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Released April 10, 2013, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## Orange Production Down 1 Percent from March

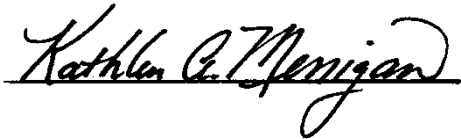
**The United States all orange** forecast for the 2012-2013 season is 8.60 million tons, down 1 percent from the previous forecast and down 4 percent from the revised 2011-2012 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 138 million boxes (6.21 million tons), is down 1 percent from the March forecast and down 6 percent from last season's revised final utilization. Early, midseason, and Navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 67.0 million boxes (3.02 million tons), unchanged from the March forecast but down 10 percent from last season. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 71.0 million boxes (3.20 million tons), is down 1 percent from the March forecast and down 2 percent from last season's revised final utilization. Drought conditions persisted in Florida during March.

The California all orange forecast is 58.0 million boxes (2.32 million tons), down 2 percent from the previous forecast and down 1 percent from last season's revised final utilization. The California Navel orange forecast is 45.5 million boxes (1.82 million tons), down 2 percent from the previous forecast but unchanged from last season. The California Valencia orange forecast is 12.5 million boxes (500,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but down 4 percent from last season's revised final utilization. Harvest of Navel oranges continued during March, while Valencia orange harvest began. The Texas all orange forecast, at 1.56 million boxes (67,000 tons), is up 3 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 2012-2013 season is 1.61 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, unchanged from the March forecast but down 1 percent from last season's final yield of 1.63 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion is final at 1.51 gallons per box, down 1 percent from last season's final 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.

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This report was approved on April 10, 2013.



Acting Secretary of  
Agriculture  
Kathleen A. Merrigan



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 April 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 <sup>1</sup>		Utilized production ton equivalent	
	2011-2012 (1,000 boxes)	2012-2013 (1,000 boxes)	2011-2012 (1,000 tons)	2012-2013 (1,000 tons)
<b>Oranges</b>				
Early, mid, and Navel <sup>2</sup>				
California .....	45,500	45,500	1,820	1,820
Florida .....	74,200	67,000	3,339	3,015
Texas .....	1,108	1,260	47	54
United States .....	120,808	113,760	5,206	4,889
Valencia				
California .....	13,000	12,500	520	500
Florida .....	72,500	71,000	3,263	3,195
Texas .....	311	295	13	13
United States .....	85,811	83,795	3,796	3,708
All				
California .....	58,500	58,000	2,340	2,320
Florida .....	146,700	138,000	6,602	6,210
Texas .....	1,419	1,555	60	67
United States .....	206,619	197,555	9,002	8,597
<b>Grapefruit</b>				
White				
Florida .....	5,350	4,500	228	191
Colored				
Florida .....	13,500	12,500	574	531
All				
California .....	4,000	4,100	160	164
Florida .....	18,850	17,000	802	722
Texas .....	4,800	5,500	192	220
United States .....	27,650	26,600	1,154	1,106
<b>Tangerines and mandarins</b>				
Arizona <sup>3</sup> .....	200	200	8	8
California <sup>3</sup> .....	10,900	13,500	436	540
Florida .....	4,290	3,500	204	166
United States .....	15,390	17,200	648	714
<b>Lemons</b>				
Arizona .....	750	1,800	30	72
California .....	20,500	20,000	820	800
United States .....	21,250	21,800	850	872
<b>Tangelos</b>				
Florida .....	1,150	1,000	52	45

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Includes tangelos and tangors.

## 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)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	3,637	3,634	3,244	
Corn for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	97,155	97,282	87,375	
Corn for silage .....	(NA)		7,379	
Hay, all .....	(NA)	(NA)	56,260	56,419
Alfalfa .....	(NA)		17,292	
All other .....	(NA)		38,968	
Oats .....	2,760	2,901	1,045	
Proso millet .....	335		205	
Rice .....	2,699	2,611	2,678	
Rye .....	1,300		248	
Sorghum for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	6,244	7,620	4,955	
Sorghum for silage .....	(NA)		363	
Wheat, all .....	55,736	56,440	48,991	
Winter .....	41,324	41,988	34,834	
Durum .....	2,123	1,751	2,102	
Other spring .....	12,289	12,701	12,055	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola .....	1,765.0	1,653.7	1,729.0	
Cottonseed .....	(X)	(X)	(X)	
Flaxseed .....	344	272	336	
Mustard seed .....	51.1		49.7	
Peanuts .....	1,638.0	1,191.0	1,608.0	
Rapeseed .....	2.2		2.1	
Safflower .....	169.8		160.1	
Soybeans for beans .....	77,198	77,126	76,104	
Sunflower .....	1,919.0	1,684.0	1,841.0	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all .....	12,315.4	10,026.0	9,426.8	
Upland .....	12,077.0	9,820.0	9,190.0	
American Pima .....	238.4	206.0	236.8	
Sugarbeets .....	1,230.1	1,201.1	1,204.2	
Sugarcane .....	(NA)		896.0	
Tobacco .....	(NA)	(NA)	336.2	349.6
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas .....	19.0	19.0	13.7	
Dry edible beans .....	1,742.5	1,500.0	1,690.4	
Dry edible peas .....	649.0	850.0	621.0	
Lentils .....	463.0	335.0	450.0	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	(NA)		(NA)	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
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	74.9	94.6	
Summer .....	49.8		48.5	
Fall .....	1,001.7		989.6	
Spearmint oil .....	(NA)		20.0	
Sweet potatoes .....	130.5	122.3	126.6	
Taro (Hawaii) <sup>2</sup> .....	(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)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
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 <sup>3</sup> .....	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	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
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	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all <sup>3</sup> .....	bales	866	17,009.9	
Upland <sup>3</sup> .....	bales	849	16,250.0	
American Pima <sup>3</sup> .....	bales	1,540	759.9	
Sugarbeets .....	tons	29.3	35,236	
Sugarcane .....	tons	35.9	32,179	
Tobacco .....	pounds	2,268	762,441	
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas <sup>3</sup> .....	cwt	1,219	167	
Dry edible beans <sup>3</sup> .....	cwt	1,889	31,925	
Dry edible peas <sup>3</sup> .....	cwt	1,751	10,872	
Lentils <sup>3</sup> .....	cwt	1,178	5,302	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	cwt	(NA)	406	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
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.

<sup>1</sup> Area planted for all purposes.

<sup>2</sup> Area is total acres in crop, not harvested acres.

<sup>3</sup> 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)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	1,471,860	1,470,640	1,312,810	
Corn for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	39,317,660	39,369,050	35,359,790	
Corn for silage .....	(NA)		2,986,210	
Hay, all <sup>2</sup> .....	(NA)	(NA)	22,767,860	22,832,210
Alfalfa .....	(NA)		6,997,900	
All other .....	(NA)		15,769,960	
Oats .....	1,116,940	1,174,010	422,900	
Proso millet .....	135,570		82,960	
Rice .....	1,092,260	1,056,650	1,083,760	
Rye .....	526,100		100,360	
Sorghum for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	2,526,880	3,083,740	2,005,240	
Sorghum for silage .....	(NA)		146,900	
Wheat, all <sup>2</sup> .....	22,555,800	22,840,700	19,826,170	
Winter .....	16,723,410	16,992,120	14,096,970	
Durum .....	859,160	708,610	850,660	
Other spring .....	4,973,240	5,139,970	4,878,540	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola .....	714,280	669,240	699,710	
Cottonseed .....	(X)	(X)	(X)	
Flaxseed .....	139,210	110,080	135,980	
Mustard seed .....	20,680		20,110	
Peanuts .....	662,880	481,990	650,740	
Rapeseed .....	890		850	
Safflower .....	68,720		64,790	
Soybeans for beans .....	31,241,260	31,212,120	30,798,530	
Sunflower .....	776,600	681,500	745,030	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all <sup>2</sup> .....	4,983,920	4,057,420	3,814,930	
Upland .....	4,887,440	3,974,060	3,719,100	
American Pima .....	96,480	83,370	95,830	
Sugarbeets .....	497,810	486,070	487,330	
Sugarcane .....	(NA)		362,600	
Tobacco .....	(NA)	(NA)	136,070	141,490
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas .....	7,690	7,690	5,540	
Dry edible beans .....	705,170	607,040	684,090	
Dry edible peas .....	262,640	343,990	251,310	
Lentils .....	187,370	135,570	182,110	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	(NA)		(NA)	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
Coffee (Hawaii) .....	(NA)		2,470	
Hops .....	(NA)		12,920	
Peppermint oil .....	(NA)		30,760	
Potatoes, all <sup>2</sup> .....	464,710		458,390	
Spring .....	39,170	30,310	38,280	
Summer .....	20,150		19,630	
Fall .....	405,380		400,480	
Spearmint oil .....	(NA)		8,090	
Sweet potatoes .....	52,810	49,490	51,230	
Taro (Hawaii) <sup>3</sup> .....	(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)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	3.65		4,796,120	
Corn for grain .....	7.74		273,832,130	
Corn for silage .....	34.47		102,920,110	
Hay, all <sup>2</sup> .....	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 <sup>2</sup> .....	3.11		61,755,240	
Winter .....	3.18		44,775,060	
Durum .....	2.62		2,230,480	
Other spring .....	3.02		14,749,710	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
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	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all <sup>2</sup> .....	0.97		3,703,470	
Upland .....	0.95		3,538,020	
American Pima .....	1.73		165,450	
Sugarbeets .....	65.59		31,965,560	
Sugarcane .....	80.51		29,192,300	
Tobacco .....	2.54		345,840	
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
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	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
Coffee (Hawaii) .....	1.32		3,270	
Hops .....	2.15		27,780	
Peppermint oil .....	0.10		3,000	
Potatoes, all <sup>2</sup> .....	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.

<sup>1</sup> Area planted for all purposes.

<sup>2</sup> Total may not add due to rounding.

<sup>3</sup> Area is total hectares in crop, not harvested hectares.

## Fruits and Nuts 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, except citrus which is for the 2012-2013 season. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2012	2013
	(1,000)	(1,000)
<b>Citrus <sup>1</sup></b>		
Grapefruit .....tons	1,154	1,106
Lemons .....tons	850	872
Oranges .....tons	9,002	8,597
Tangelos (Florida) .....tons	52	45
Tangerines and mandarins .....tons	648	714
<b>Noncitrus</b>		
Apples ..... 1,000 pounds	9,061.1	
Apricots .....tons	60.8	
Bananas (Hawaii) .....pounds		
Grapes .....tons	7,343.4	
Olives (California) .....tons	160.0	
Papayas (Hawaii) .....pounds		
Peaches .....tons	978.3	
Pears .....tons	858.2	
Prunes, dried (California) .....tons	125.0	
Prunes and plums (excludes California) .....tons	13.2	
<b>Nuts and miscellaneous</b>		
Almonds, shelled (California) .....pounds	2,000,000	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon) .....tons	34.7	
Pecans, in-shell .....pounds	302,800	
Walnuts, in-shell (California) .....tons	470	
Maple syrup .....gallons	1,908	

<sup>1</sup> Production years are 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

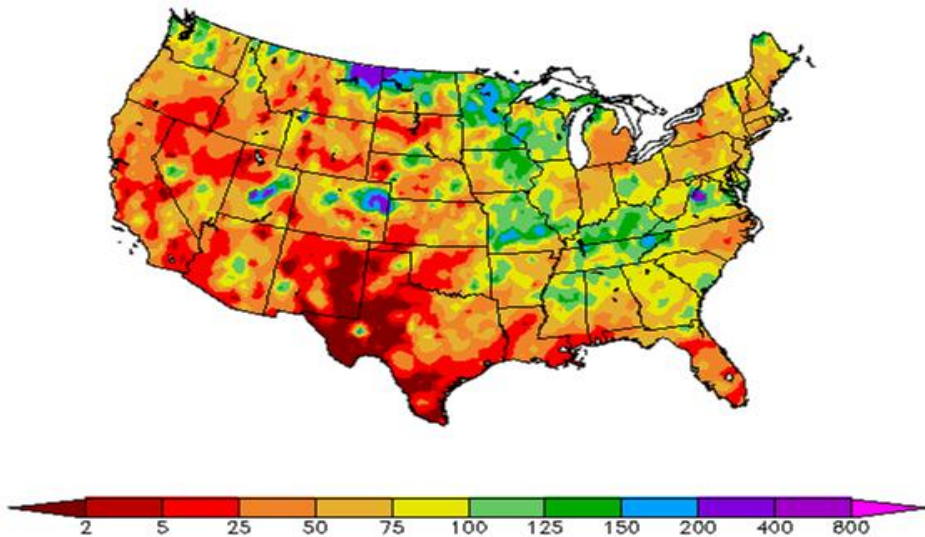
## Fruits and Nuts Production in Metric Units – United States: 2012 and 2013

[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, except citrus which is for the 2012-2013 season. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2012 (metric tons)	2013 (metric tons)
<b>Citrus <sup>1</sup></b>		
Grapefruit .....	1,046,890	1,003,350
Lemons .....	771,110	791,070
Oranges .....	8,166,480	7,799,070
Tangelos (Florida) .....	47,170	40,820
Tangerines and mandarins .....	587,860	647,730
<b>Noncitrus</b>		
Apples .....	4,110,050	
Apricots .....	55,160	
Bananas (Hawaii) .....		
Grapes .....	6,661,820	
Olives (California) .....	145,150	
Papayas (Hawaii) .....		
Peaches .....	887,460	
Pears .....	778,580	
Prunes, dried (California) .....	113,400	
Prunes and plums (excludes California) .....	12,010	
<b>Nuts and miscellaneous</b>		
Almonds, shelled (California) .....	907,180	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon) .....	31,480	
Pecans, in-shell .....	137,350	
Walnuts, in-shell (California) .....	426,380	
Maple syrup .....	9,540	

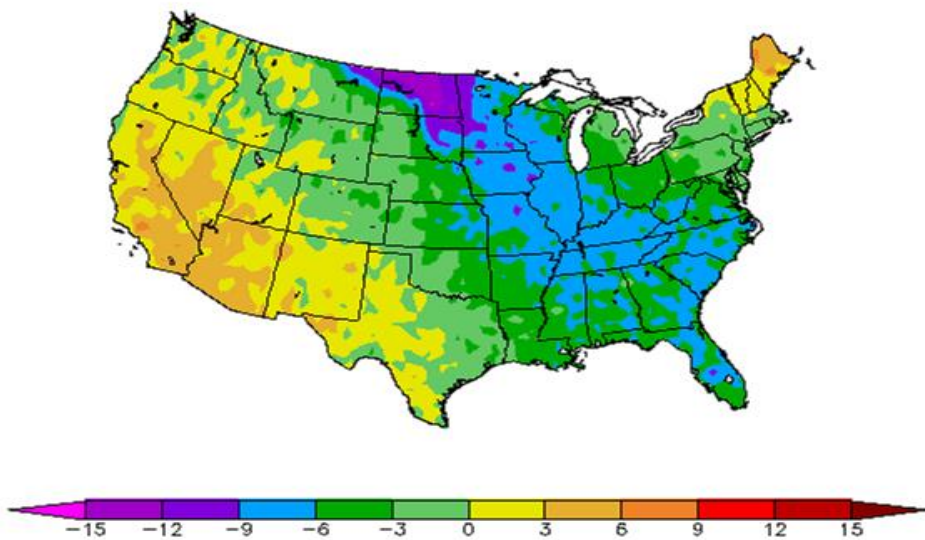
<sup>1</sup> Production years are 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
3/1/2013 - 3/31/2013



Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
3/1/2013 - 3/31/2013



Regional Climate Centers

## March Weather Summary

The persistence of a large high-pressure system over the North Atlantic led to a southward displacement of the polar jet stream across the central and eastern United States. That resulted in a steady delivery of cold, Canadian air, leading to below-normal March temperatures in most areas from the Plains to the East Coast. Monthly temperatures averaged more than 10 degrees Fahrenheit below normal in portions of North Dakota and neighboring areas. In contrast, mild weather covered much of the West, leading to premature melting of high-elevation snow packs; however, the Western warmth also promoted spring fieldwork and crop development.

The North Atlantic blocking high also slowed the normal progression of storm systems, leading to an active pattern in some parts of the country. In particular, significant precipitation fell in several regions, including portions of the northern Plains, Midwest, and Ohio Valley. On several occasions, precipitation fell in the form of late-season snow; however, precipitation largely bypassed several areas, such as the southern Plains, the Gulf Coast region, and parts of the Northeast. Most of the West also experienced drier-than-normal weather, fueling concerns about spring and summer water supplies - especially from California to the central and southern Rockies.

Agricultural highlights included the lack of spring fieldwork in the Midwest - in stark contrast to March 2012 - and continuing stress on rangeland, pastures, and winter wheat from South Dakota to Texas. In parts of the Midwest, temperatures during March 2013 averaged more than 20 degrees Fahrenheit below those observed a year ago. On the central Plains, drought was so deeply entrenched that even a moderately wet March failed to substantially improve subsoil moisture levels or crop conditions. On the southern Plains, a return to dry conditions coupled with late-month freezes, maintained or increased stress on winter wheat. Late-March freezes also struck much of the remainder of the South, threatening emerging summer crops, heading winter wheat, and fruit crops; however, Southern crop development was far behind last year's pace due to persistently cool conditions, helping to reduce the overall threat of freeze injury.

## March Agricultural Summary

Below average March temperatures stretching from the Great Plains eastward led to fields remaining frozen for longer than normal resulting in delays of spring fieldwork for portions of the Great Lakes region and Midwest. Most notably, temperatures in portions of the northern Great Plains fell to more than 9 degrees below normal. Elsewhere, warm conditions in the Southwest provided producers ample time for fruit, vegetable, and hay harvest, as well as spring planting. Precipitation was below average throughout parts of the United States during the month, with much of the southern and western portions of the country receiving moisture totaling less than 50 percent of normal.

Field preparation for row crops was ongoing throughout much of the southern half of the Nation as March began, with producers cultivating fields, applying fertilizers and herbicides, and irrigating fields ahead of planting. In California, rice paddies were drained and leveled, while seeding was underway in Louisiana and Texas by March 17. Sugarcane producers in Florida and Texas were harvesting the remainder of their 2012 crop toward month's end. By March 31, small acreages of most row crops had been planted, but, when compared with last year's early start, the overall planting pace was behind normal in most areas.

Despite an increase in precipitation compared with recent months, soil moisture levels and winter wheat conditions in the central and southern Great Plains failed to show substantial improvement during March. Conversely, irrigated small grain crops across the Southwest were developing well. High winds blew throughout Texas during the month, quickly drying out any available topsoil moisture. On March 31, thirty-four percent of the Nation's winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 33 percent on November 26, 2012 and 58 percent from the same time last year. Throughout much of the Hard Red growing region, soil moisture shortages negatively impacted crop condition during winter dormancy.

## Crop Comments

**Grapefruit:** The 2012-2013 United States grapefruit crop is forecast at 1.11 million tons, up 1 percent from the previous forecast but down 4 percent from last season's revised final utilization. The row count survey conducted in Florida indicated that 72 percent of the white grapefruit and 85 percent of the colored grapefruit rows were harvested.

**Tangerines and mandarins:** The United States tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 714,000 tons, up 9 percent from the previous forecast and up 10 percent from last season's final utilization. In Florida, the row count survey showed that 86 percent of the Honey tangerine rows had been harvested. In California, favorable growing conditions increased the expectation for this year's mandarin crop.

**Lemons:** The forecast for the 2012-2013 United States lemon crop is 872,000 tons, down 2 percent from the previous forecast but up 3 percent from last season's final utilization. In California, lemon harvest was complete in the desert region but continued in the San Joaquin Valley and along the southern coastal region.

**Tangelos:** Florida's tangelo forecast is 1.00 million boxes (45,000 tons), unchanged from the March forecast but down 13 percent from last season's final utilization. Florida's row count survey showed 99 percent of the rows were harvested.

**Florida citrus:** In the citrus growing region, high temperatures for the month ranged from the upper 70s to upper 80s. Rainfall was generally light, worsening the drought conditions in all of the citrus producing regions. Harvest was complete for early and mid oranges and tangelos, and continued for Valencias, grapefruit, and tangerines. Harvesting, fertilizer application, and general grove maintenance were the primary grove activities.

**California citrus:** Harvest continued for navel oranges, lemons, and mandarins. Harvest started for Valencia oranges. Blooms began to emerge on citrus trees. Mandarin trees were netted to prevent cross pollination and ensure seedless fruit.

**California noncitrus fruits and nuts:** Irrigation continued in vineyards and stone fruit orchards. Stone fruit was treated for fire blight. Herbicide applications were made to control weeds. Apricots, nectarines, pluots, plums, and peaches bloomed and leafed out. Fruit was forming on most stone fruit trees. Cherry bloom continued. Grapes leafed out. Apples and pears were leafing out and starting to bloom. Olives continued to be pruned. Harvest of Hass avocados continued. Blueberries were blooming with hot house blueberries being picked. Almond trees bloomed one to two weeks behind normal. Almond trees were leafing out and nutlets were showing on early varieties. Pruning was ongoing in walnut and pistachio orchards. Walnuts were pushing catkins and were treated for blight. Pistachios were showing bud break.

## Statistical Methodology

**Survey procedures:** The orange objective yield survey for the April 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which accounts for 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, 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 years (one freeze season and two hurricane seasons), the "Root Mean Square Error" is 1.7 percent. This means chances are 2 out of 3 that the current orange production forecast will not be above or below the final estimate 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 0 to 368,000 tons regardless of exclusions. The April 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 7 times, above 12 times, and equal to once (below 5 times, above 11 times, and equal to once 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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov)

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