments

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 2009-2010 United States grapefruit crop is 1.17 million tons, up 1 percent from the March 1 forecast but down 10 percent from the revised 2008-2009 final utilization. Florida's grapefruit production is forecast at 19.0 million boxes (808,000 tons), up 1 percent from the March 1 forecast but 12 percent below last season.

The Florida all white grapefruit forecast is 5.50 million boxes (234,000 tons), up 4 percent from March 1 but down 17 percent from the previous year. The colored grapefruit forecast, at 13.5 million boxes (574,000 tons), is unchanged from the March 1 forecast but 11 percent below last season. As of April 1, approximately 73 percent of the white grapefruit crop and 90 percent of the colored grapefruit crop had been harvested.

The Texas grapefruit forecast, at 5.50 million boxes (220,000 tons) is up slightly from the previous forecast but unchanged from last season. California's grapefruit production forecast is 4.20 million boxes (141,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but 13 percent below last season's revised production.

Tangerines and mandarins: The United States tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 553,000 tons, up 8 percent from the March 1 forecast and 25 percent above the 2008-2009 crop. California's tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 9.10 million boxes (341,000 tons), up 11 percent from the January 1 forecast and up 36 percent from last season's final utilization. If realized, this will be a record crop for California.

The Florida tangerine forecast is 4.10 million boxes (195,000 tons), up 3 percent from the March 1 forecast and up 6 percent from the previous season. Approximately 89 percent of the Honey tangerines in Florida have been harvested. The Arizona tangerine forecast, at 450,000 boxes (17,000 tons), is up 29 percent from the previous forecast and 80 percent above last season's final utilization.

Lemons: The forecast for the 2009-2010 United States lemon crop is 855,000 tons, unchanged from the January 1 forecast but down 6 percent from last season's revised utilized production. California production is forecast at 20.0 million boxes (760,000 tons), unchanged from January 1 but down 5 percent from last season's revised production. The California lemon harvest was complete in the Desert Region, but continued in the Central Valley and began in the Coastal Region. Lemon production in Arizona is forecast at 2.50 million boxes (95,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but down 17 percent from last season.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast is 900,000 boxes (41,000 tons), unchanged from the March 1 forecast but down 22 percent from last season's final production. If realized, this will be the smallest tangelo crop since 1962, when Florida experienced a damaging December freeze.

Florida citrus: High temperatures in the citrus growing regions ranged between 70 and 80 degrees all month. Low temperatures were mostly in the 40s. The citrus growing area received heavy, soaking rains in March. Harvesting of Murcott tangerines and Valencia oranges continued. Citrus bloom is full and widespread in the southern counties, with more buds and fewer open flowers observed in northern areas.

Processing of early and midseason oranges has finished. Valencia oranges and grapefruit make up the majority of fruit going to processing plants. Grove activities included harvesting, mowing, insecticide and fertilizer applications, psyllid treatment, and brush removal.

Arizona citrus: Lemon harvest was completed in western Arizona in March.

Texas citrus: Citrus fruits continued to be harvested in the Lower Valley. Soil moisture was reported to be adequate across most of the State.

California citrus: Citrus trees were being topped. Picking of tangerines, navel oranges, grapefruit, and lemons continued, while harvesting of Valencia oranges began in the San Joaquin Valley.

California noncitrus fruits and nuts: Stone fruits throughout the Central Valley, including plums, prunes, peaches, cherries, and other early varieties, continued to show widespread bloom. Fungicide sprays were applied to blooming stone fruit trees. Pruning of orchards and vineyards was approaching completion. Strawberry and blueberry plantings began blooming and out of state raspberry bushes arrived for planting. Strawberries were setting fruit in the San Joaquin Valley. Herbicide sprays were applied in Central Valley grape vineyards, while warmer temperatures aided budding of wine grape vineyards along the Central Coast. Widespread bloom continued in almond orchards. Considerable petal fall also occurred. Due to wet weather earlier in the season, some brown rot was observed in almond orchards. Most growers applied protective sprays to limit the impact of spring diseases. Walnut blight applications began in preparation for the upcoming walnut bloom. Pest traps were placed in almond orchards and irrigation began in drier areas.

Winter potatoes: California winter potato estimates are combined with spring potatoes beginning in 2010.

Spring potatoes: Production for 2010 is forecast at 25.6 million cwt, up 20 percent from 2009, however beginning in 2010 California winter and summer season potatoes are included in the spring season total. Area for harvest is forecast at 89,600 acres, 22 percent more than 2009. The average yield of 286 cwt per acre is down 3 cwt from 2009.

Florida's production is forecast at 7.55 million cwt, down 2 percent from 2009. Freezing temperatures delayed planting in the Hastings area. Late January rainfall resulted in standing water in some fields. Growing conditions were favorable in the other potato growing area, with harvest on schedule. California spring potato production is forecast at 11.8 million cwt, up 64 percent from last year. Growers reported good conditions and a normal crop year. North Carolina growers are expected to produce 3.26 million cwt of spring potatoes, a decrease of 4 percent from 2009. As of March 28, 2010, crop condition was rated 100 percent good with topsoil moisture as mostly adequate. Production in Texas is forecast at 1.97 million cwt, up 1 percent from 2009, while Arizona growers expect production to total 1.04 million cwt, down 8 percent from last year.

Summer potatoes: The final estimate of 2009 summer potato production is 14.5 million cwt, up slightly from the preliminary estimate in the January *Crop Production 2009 Summary*. Harvested area covered 42,700 acres, down 1 percent from the 2009 preliminary estimate. The revised average yield of 340 cwt per acre is up 4 cwt from the 2009 preliminary estimate.

Statistical Methodology

Survey procedures: The orange objective yield survey for the April 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which accounts for nearly 75 percent of the United States 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. 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 California and Texas were also used for setting estimates. These three 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 170,000 tons (162,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 7,000 tons to 508,000 tons (7,000 tons to 368,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons). The April 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 7 times and above 13 times (below 4 times and above 11 times, excluding abnormal seasons). The difference does not imply that the April 1 forecast this year is likely to understate or overstate final production.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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- Nick Schauer – Wheat, Rye ..... (202) 720-8068
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- Dan Norris – Austrian Winter Peas, Dry Edible Peas, Lentils, Mints, Mushrooms, Peaches, Pears, Wrinkled Seed Peas, Dry Beans ..... (202) 720-3250
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