



Crop Production

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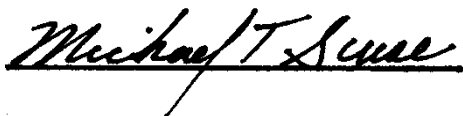
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Orange Production Down 2 Percent from December Forecast

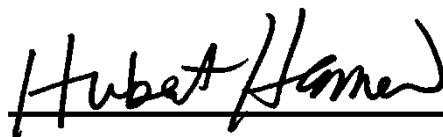
The United States all orange forecast for the 2012-2013 season is 8.83 million tons, down 2 percent from both the previous forecast and the 2011-2012 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 142 million boxes (6.39 million tons), is down 3 percent from both the December forecast and last season's final utilization. Early, midseason, and Navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 66.0 million boxes (2.97 million tons), down 1 percent from the December forecast and down 11 percent from last season. Projected droppage is the highest since the 1969-1970 season while size is projected to be below average. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 76.0 million boxes (3.42 million tons), is down 4 percent from the December forecast but up 5 percent from the 2011-2012 crop.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield forecast for the 2012-2013 season is 1.61 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, unchanged from the December forecast but down 1 percent from last season's final yield of 1.63 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion is projected at 1.50 gallons per box, down 2 percent from last season's yield of 1.53 gallons per box. The Valencia portion is projected at 1.71 gallons per box, 2 percent lower than last year's final yield of 1.75 gallons per box. All projections of yield assume the processing relationships this season will be similar to those of the past several seasons.

This report was approved on January 11, 2013.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Michael T. Scuse



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Hubert Hamer

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Utilized Production of Citrus Fruits by Crop - States and United States: 2011-2012 and Forecasted January 1, 2013

[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 | |
|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2011-2012 (1,000 boxes) | 2012-2013 (1,000 boxes) | 2011-2012 (1,000 tons) | 2012-2013 (1,000 tons) |
| Oranges | | | | |
| Early, mid, and Navel ² | | | | |
| California | 45,500 | 46,500 | 1,820 | 1,860 |
| Florida | 74,200 | 66,000 | 3,339 | 2,970 |
| Texas | 1,108 | 1,220 | 47 | 52 |
| United States | 120,808 | 113,720 | 5,206 | 4,882 |
| Valencia | | | | |
| California | 13,500 | 13,000 | 540 | 520 |
| Florida | 72,400 | 76,000 | 3,258 | 3,420 |
| Texas | 311 | 286 | 13 | 12 |
| United States | 86,211 | 89,286 | 3,811 | 3,952 |
| All | | | | |
| California | 59,000 | 59,500 | 2,360 | 2,380 |
| Florida | 146,600 | 142,000 | 6,597 | 6,390 |
| Texas | 1,419 | 1,506 | 60 | 64 |
| United States | 207,019 | 203,006 | 9,017 | 8,834 |
| Grapefruit | | | | |
| White | | | | |
| Florida | 5,350 | 5,000 | 228 | 213 |
| Colored | | | | |
| Florida | 13,500 | 13,000 | 574 | 553 |
| All | | | | |
| California | 4,400 | 4,000 | 176 | 160 |
| Florida | 18,850 | 18,000 | 802 | 766 |
| Texas | 4,800 | 5,280 | 192 | 211 |
| United States | 28,050 | 27,280 | 1,170 | 1,137 |
| Tangerines and mandarins | | | | |
| Arizona ³ | 200 | 200 | 8 | 8 |
| California ³ | 10,900 | 11,800 | 436 | 472 |
| Florida | 4,290 | 3,800 | 204 | 181 |
| United States | 15,390 | 15,800 | 648 | 661 |
| Lemons | | | | |
| Arizona | 750 | 1,800 | 30 | 72 |
| California | 20,500 | 20,500 | 820 | 820 |
| United States | 21,250 | 22,300 | 850 | 892 |
| Tangelos | | | | |
| Florida | 1,150 | 1,100 | 52 | 50 |

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.

Hay Stocks on Farms – States and United States: May 1 and December 1, 2011 and 2012

| State | May 1 | | December 1 | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | 2011 (1,000 tons) | 2012 (1,000 tons) | 2011 (1,000 tons) | 2012 (1,000 tons) |
| Alabama | 187 | 269 | 1,385 | 1,620 |
| Arizona | 40 | 35 | 250 | 240 |
| Arkansas | 380 | 340 | 1,550 | 1,150 |
| California | 160 | 240 | 1,640 | 1,900 |
| Colorado | 450 | 230 | 1,800 | 1,600 |
| Connecticut | 12 | 12 | 55 | 52 |
| Delaware | 3 | 4 | 13 | 17 |
| Florida | 45 | 42 | 400 | 470 |
| Georgia | 188 | 169 | 800 | 1,200 |
| Idaho | 280 | 700 | 2,000 | 2,100 |
| Illinois | 320 | 300 | 980 | 1,050 |
| Indiana | 225 | 165 | 1,300 | 900 |
| Iowa | 610 | 500 | 2,750 | 1,840 |
| Kansas | 1,000 | 650 | 3,900 | 3,000 |
| Kentucky | 799 | 775 | 3,840 | 3,400 |
| Louisiana | 110 | 70 | 540 | 905 |
| Maine | 23 | 35 | 133 | 127 |
| Maryland | 65 | 80 | 360 | 310 |
| Massachusetts | 10 | 15 | 71 | 81 |
| Michigan | 420 | 360 | 1,500 | 850 |
| Minnesota | 810 | 900 | 3,800 | 2,800 |
| Mississippi | 137 | 251 | 1,486 | 1,365 |
| Missouri | 1,325 | 1,025 | 5,450 | 4,600 |
| Montana | 1,300 | 1,550 | 4,900 | 3,800 |
| Nebraska | 1,335 | 1,070 | 4,275 | 3,050 |
| Nevada | 46 | 238 | 830 | 650 |
| New Hampshire | 6 | 13 | 49 | 49 |
| New Jersey | 17 | 12 | 81 | 119 |
| New Mexico | 100 | 120 | 575 | 600 |
| New York | 273 | 327 | 1,800 | 1,800 |
| North Carolina | 253 | 369 | 1,175 | 1,200 |
| North Dakota | 1,250 | 1,700 | 6,100 | 4,500 |
| Ohio | 390 | 308 | 1,778 | 1,200 |
| Oklahoma | 1,200 | 500 | 2,800 | 2,900 |
| Oregon | 280 | 275 | 2,200 | 1,700 |
| Pennsylvania | 340 | 450 | 1,950 | 1,700 |
| Rhode Island | 1 | 1 | 8 | 7 |
| South Carolina | 110 | 80 | 400 | 440 |
| South Dakota | 1,850 | 2,400 | 8,400 | 4,300 |
| Tennessee | 746 | 716 | 3,101 | 2,700 |
| Texas | 2,500 | 950 | 3,800 | 6,100 |
| Utah | 144 | 350 | 1,420 | 900 |
| Vermont | 48 | 45 | 215 | 200 |
| Virginia | 402 | 900 | 2,500 | 2,300 |
| Washington | 350 | 230 | 1,460 | 1,200 |
| West Virginia | 190 | 285 | 953 | 795 |
| Wisconsin | 1,122 | 925 | 2,653 | 1,810 |
| Wyoming | 365 | 400 | 1,300 | 950 |
| United States | 22,217 | 21,381 | 90,726 | 76,547 |

Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2012 and 2013

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2013 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

| Crop | Area planted | | Area harvested | |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 |
| | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) |
| Grains and hay | | | | |
| Barley | 3,637 | | 3,244 | |
| Corn for grain ¹ | 97,155 | | 87,375 | |
| Corn for silage | (NA) | | 7,379 | |
| Hay, all | (NA) | | 56,260 | |
| Alfalfa | (NA) | | 17,292 | |
| All other | (NA) | | 38,968 | |
| Oats | 2,760 | | 1,045 | |
| Proso millet | 335 | | 205 | |
| Rice | 2,699 | | 2,678 | |
| Rye | 1,300 | | 248 | |
| Sorghum for grain ¹ | 6,244 | | 4,955 | |
| Sorghum for silage | (NA) | | 363 | |
| Wheat, all | 55,736 | | 48,991 | |
| Winter | 41,324 | 41,820 | 34,834 | |
| Durum | 2,123 | | 2,102 | |
| Other spring | 12,289 | | 12,055 | |
| Oilseeds | | | | |
| Canola | 1,765.0 | | 1,729.0 | |
| Cottonseed | (X) | | (X) | |
| Flaxseed | 344 | | 336 | |
| Mustard seed | 51.1 | | 49.7 | |
| Peanuts | 1,638.0 | | 1,608.0 | |
| Rapeseed | 2.2 | | 2.1 | |
| Safflower | 169.8 | | 160.1 | |
| Soybeans for beans | 77,198 | | 76,104 | |
| Sunflower | 1,919.0 | | 1,841.0 | |
| Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops | | | | |
| Cotton, all | 12,315.4 | | 9,426.8 | |
| Upland | 12,077.0 | | 9,190.0 | |
| American Pima | 238.4 | | 236.8 | |
| Sugarbeets | 1,230.1 | | 1,204.2 | |
| Sugarcane | (NA) | | 899.0 | |
| Tobacco | (NA) | | 336.2 | |
| Dry beans, peas, and lentils | | | | |
| Austrian winter peas | 19.0 | | 13.7 | |
| Dry edible beans | 1,742.5 | | 1,690.4 | |
| Dry edible peas | 649.0 | | 621.0 | |
| Lentils | 463.0 | | 450.0 | |
| Wrinkled seed peas | (NA) | | (NA) | |
| Potatoes and miscellaneous | | | | |
| Coffee (Hawaii) | (NA) | | 6.1 | |
| Hops | (NA) | | 31.9 | |
| Peppermint oil | (NA) | | 76.0 | |
| Potatoes, all | 1,148.3 | | 1,132.7 | |
| Spring | 96.8 | | 94.6 | |
| Summer | 49.8 | | 48.5 | |
| Fall | 1,001.7 | | 989.6 | |
| Spearmint oil | (NA) | | 20.0 | |
| Sweet potatoes | 130.5 | | 126.6 | |
| Taro (Hawaii) ² | (NA) | | 0.4 | |

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Domestic Units – United States:
2012 and 2013 (continued)**

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2013 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

| Crop | Yield per acre | | Production | |
|---|----------------|-------|------------|---------|
| | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 |
| | | | (1,000) | (1,000) |
| Grains and hay | | | | |
| Barley | bushels | 67.9 | 220,284 | |
| Corn for grain | bushels | 123.4 | 10,780,296 | |
| Corn for silage | tons | 15.4 | 113,450 | |
| Hay, all | tons | 2.13 | 119,878 | |
| Alfalfa | tons | 3.01 | 52,049 | |
| All other | tons | 1.74 | 67,829 | |
| Oats | bushels | 61.3 | 64,024 | |
| Proso millet | bushels | 15.1 | 3,090 | |
| Rice ³ | cwt | 7,449 | 199,479 | |
| Rye | bushels | 28.0 | 6,944 | |
| Sorghum for grain | bushels | 49.8 | 246,932 | |
| Sorghum for silage | tons | 11.4 | 4,135 | |
| Wheat, all | bushels | 46.3 | 2,269,117 | |
| Winter | bushels | 47.2 | 1,645,202 | |
| Durum | bushels | 39.0 | 81,956 | |
| Other spring | bushels | 45.0 | 541,959 | |
| Oilseeds | | | | |
| Canola | pounds | 1,416 | 2,447,410 | |
| Cottonseed | tons | (X) | 5,759.0 | |
| Flaxseed | bushels | 17.1 | 5,762 | |
| Mustard seed | pounds | 602 | 29,930 | |
| Peanuts | pounds | 4,192 | 6,741,400 | |
| Rapeseed | pounds | 2,205 | 4,630 | |
| Safflower | pounds | 1,121 | 179,424 | |
| Soybeans for beans | bushels | 39.6 | 3,014,998 | |
| Sunflower | pounds | 1,513 | 2,785,695 | |
| Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops | | | | |
| Cotton, all ³ | bales | 866 | 17,009.9 | |
| Upland ³ | bales | 849 | 16,250.0 | |
| American Pima ³ | bales | 1,540 | 759.9 | |
| Sugarbeets | tons | 29.3 | 35,236 | |
| Sugarcane | tons | 36.3 | 32,637 | |
| Tobacco | pounds | 2,268 | 762,441 | |
| Dry beans, peas, and lentils | | | | |
| Austrian winter peas ³ | cwt | 1,219 | 167 | |
| Dry edible beans ³ | cwt | 1,889 | 31,925 | |
| Dry edible peas ³ | cwt | 1,751 | 10,872 | |
| Lentils ³ | cwt | 1,178 | 5,302 | |
| Wrinkled seed peas | cwt | (NA) | 406 | |
| Potatoes and miscellaneous | | | | |
| Coffee (Hawaii) | pounds | 1,180 | 7,200 | |
| Hops | pounds | 1,918 | 61,249.2 | |
| Peppermint oil | pounds | 87 | 6,605 | |
| Potatoes, all | cwt | 412 | 467,126 | |
| Spring | cwt | 283 | 26,736 | |
| Summer | cwt | 368 | 17,855 | |
| Fall | cwt | 427 | 422,535 | |
| Spearmint oil | pounds | 120 | 2,390 | |
| Sweet potatoes | cwt | 209 | 26,482 | |
| Taro (Hawaii) | pounds | (NA) | 3,400 | |

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Area planted for all purposes.

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

³ Yield in pounds.

Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Metric Units – United States: 2012 and 2013

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2013 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

| Crop | Area planted | | Area harvested | |
|---|--------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 |
| | (hectares) | (hectares) | (hectares) | (hectares) |
| Grains and hay | | | | |
| Barley | 1,471,860 | | 1,312,810 | |
| Corn for grain ¹ | 39,317,660 | | 35,359,790 | |
| Corn for silage | (NA) | | 2,986,210 | |
| Hay, all ² | (NA) | | 22,767,860 | |
| Alfalfa | (NA) | | 6,997,900 | |
| All other | (NA) | | 15,769,960 | |
| Oats | 1,116,940 | | 422,900 | |
| Proso millet | 135,570 | | 82,960 | |
| Rice | 1,092,260 | | 1,083,760 | |
| Rye | 526,100 | | 100,360 | |
| Sorghum for grain ¹ | 2,526,880 | | 2,005,240 | |
| Sorghum for silage | (NA) | | 146,900 | |
| Wheat, all ² | 22,555,800 | | 19,826,170 | |
| Winter | 16,723,410 | 16,924,140 | 14,096,970 | |
| Durum | 859,160 | | 850,660 | |
| Other spring | 4,973,240 | | 4,878,540 | |
| Oilseeds | | | | |
| Canola | 714,280 | | 699,710 | |
| Cottonseed | (X) | | (X) | |
| Flaxseed | 139,210 | | 135,980 | |
| Mustard seed | 20,680 | | 20,110 | |
| Peanuts | 662,880 | | 650,740 | |
| Rapeseed | 890 | | 850 | |
| Safflower | 68,720 | | 64,790 | |
| Soybeans for beans | 31,241,260 | | 30,798,530 | |
| Sunflower | 776,600 | | 745,030 | |
| Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops | | | | |
| Cotton, all ² | 4,983,920 | | 3,814,930 | |
| Upland | 4,887,440 | | 3,719,100 | |
| American Pima | 96,480 | | 95,830 | |
| Sugarbeets | 497,810 | | 487,330 | |
| Sugarcane | (NA) | | 363,820 | |
| Tobacco | (NA) | | 136,070 | |
| Dry beans, peas, and lentils | | | | |
| Austrian winter peas | 7,690 | | 5,540 | |
| Dry edible beans | 705,170 | | 684,090 | |
| Dry edible peas | 262,640 | | 251,310 | |
| Lentils | 187,370 | | 182,110 | |
| Wrinkled seed peas | (NA) | | (NA) | |
| Potatoes and miscellaneous | | | | |
| Coffee (Hawaii) | (NA) | | 2,470 | |
| Hops | (NA) | | 12,920 | |
| Peppermint oil | (NA) | | 30,760 | |
| Potatoes, all ² | 464,710 | | 458,390 | |
| Spring | 39,170 | | 38,280 | |
| Summer | 20,150 | | 19,630 | |
| Fall | 405,380 | | 400,480 | |
| Spearmint oil | (NA) | | 8,090 | |
| Sweet potatoes | 52,810 | | 51,230 | |
| Taro (Hawaii) ³ | (NA) | | 160 | |

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Metric Units – United States:
2012 and 2013 (continued)**

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2013 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

| Crop | Yield per hectare | | Production | |
|---|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 |
| | (metric tons) | (metric tons) | (metric tons) | (metric tons) |
| Grains and hay | | | | |
| Barley | 3.65 | | 4,796,120 | |
| Corn for grain | 7.74 | | 273,832,130 | |
| Corn for silage | 34.47 | | 102,920,110 | |
| Hay, all ² | 4.78 | | 108,751,490 | |
| Alfalfa | 6.75 | | 47,218,060 | |
| All other | 3.90 | | 61,533,430 | |
| Oats | 2.20 | | 929,310 | |
| Proso millet | 0.84 | | 70,080 | |
| Rice | 8.35 | | 9,048,220 | |
| Rye | 1.76 | | 176,390 | |
| Sorghum for grain | 3.13 | | 6,272,360 | |
| Sorghum for silage | 25.54 | | 3,751,210 | |
| Wheat, all ² | 3.11 | | 61,755,240 | |
| Winter | 3.18 | | 44,775,060 | |
| Durum | 2.62 | | 2,230,480 | |
| Other spring | 3.02 | | 14,749,710 | |
| Oilseeds | | | | |
| Canola | 1.59 | | 1,110,130 | |
| Cottonseed | (X) | | 5,224,480 | |
| Flaxseed | 1.08 | | 146,360 | |
| Mustard seed | 0.67 | | 13,580 | |
| Peanuts | 4.70 | | 3,057,850 | |
| Rapeseed | 2.47 | | 2,100 | |
| Safflower | 1.26 | | 81,390 | |
| Soybeans for beans | 2.66 | | 82,054,800 | |
| Sunflower | 1.70 | | 1,263,570 | |
| Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops | | | | |
| Cotton, all ² | 0.97 | | 3,703,470 | |
| Upland | 0.95 | | 3,538,020 | |
| American Pima | 1.73 | | 165,450 | |
| Sugarbeets | 65.59 | | 31,965,560 | |
| Sugarcane | 81.38 | | 29,607,790 | |
| Tobacco | 2.54 | | 345,840 | |
| Dry beans, peas, and lentils | | | | |
| Austrian winter peas | 1.37 | | 7,570 | |
| Dry edible beans | 2.12 | | 1,448,090 | |
| Dry edible peas | 1.96 | | 493,150 | |
| Lentils | 1.32 | | 240,490 | |
| Wrinkled seed peas | (NA) | | 18,420 | |
| Potatoes and miscellaneous | | | | |
| Coffee (Hawaii) | 1.32 | | 3,270 | |
| Hops | 2.15 | | 27,780 | |
| Peppermint oil | 0.10 | | 3,000 | |
| Potatoes, all ² | 46.22 | | 21,188,480 | |
| Spring | 31.68 | | 1,212,720 | |
| Summer | 41.26 | | 809,890 | |
| Fall | 47.86 | | 19,165,870 | |
| Spearmint oil | 0.13 | | 1,080 | |
| Sweet potatoes | 23.45 | | 1,201,200 | |
| Taro (Hawaii) | (NA) | | 1,540 | |

(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.

Fruits and Nuts Production – United States: 2012 and 2013 (Domestic Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2013 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2012-2013 season. Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

| Crop | Production | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 2012 (1,000) | 2013 (1,000) |
| Citrus ¹ | | |
| Grapefruit | 1,170 | 1,137 |
| Lemons | 850 | 892 |
| Oranges | 9,017 | 8,834 |
| Tangelos (Florida) | 52 | 50 |
| Tangerines and mandarins | 648 | 661 |
| Noncitrus | | |
| Apples | 8,065.7 | |
| Apricots | 67.8 | |
| Bananas (Hawaii) | | |
| Grapes | 7,296.8 | |
| Olives (California) | | |
| Papayas (Hawaii) | | |
| Peaches | 1,023.3 | |
| Pears | 878.5 | |
| Prunes, dried (California) | | |
| Prunes and plums (excludes California) | | |
| Nuts and miscellaneous | | |
| Almonds, shelled (California) | 2,100,000 | |
| Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon) | 40.0 | |
| Pecans, in-shell | 308,600 | |
| Walnuts, in-shell (California) | 470 | |
| Maple syrup | 1,908 | |

¹ Production years are 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

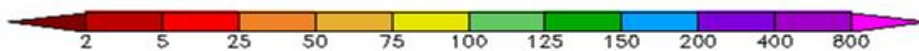
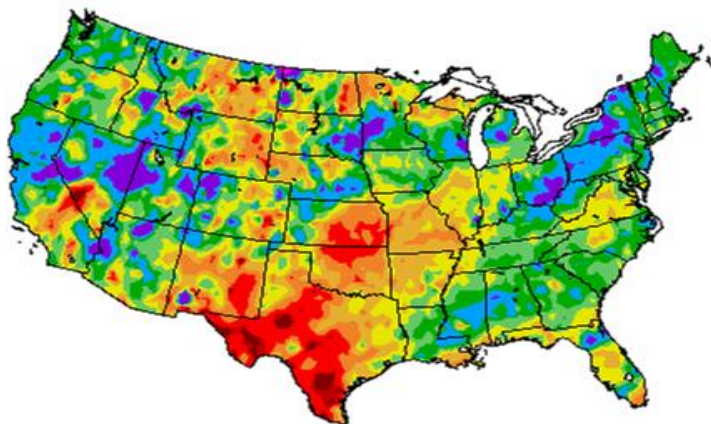
Fruits and Nuts Production – United States: 2012 and 2013 (Metric Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2013 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2012-2013 season. Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

| Crop | Production | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | 2012 (metric tons) | 2013 (metric tons) |
| Citrus ¹ | | |
| Grapefruit | 1,061,410 | 1,031,470 |
| Lemons | 771,110 | 809,210 |
| Oranges | 8,180,080 | 8,014,070 |
| Tangelos (Florida) | 47,170 | 45,360 |
| Tangerines and mandarins | 587,860 | 599,650 |
| Noncitrus | | |
| Apples | 3,658,540 | |
| Apricots | 61,490 | |
| Bananas (Hawaii) | | |
| Grapes | 6,619,550 | |
| Olives (California) | | |
| Papayas (Hawaii) | | |
| Peaches | 928,320 | |
| Pears | 796,960 | |
| Prunes, dried (California) | | |
| Prunes and plums (excludes California) | | |
| Nuts and miscellaneous | | |
| Almonds, shelled (California) | 952,540 | |
| Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon) | 36,290 | |
| Pecans, in-shell | 139,980 | |
| Walnuts, in-shell (California) | 426,380 | |
| Maple syrup | 9,540 | |

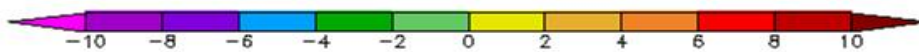
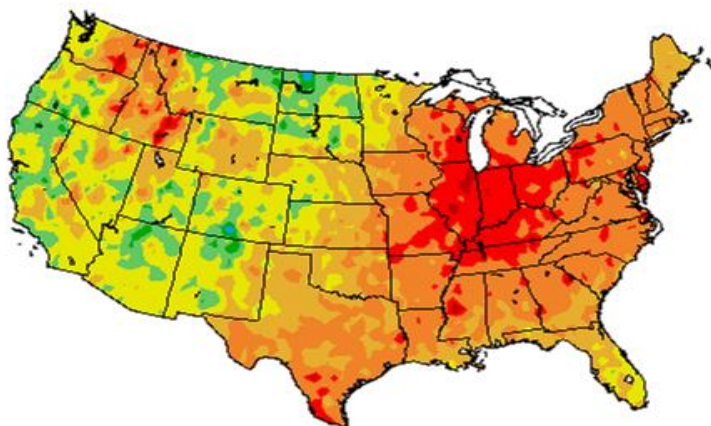
¹ Production years are 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
12/1/2012 - 12/31/2012



Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
12/1/2012 - 12/31/2012



Regional Climate Centers

December Weather Summary

Despite occasional December precipitation across the Nation's mid-section, hard red winter wheat conditions remained mostly steady or declined due to poor crop establishment and acute soil moisture shortages. In addition, drought intensified across southern portions of the Plains, especially from southern Texas into eastern Kansas. By December 30, the portion of the Plains' wheat rated in very poor to poor condition included 61 percent in Oklahoma, 49 percent in Nebraska, and 31 percent in Kansas. However, enough snow fell across the northern and central Plains to provide some degree of insulation from temperatures that locally and periodically fell to -10 degrees Fahrenheit or lower.

In contrast, significant precipitation fell in much of the soft red winter wheat belt, particularly across the Ohio Valley. As a result, most of the wheat continued to thrive across the Mid-South and lower Midwest. By month's end, 70 percent of the Illinois wheat crop was rated good to excellent. In both the Ohio Valley and the upper Midwest, enough of December's precipitation fell in the frozen form to establish a substantial snow cover.

Meanwhile, widespread precipitation also fell in much of the East, although rain was spotty across Florida. Some of the heaviest precipitation, relative to normal, fell across the Northeast and from the central Gulf Coast into the southern Appalachians.

Elsewhere, much of the West experienced unsettled weather during December. Precipitation was especially heavy from northern California into the Intermountain West. For example, the average water content of the high-elevation Sierra Nevada snow pack increased by 10 inches during the month, reaching 14 inches (137 percent of normal) by the end of December.

The Nation's winter agricultural regions escaped significant freezes during December, although there were several chilly mornings - particularly from December 19-21 - in California and the Desert Southwest. Florida's coldest morning, for the most part, occurred on December 23. Overall, December temperatures were highly variable in the West but mostly above normal across the eastern half of the Nation. Western temperatures were influenced by snow cover, mainly in parts of the Intermountain region.

December Agricultural Summary

Temperatures from the Great Plains eastward were well above normal during December, allowing producers with unharvested crops additional time to complete fieldwork while aiding the establishment of winter wheat. Most notably, temperatures for an area centered over the eastern Corn Belt and Ohio Valley averaged more than 6 degrees above normal. In the West, monthly temperatures were near-normal. Precipitation totals for the Nation varied drastically during the December. Much of the southern Great Plains accumulated rain and snow totaling less than 25 percent of normal, while portions of Great Basin and Northeast received more than 200 percent of their normal precipitation.

In the South, a variety of producer activities were ongoing throughout the month. Barley and Durum wheat were sown in Arizona, as cotton producers finished harvesting their crop. Growers in Texas readied fields for spring planting following the completion of cotton harvesting and small grain seeding. Elsewhere, general equipment and field maintenance was completed as conditions allowed. Fruit and vegetable producers in the major producing States harvested and shipped a variety of crops throughout the month, with replanting ongoing as conditions allowed.

Unfavorably dry conditions led to further deterioration of winter wheat in some areas. By December 30, the portion of the Plains' wheat rated in very poor to poor condition included 61 percent in Oklahoma, 49 percent in Nebraska, and 31 percent in Kansas. Conversely, increased moisture in areas of the Corn Belt benefitted not only winter wheat, but helped to somewhat replenish soil moisture levels as producers begin to plan for the 2013 crop season.

Crop Comments

Grapefruit: The 2012-2013 United States grapefruit crop is forecast at 1.14 million tons, unchanged from the December forecast but down 3 percent from last season's final utilization. In Florida, droppage is expected to be above average for both white and colored grapefruit, while the average size is projected to be smaller than normal for both types.

Lemons: The forecast for the 2012-2013 United States lemon crop is 892,000 tons, up slightly from the October forecast and up 5 percent from last season's final utilization. Arizona's lemon crop is forecast to be up 140 percent from last season's freeze reduced crop. Lemon harvest continued in both Arizona and California.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast is 1.10 million boxes (50,000 tons), unchanged from the December forecast but down 4 percent from last season's final utilization. Fruit size is projected to be below average with above average droppage.

Tangerines and mandarins: The United States tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 661,000 tons, unchanged from the December forecast but up 2 percent from last season's final utilization. In Florida, sizes for all varieties of tangerines are expected to be below average with above average droppage.

Florida citrus: In the citrus growing areas, weather stations reported high temperatures ranging from the mid 70s to low 80s. Lows reached the low 30's in places, but avoided fruit damaging levels. Rainfall was moderate, but widespread across the citrus producing region for most of the month. Harvesting of early and mid oranges and grapefruit was well underway. Harvesting, mowing, and general grove maintenance were the primary grove activities.

California citrus: The citrus crop was not affected by the late December cold snap. Satsuma mandarin, Owari, and Clementine tangerine harvests continued. Navel orange harvest also continued as the cooler weather improved external maturity. Cara Cara orange, hybrid grapefruit, lime, and lemon harvests were ongoing.

California noncitrus fruits and nuts: Asian pear and Fuyu and Hachiya persimmon harvests were completed in December. Pineapple quinces, figs, and apples continued to be harvested. Early Wonderful and Wonderful pomegranate varieties as well as kiwi harvest were finished. Table and wine grape harvests were complete. Grapevines were dormant and pruning was ongoing. The olive harvest was complete in the Southern San Joaquin Valley.

The harvest of walnuts was complete and groves were being irrigated, pruned and sprayed. Nut crops were being sprayed with dormant sprays. Bees were being brought in from out of state in preparation for almond bloom.

Hay stocks on farms: All hay stored on farms December 1, 2012 totaled 76.5 million tons, down 16 percent from a year ago. This is the lowest December 1 stocks level since 1957. Disappearance from May 1, 2012 - December 1, 2012 totaled 64.7 million tons, compared with 62.7 million tons for the same period a year ago.

Compared with last year, hay stocks as a percent of production decreased throughout much of the western United States. Prolonged dryness coupled with hot temperatures stifled not only pasture and range growth, but growth of alfalfa fields as well. As a result, overall hay production was negatively impacted in many States. In addition, livestock producers were forced to feed their herds earlier than normal due to the diminished availability of native feedstuffs.

Elsewhere, the increase in on-farm stocks as a percent of production across much of the Northern Tier resulted mostly from producers holding a larger portion of their 2011 hay crop in storage due to an unusually mild winter and earlier availability of spring pastures. Similarly, hay stock levels were higher than last year in many Atlantic Coast States.

Statistical Methodology

Survey procedures: The orange objective yield survey for the January 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which produces about 72 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 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 conducts an objective measurement survey in September for navel oranges and in March for Valencia oranges.

Estimating procedures: State level objective yield estimates for Florida oranges were reviewed for errors, reasonableness, and consistency with historical estimates. Reports from growers and packers in 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 January 1 forecast.

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

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

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1 orange production forecast is 3.1 percent regardless if you exclude the three abnormal production years (one freeze season and two hurricane seasons). 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 3.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.3 percent regardless of whether abnormal seasons are excluded.

Changes between the January 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 279,000 tons regardless of whether abnormal seasons are excluded, ranging from 13,000 tons to 638,000 tons regardless of exclusions. The January 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 8 times and above 12 times (below 8 times and above 9 times, excluding abnormal seasons). The difference does not imply that the January 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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|--|----------------|
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| Angie Considine – Peanuts, Rice | (202) 720-7688 |
| Steve Maliszewski – Cotton, Cotton Ginnings, Sorghum..... | (202) 720-5944 |
| Anthony Prillaman – Corn, Flaxseed, Proso Millet | (202) 720-9526 |
| Julie Schmidt – Crop Weather, Barley, Hay | (202) 720-7621 |
| Travis Thorson – Soybeans, Sunflower, Other Oilseeds..... | (202) 720-7369 |
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| Fred Granja – Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Plums, Prunes, Tobacco | (202) 720-4288 |
| Chris Hawthorn – Citrus, Coffee, Grapes, Sugar Crops, Tropical Fruits..... | (202) 720-5412 |
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| Dan Norris – Austrian Winter Peas, Dry Edible Peas, Lentils, Mint, Mushrooms, Peaches, Pears, Wrinkled Seed Peas, Dry Beans | (202) 720-3250 |
| Daphne Schauber – Berries, Cranberries, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes | (202) 720-4285 |
| Erika White – Floriculture, Maple Syrup, Nursery, Tree Nuts | (202) 720-4215 |

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