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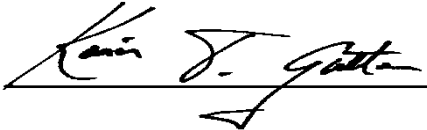
Orange Production Down 1 Percent from March

The United States all orange forecast for the 2011-2012 season is 8.91 million tons, down 1 percent from the previous forecast but virtually unchanged from the revised 2010-2011 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 145 million boxes (6.53 million tons), is down 1 percent from the March forecast but up 3 percent from last season's revised final utilization. Early, midseason, and Navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 74.0 million boxes (3.33 million tons), unchanged from the March forecast but up 5 percent from last season. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 71.0 million boxes (3.20 million tons), is down 3 percent from the March forecast but up 1 percent from the revised 2010-2011 crop. Sizes for Valencia oranges in Florida are expected to be slightly smaller than average and fruit droppage is expected to be well above average.

The California all orange forecast is 58.0 million boxes (2.32 million tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but down 7 percent from last season's revised final utilization. The California Navel orange forecast is 44.0 million boxes (1.76 million tons), unchanged from the March forecast but down 8 percent from last season. The California Valencia orange forecast is 14.0 million boxes (560,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but down 3 percent from last season's revised final utilization. Harvest of Navel oranges continued during March, while Valencia orange harvest began. The Texas orange forecast, at 1.39 million boxes (60,000 tons), is down 15 percent from the previous forecast and down 29 percent from last season's final utilization.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield forecast for the 2011-2012 season is 1.62 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, down 1 percent from the March forecast but up 2 percent from last season's final yield of 1.59 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion is 1.56 gallons per box, up 3 percent from last season's yield. The Valencia portion is projected at 1.72 gallons per box, 4 percent higher than last year's final yield of 1.66 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 10, 2012.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Karis T. Gutter



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
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Utilized Production of Citrus Fruits by Crop – States and United States: 2010-2011 and Forecasted April 1, 2012

[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	
	2010-2011 (1,000 boxes)	2011-2012 (1,000 boxes)	2010-2011 (1,000 tons)	2011-2012 (1,000 tons)
Oranges				
Early, mid, and Navel ²				
California	48,000	44,000	1,920	1,760
Florida	70,300	74,000	3,164	3,330
Texas	1,700	1,165	72	50
United States	120,000	119,165	5,156	5,140
Valencia				
California	14,500	14,000	580	560
Florida	70,200	71,000	3,159	3,195
Texas	249	224	11	10
United States	84,949	85,224	3,750	3,765
All				
California	62,500	58,000	2,500	2,320
Florida	140,500	145,000	6,323	6,525
Texas	1,949	1,389	83	60
United States	204,949	204,389	8,906	8,905
Grapefruit				
White				
Florida	5,850	5,300	249	225
Colored				
Florida	13,900	13,500	591	574
All				
California	4,300	3,400	172	136
Florida	19,750	18,800	840	799
Texas	6,300	5,292	252	212
United States	30,350	27,492	1,264	1,147
Tangerines and mandarins				
Arizona ³	300	200	12	8
California ³	9,900	9,800	396	392
Florida	4,650	4,300	221	204
United States	14,850	14,300	629	604
Lemons				
Arizona	2,500	800	100	32
California	20,500	19,500	820	780
United States	23,000	20,300	920	812
Tangelos				
Florida	1,150	1,150	52	52

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

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

³ Includes tangelos and tangors.

Potato Area Planted, Harvested, Yield, and Production by Seasonal Group – States and United States: 2011 and Forecasted April 1, 2012

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

Seasonal group and State	Area planted		Area harvested		Yield per acre		Production	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(cwt)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)
Spring								
Arizona	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.5	280	300	1,064	1,050
California	28.1	30.0	28.0	30.0	390	385	10,920	11,550
Florida	36.4	36.9	35.6	36.3	256	260	9,112	9,438
Hastings area	23.4	23.6	23.1	23.3	270	260	6,237	6,058
Other areas	13.0	13.3	12.5	13.0	230	260	2,875	3,380
North Carolina	17.0	18.0	16.5	17.0	170	190	2,805	3,230
Texas	8.0	9.8	7.6	8.8	220	220	1,672	1,936
United States	93.3	98.2	91.5	95.6	279	285	25,573	27,204
Summer								
Colorado	4.5		4.4		370		1,628	
Delaware	1.6		1.6		250		400	
Illinois	7.0		6.8		330		2,244	
Kansas	5.5		5.3		280		1,484	
Maryland	2.2		2.2		300		660	
Missouri	8.3		7.1		170		1,207	
New Jersey	2.0		1.8		190		342	
Texas	11.1		10.9		350		3,815	
Virginia	6.0		5.9		200		1,180	
United States	48.2		46.0		282		12,960	

Crop Area Planted and Harvested – United States: 2011 and 2012 (Domestic Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2012 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2011 (1,000 acres)	2012 (1,000 acres)	2011 (1,000 acres)	2012 (1,000 acres)
Grains and hay				
Barley	2,559	3,333	2,239	
Corn for grain ¹	91,921	95,864	83,981	
Corn for silage	(NA)		5,928	
Hay, all	(NA)	(NA)	55,633	57,348
Alfalfa	(NA)		19,213	
All other	(NA)		36,420	
Oats	2,496	2,863	939	
Proso millet	370		338	
Rice	2,689	2,561	2,618	
Rye	1,266		242	
Sorghum for grain ¹	5,481	5,950	3,929	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		224	
Wheat, all	54,409	55,908	45,705	
Winter	40,646	41,709	32,314	
Durum	1,369	2,223	1,312	
Other spring	12,394	11,976	12,079	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,071.5	1,557.2	1,043.0	
Cottonseed	(X)	(X)	(X)	
Flaxseed	178	289	173	
Mustard seed	23.2		21.8	
Peanuts	1,140.6	1,422.0	1,097.6	
Rapeseed	1.5		1.3	
Safflower	130.7		127.3	
Soybeans for beans	74,976	73,902	73,636	
Sunflower	1,543.0	1,808.0	1,457.8	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all	14,732.4	13,155.0	9,747.9	
Upland	14,426.0	12,885.0	9,444.0	
American Pima	306.4	270.0	303.9	
Sugarbeets	1,232.8	1,241.3	1,213.1	
Sugarcane	(NA)		874.0	
Tobacco	(NA)	(NA)	324.8	318.0
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	18.0	21.0	12.3	
Dry edible beans	1,205.9	1,669.9	1,155.9	
Dry edible peas	362.0	619.0	342.8	
Lentils	428.0	518.0	411.0	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	(NA)		6.3	
Hops	(NA)		29.8	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		74.0	
Potatoes, all	1,098.9		1,076.7	
Spring	93.3	98.2	91.5	95.6
Summer	48.2		46.0	
Fall	957.4		939.2	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		17.3	
Sweet potatoes	134.2	133.4	130.3	
Taro (Hawaii) ²	(NA)		0.5	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Area planted for all purposes.

² Area is total acres in crop, not harvested acres.

Crop Yield and Production – United States: 2011 and 2012 (Domestic Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2012 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per acre		Production	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
			(1,000)	(1,000)
Grains and hay				
Barley	bushels	69.6	155,780	
Corn for grain	bushels	147.2	12,358,412	
Corn for silage	tons	18.4	108,926	
Hay, all	tons	2.36	131,144	
Alfalfa	tons	3.40	65,332	
All other	tons	1.81	65,812	
Oats	bushels	57.1	53,649	
Proso millet	bushels	27.1	9,149	
Rice ¹	cwt	7,067	185,009	
Rye	bushels	26.1	6,326	
Sorghum for grain	bushels	54.6	214,443	
Sorghum for silage	tons	10.3	2,298	
Wheat, all	bushels	43.7	1,999,347	
Winter	bushels	46.2	1,493,677	
Durum	bushels	38.5	50,482	
Other spring	bushels	37.7	455,188	
Oilseeds				
Canola	pounds	1,475	1,538,010	
Cottonseed	tons	(X)	5,267.0	
Flaxseed	bushels	16.1	2,791	
Mustard seed	pounds	718	15,644	
Peanuts	pounds	3,313	3,636,320	
Rapeseed	pounds	2,177	2,830	
Safflower	pounds	1,333	169,671	
Soybeans for beans	bushels	41.5	3,056,032	
Sunflower	pounds	1,398	2,038,275	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ¹	bales	772	15,673.7	
Upland ¹	bales	754	14,828.0	
American Pima ¹	bales	1,336	845.7	
Sugarbeets	tons	23.7	28,789	
Sugarcane	tons	33.5	29,307	
Tobacco	pounds	1,850	601,029	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas ¹	cwt	1,463	180	
Dry edible beans ¹	cwt	1,716	19,833	
Dry edible peas ¹	cwt	1,641	5,625	
Lentils ¹	cwt	1,151	4,732	
Wrinkled seed peas	cwt	(NA)	509	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	pounds	1,320	8,300	
Hops	pounds	2,175	64,781.6	
Peppermint oil	pounds	89	6,570	
Potatoes, all	cwt	397	427,406	
Spring	cwt	279	25,573	27,204
Summer	cwt	282	12,960	
Fall	cwt	414	388,873	
Spearmint oil	pounds	132	2,286	
Sweet potatoes	cwt	208	27,041	
Taro (Hawaii)	pounds	(NA)	4,100	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Yield in pounds.

Crop Area Planted and Harvested – United States: 2011 and 2012 (Metric Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2012 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)
Grains and hay				
Barley	1,035,600	1,348,830	906,100	
Corn for grain ¹	37,199,510	38,795,200	33,986,270	
Corn for silage	(NA)		2,399,000	
Hay, all ²	(NA)	(NA)	22,514,120	23,208,160
Alfalfa	(NA)		7,775,310	
All other	(NA)		14,738,810	
Oats	1,010,110	1,158,630	380,000	
Proso millet	149,740		136,790	
Rice	1,088,210	1,036,410	1,059,480	
Rye	512,340		97,930	
Sorghum for grain ¹	2,218,110	2,407,910	1,590,030	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		90,650	
Wheat, all ²	22,018,780	22,625,410	18,496,360	
Winter	16,449,030	16,879,220	13,077,150	
Durum	554,020	899,630	530,950	
Other spring	5,015,730	4,846,570	4,888,250	
Oilseeds				
Canola	433,630	630,180	422,090	
Cottonseed	(X)	(X)	(X)	
Flaxseed	72,030	116,960	70,010	
Mustard seed	9,390		8,820	
Peanuts	461,590	575,470	444,190	
Rapeseed	610		530	
Safflower	52,890		51,520	
Soybeans for beans	30,342,040	29,907,400	29,799,750	
Sunflower	624,440	731,680	589,960	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ²	5,962,050	5,323,700	3,944,880	
Upland	5,838,060	5,214,430	3,821,890	
American Pima	124,000	109,270	122,990	
Sugarbeets	498,900	502,340	490,930	
Sugarcane	(NA)		353,700	
Tobacco	(NA)	(NA)	131,460	128,670
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	7,280	8,500	4,980	
Dry edible beans	488,020	675,790	467,780	
Dry edible peas	146,500	250,500	138,730	
Lentils	173,210	209,630	166,330	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	(NA)		2,550	
Hops	(NA)		12,050	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		29,950	
Potatoes, all ²	444,710		435,730	
Spring	37,760	39,740	37,030	38,690
Summer	19,510		18,620	
Fall	387,450		380,080	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		7,000	
Sweet potatoes	54,310	53,990	52,730	
Taro (Hawaii) ³	(NA)		200	

(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: 2011 and 2012 (Metric Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2012 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per hectare		Production	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)
Grains and hay				
Barley	3.74		3,391,710	
Corn for grain	9.24		313,918,120	
Corn for silage	41.19		98,816,000	
Hay, all ¹	5.28		118,971,840	
Alfalfa	7.62		59,268,190	
All other	4.05		59,703,640	
Oats	2.05		778,710	
Proso millet	1.52		207,500	
Rice	7.92		8,391,870	
Rye	1.64		160,690	
Sorghum for grain	3.43		5,447,100	
Sorghum for silage	23.00		2,084,710	
Wheat, all ¹	2.94		54,413,310	
Winter	3.11		40,651,230	
Durum	2.59		1,373,890	
Other spring	2.53		12,388,190	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.65		697,630	
Cottonseed	(X)		4,778,140	
Flaxseed	1.01		70,890	
Mustard seed	0.80		7,100	
Peanuts	3.71		1,649,410	
Rapeseed	2.44		1,280	
Safflower	1.49		76,960	
Soybeans for beans	2.79		83,171,560	
Sunflower	1.57		924,550	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ¹	0.87		3,412,550	
Upland	0.84		3,228,420	
American Pima	1.50		184,130	
Sugarbeets	53.20		26,116,940	
Sugarcane	75.17		26,586,860	
Tobacco	2.07		272,620	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	1.64		8,160	
Dry edible beans	1.92		899,610	
Dry edible peas	1.84		255,150	
Lentils	1.29		214,640	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		23,090	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	1.48		3,760	
Hops	2.44		29,380	
Peppermint oil	0.10		2,980	
Potatoes, all ¹	44.49		19,386,810	
Spring	31.33	31.89	1,159,970	1,233,950
Summer	31.58		587,860	
Fall	46.41		17,638,980	
Spearmint oil	0.15		1,040	
Sweet potatoes	23.26		1,226,560	
Taro (Hawaii)	(NA)		1,860	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Production may not add due to rounding.

Fruits and Nuts Production – United States: 2011 and 2012 (Domestic Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2012 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2011-2012 season. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2011	2012
	(1,000)	(1,000)
Citrus ¹		
Grapefruittons	1,264	1,147
Lemonstons	920	812
Orangestons	8,906	8,905
Tangelos (Florida)tons	52	52
Tangerines and mandarinstons	629	604
Noncitrus		
Apples 1,000 pounds	9,429.9	
Apricotstons	66.7	
Bananas (Hawaii)pounds		
Grapestons	7,231.3	
Olives (California)tons	71.2	
Papayas (Hawaii)pounds		
Peachestons	1,062.5	
Pearstons	940.7	
Prunes, dried (California)tons	130.0	
Prunes and plums (excludes California)tons	12.9	
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California)pounds	1,950,000	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon)tons	39	
Pecans, in-shellpounds	271,400	
Walnuts, in-shell (California)tons	461	
Maple syrupgallons	2,794	

¹ Production years are 2010-2011 and 2011-2012.

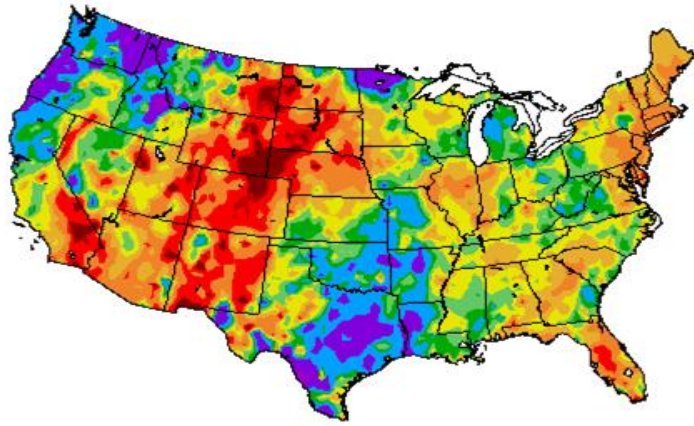
Fruits and Nuts Production – United States: 2011 and 2012 (Metric Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2012 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2011-2012 season. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2011 (metric tons)	2012 (metric tons)
Citrus ¹		
Grapefruit	1,146,680	1,040,540
Lemons	834,610	736,630
Oranges	8,079,390	8,078,480
Tangelos (Florida)	47,170	47,170
Tangerines and mandarins	570,620	547,940
Noncitrus		
Apples	4,277,330	
Apricots	60,460	
Bananas (Hawaii)		
Grapes	6,560,130	
Olives (California)	64,590	
Papayas (Hawaii)		
Peaches	963,920	
Pears	853,410	
Prunes, dried (California)	117,930	
Prunes and plums (excludes California)	11,700	
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California)	884,510	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon)	35,380	
Pecans, in-shell	123,100	
Walnuts, in-shell (California)	418,210	
Maple syrup	13,970	

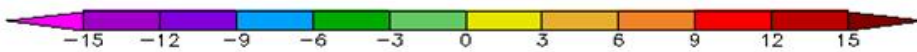
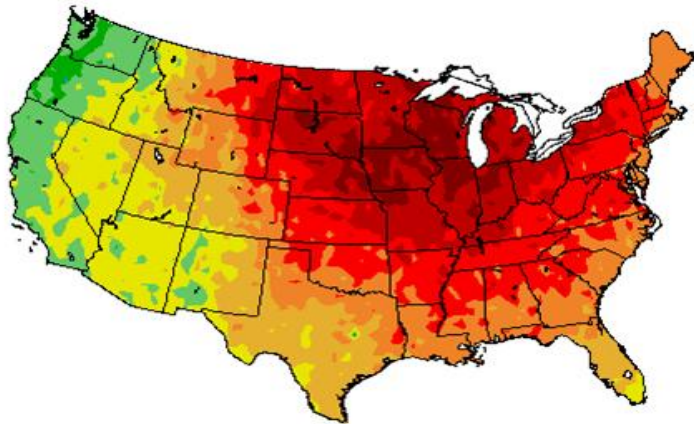
¹ Production years are 2010-2011 and 2011-2012.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
3/1/2012 - 3/31/2012



Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
3/1/2012 - 3/31/2012



Regional Climate Centers

March Weather Summary

The contiguous United States experienced its warmest March, breaking a record set more than a century ago - in 1910. High temperatures were especially dominant east of the Rockies, where every State experienced top-ten warmth for March. In fact, record-setting March warmth affected 25 States from the Plains to the East Coast, including all of the Midwest. Monthly temperatures averaged at least 15 degrees Fahrenheit above normal at numerous Midwestern locations, while below-normal readings were mostly confined to the Pacific Coast States.

Although the Nation as a whole noted its wettest March since 1998, little or no precipitation fell in a broad area stretching from the Southwest to eastern Montana and the western Dakotas. Unusually dry weather also prevailed in the Northeast and across Florida's peninsula. In the latter region, producers utilized irrigation to limit drought stress on blooming citrus and other crops.

In contrast, March storminess approximately doubled the water content of the high-elevation Sierra Nevada snow pack, slightly improving California's water-supply prospects. The middle third of the West, from California to Colorado, had a temporary buffer from developing drought in the form of abundant reservoir supplies. Farther north, areas from the Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies had both abundant high-elevation snow packs and near- to above-average reservoir levels.

East of the Rockies, winter wheat and fruit crops developed several weeks ahead of the normal place, leaving many commodities vulnerable to spring freezes. By March 26-27, the first of several cool snaps arrived in the lower Great Lakes region and the Northeastern States, forcing producers to monitor fruit crops for signs of freeze injury. Meanwhile, unusual warmth persisted through month's end from the Plains into the Southeast.

Elsewhere, March wetness continued to chip away at long-term drought across the south-central United States, while showers provided some beneficial moisture in the Southeast. However, drought-related concerns persisted in several areas, including the southern High Plains and the lower Southeast.

March Agricultural Summary

March delivered warmer than normal temperatures to areas from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic Coast, while near-normal recordings prevailed in the Great Basin and along the Pacific Coast. Most notably, average temperatures pushed the mercury to more than 12 degrees above normal throughout the Great Lakes region, as well as much of the Corn Belt and northern Great Plains, promoting an earlier than normal start to spring fieldwork. Storm systems brought above average precipitation to the Pacific Northwest, Texas, and much of the Delta during the month. Conversely, moisture accumulation was significantly below normal in the Southwest and Rocky Mountains.

Row crop producers in many States were working their fields as March began, cultivating, applying herbicides and fertilizer, and pre-irrigating before planting this year's crops. In portions of the South, corn, cotton, and sorghum were planted early in the month. Rice producers in California were draining fields mid-month, while growers in Texas and parts of the Delta were seeding their fields. Sugarcane growers in Florida and Texas remained busy throughout the month wrapping up the harvest of the 2011 crop. By April 1, corn planting was active in half of the 18 major estimating States, with 3 percent of the Nation's crop in the ground, slightly ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. However, despite the opportunity to plant early, producers in some locations remained hesitant out of concern of a spring freeze.

Warmer than normal temperatures coupled with adequate soil moisture throughout the month provided favorable growing conditions for developing small grain crops in many areas. Winter wheat fields in portions of the southern United States were jointing and heading ahead of the normal pace. Conversely, winter wheat in the High Plains and Trans-Pecos regions of Texas struggled developmentally due to continued dry weather and high winds. Late-month storm systems brought beneficial rain to portions of the central and southern Great Plains, boosting soil moisture levels and improving crop conditions in several major growing regions. However, isolated areas received more than 5 inches of rainfall which led to lowland flooding and increased prevalence of powdery mildew and rust in some fields.

Vegetable growers spent the month harvesting their remaining winter crops, while readying fields and planting spring crops. Watermelons were planted in northern Florida mid-month. Above average temperatures prompted early blooming and budding in a variety of tree fruit, nut, and grape crops, leaving growers concerned about a possible spring freeze. By month's end, pea-sized fruit were evident on Valencia trees in Florida.

Crop Comments

Grapefruit: The 2011-2012 United States grapefruit crop is forecast at 1.15 million tons, up 2 percent from the previous forecast but down 9 percent from last season's revised final utilization. The route survey conducted April 2-3 in Florida showed 97 percent of the white grapefruit rows and 92 percent of the colored grapefruit rows were harvested. California growers have reported favorable growing conditions this year.

Tangerines and mandarins: The United States tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 604,000 tons, down 3 percent from the previous forecast and down 4 percent from the 2010-2011 crop. In Florida, the row count survey showed that 98 percent of Honey tangerines were harvested. Arizona citrus groves are still recovering from last year's freeze. Growers in California's San Joaquin Valley continued to harvest mandarins during March.

Lemons: The forecast for the 2011-2012 United States lemon crop is 812,000 tons, up slightly from the January 1 forecast but down 12 percent from the previous season's revised final utilization. Arizona's lemon crop is up 14 percent from the January 1 forecast but down 68 percent from last season due to damage from a major freeze in February 2011. Harvest continued in California's southern coastal region as well as the San Joaquin Valley.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast is 1.15 million boxes (52,000 tons), unchanged from both the previous forecast and last season's final utilization. Florida's row count survey showed that nearly all of the rows were harvested.

Florida citrus: In the citrus growing areas, weather stations reported temperatures ranging from highs in the 80s to lows in the 40s. Drought conditions persisted throughout the citrus region despite receiving generally light rainfall during March. Harvest of early oranges (Navels and Hamlins), Honey tangerines, and tangelos was nearly complete. Harvest was underway for grapefruit and Valencia oranges. Widespread citrus bloom was heavy with all varieties showing varying stages of bloom. Grove work included irrigation, young tree care, and limited hedging and topping.

Arizona citrus: Groves are still recovering after a devastating freeze last year. The lemon crop was hit the hardest with tangerines also feeling the effects of the cold weather. The weather this spring has been more favorable as the trees begin to bloom.

Texas citrus: Weather conditions have improved in the citrus growing region from last years' extremely dry conditions. Some areas reported freezing temperatures in early February.

California citrus: Harvest of Navel oranges, tangerines, tangelos, and lemons continued. Harvested fruit was packed for export. Harvest of late variety Navel oranges and Valencia oranges began. Cara Cara orange harvest came to an end. Seedless tangerine groves were netted in preparation for the coming bloom.

California noncitrus fruits and nuts: During March, stone fruit and cherry bloom was underway with most growers applying bloom sprays to control fungus. Bees were moved out of almond orchards and into fruit orchards. Pruning of grape and kiwifruit vineyards finished while spraying, irrigating, fertilizing, and repair work continued. Kiwifruit continued to be exported. Pomegranate orchards were pruned. Blueberries were blooming. Strawberry growers prepared their fields for spring production. Apple bloom was underway with trees leafing out. Olive groves were pruned. Almond bloom was complete, with trees leafing out while nuts began to form. Some areas in the Central Valley experienced freezing temperatures during March. Walnuts were beginning to leaf out with early varieties in bloom. Pistachios were breaking bud. Walnuts, almonds, and pistachios continued to be exported.

Spring potatoes: Production for 2012 is forecast at 27.2 million cwt, up 6 percent from 2011. Planted acreage is forecast at 98,200 acres, a 5 percent increase from 2011. Area for harvest is forecast at 95,600 acres, up 4 percent from the previous year. The average yield forecast, at 285 cwt per acre, is up 6 cwt from the previous year.

In California, planting was underway and growers were reporting expectations of an average crop year. In North Carolina and Texas growers reported good crop conditions, although Texas growers indicated high insect pressure.

Summer potatoes: Production in 2011 totaled 13.0 million cwt, unchanged from the previous estimate but fractionally below the previous year's production. Harvested area covered 46,000 acres, unchanged from the previous estimate but 14 percent more than in 2010. Average yield, at 282 cwt per acre, was 39 cwt below the previous season.

Statistical Methodology

Survey procedures: The orange objective yield survey for the April 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which accounts for about 73 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 1.6 percent. However, if you exclude the three abnormal production seasons (one freeze season and two hurricane seasons), the "Root Mean Square Error" is 1.7 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 1.6 percent, or 1.7 percent excluding abnormal seasons. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 2.7 percent, or 2.9 percent, excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the April 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 135,000 tons (145,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 1,000 tons to 368,000 tons regardless of exclusions. The April 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 8 times and above 12 times (below 6 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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