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Released April 9, 2015, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## Orange Production Up Slightly from March Forecast

**The United States all orange** forecast for the 2014-2015 season is 6.68 million tons, up slightly from the previous forecast but down 1 percent from the revised 2013-2014 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 102 million boxes (4.59 million tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but down 3 percent from last season's revised final utilization. Early, midseason, and Navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 47.0 million boxes (2.12 million tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but down 12 percent last season's final utilization. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 55.0 million boxes (2.48 million tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but up 7 percent from last season's revised final utilization.

The California Valencia orange forecast is 10.0 million boxes (400,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but down 7 percent from last season's revised final utilization. The California Navel orange forecast is 40.0 million boxes (1.60 million tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but up 3 percent from last season's revised final utilization. The Texas all orange forecast, at 2.18 million boxes (93,000 tons), is up 8 percent from the previous forecast and up 23 percent from last season's final utilization.

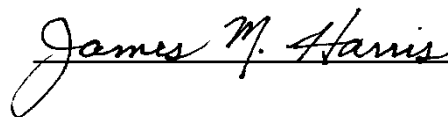
**Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ)** yield forecast for the 2014-2015 season is 1.54 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, down 1 percent from the March forecast and down 2 percent from last season's final yield of 1.57 gallons per box. The non-Valencia portion is finalized at 1.42 gallons per box, down 2 percent from last month and down 7 percent from last season's yield. The Valencia portion is projected at 1.65 gallons, unchanged from last month's forecast but up slightly from last season's final yield of 1.64 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 9, 2015.



Secretary of Agriculture  
Designate  
Karis T. Gutter



Agricultural Statistics Board  
Chairperson  
James M. Harris

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## Utilized Production of Citrus Fruits by Crop – States and United States: 2013-2014 and Forecasted April 1, 2015

[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	
	2013-2014 (1,000 boxes)	2014-2015 (1,000 boxes)	2013-2014 (1,000 tons)	2014-2015 (1,000 tons)
<b>Oranges</b>				
Early, mid, and Navel <sup>2</sup>				
California .....	38,700	40,000	1,548	1,600
Florida .....	53,300	47,000	2,399	2,115
Texas .....	1,400	1,800	60	77
United States .....	93,400	88,800	4,007	3,792
Valencia				
California .....	10,700	10,000	428	400
Florida .....	51,400	55,000	2,313	2,475
Texas .....	376	380	16	16
United States .....	62,476	65,380	2,757	2,891
All				
California .....	49,400	50,000	1,976	2,000
Florida .....	104,700	102,000	4,712	4,590
Texas .....	1,776	2,180	76	93
United States .....	155,876	154,180	6,764	6,683
<b>Grapefruit</b>				
White				
Florida .....	4,150	3,000	176	128
Colored				
Florida .....	11,500	10,000	489	425
All				
California .....	3,850	3,800	154	152
Florida .....	15,650	13,000	665	553
Texas .....	5,700	7,000	228	280
United States .....	25,200	23,800	1,047	985
<b>Tangerines and mandarins</b>				
Arizona <sup>3</sup> .....	200	220	8	9
California <sup>3</sup> .....	14,700	16,000	588	640
Florida .....	2,900	2,300	138	109
United States .....	17,800	18,520	734	758
<b>Lemons</b>				
Arizona .....	1,800	2,150	72	86
California .....	18,800	20,000	752	800
United States .....	20,600	22,150	824	886
<b>Tangelos</b>				
Florida .....	880	700	40	32

<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: 2014 and 2015

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2015 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	2,975	3,258	2,443	
Corn for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	90,597	89,199	83,136	
Corn for silage .....	(NA)		6,371	
Hay, all .....	(NA)	(NA)	57,092	57,093
Alfalfa .....	(NA)		18,445	
All other .....	(NA)		38,647	
Oats .....	2,723	2,931	1,029	
Proso millet .....	505		430	
Rice .....	2,939	2,915	2,919	
Rye .....	1,434		258	
Sorghum for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	7,138	7,900	6,401	
Sorghum for silage .....	(NA)		315	
Wheat, all .....	56,822	55,367	46,381	
Winter .....	42,399	40,751	32,304	
Durum .....	1,398	1,647	1,337	
Other spring .....	13,025	12,969	12,740	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola .....	1,714.0	1,554.0	1,555.7	
Cottonseed .....	(X)	(X)	(X)	
Flaxseed .....	311	401	302	
Mustard seed .....	33.6		31.2	
Peanuts .....	1,354.0	1,481.0	1,325.0	
Rapeseed .....	2.2		2.1	
Safflower .....	181.5		170.2	
Soybeans for beans .....	83,701	84,635	83,061	
Sunflower .....	1,560.8	1,786.0	1,507.6	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all .....	11,037.0	9,549.0	9,707.4	
Upland .....	10,845.0	9,399.0	9,518.0	
American Pima .....	192.0	150.0	189.4	
Sugarbeets .....	1,161.6	1,182.1	1,147.2	
Sugarcane .....	(NA)		874.1	
Tobacco .....	(NA)	(NA)	378.4	345.3
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas .....	24.0	20.0	16.8	
Dry edible beans .....	1,718.9	1,742.9	1,665.7	
Dry edible peas .....	935.0	1,005.0	899.5	
Lentils .....	281.0	385.0	259.0	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	(NA)		(NA)	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
Coffee (Hawaii) .....	(NA)		7.9	
Hops .....	(NA)		38.0	
Peppermint oil .....	(NA)		63.1	
Potatoes, all .....	1,061.1		1,049.5	
Spring .....	73.8	73.0	71.1	
Summer .....	50.4		48.9	
Fall .....	936.9		929.5	
Spearmint oil .....	(NA)		24.4	
Sweet potatoes .....	137.3	137.7	135.2	
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: 2014 and 2015 (continued)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2015 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per acre		Production	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
			(1,000)	(1,000)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	bushels	72.4	176,794	
Corn for grain .....	bushels	171.0	14,215,532	
Corn for silage .....	tons	20.1	128,048	
Hay, all .....	tons	2.45	139,798	
Alfalfa .....	tons	3.33	61,446	
All other .....	tons	2.03	78,352	
Oats .....	bushels	67.7	69,684	
Proso millet .....	bushels	31.4	13,483	
Rice <sup>3</sup> .....	cwt	7,572	221,035	
Rye .....	bushels	27.9	7,189	
Sorghum for grain .....	bushels	67.6	432,575	
Sorghum for silage .....	tons	13.1	4,123	
Wheat, all .....	bushels	43.7	2,025,651	
Winter .....	bushels	42.6	1,377,526	
Durum .....	bushels	39.7	53,087	
Other spring .....	bushels	46.7	595,038	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola .....	pounds	1,614	2,510,995	
Cottonseed .....	tons	(X)	5,314.0	
Flaxseed .....	bushels	21.1	6,368	
Mustard seed .....	pounds	930	29,004	
Peanuts .....	pounds	3,932	5,210,100	
Rapeseed .....	pounds	1,233	2,590	
Safflower .....	pounds	1,226	208,643	
Soybeans for beans .....	bushels	47.8	3,968,823	
Sunflower .....	pounds	1,469	2,214,835	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all <sup>3</sup> .....	bales	795	16,084.0	
Upland <sup>3</sup> .....	bales	781	15,496.0	
American Pima <sup>3</sup> .....	bales	1,490	588.0	
Sugarbeets .....	tons	27.4	31,386	
Sugarcane .....	tons	35.7	31,183	
Tobacco .....	pounds	2,316	876,415	
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas <sup>3</sup> .....	cwt	1,339	225	
Dry edible beans <sup>3</sup> .....	cwt	1,753	29,206	
Dry edible peas <sup>3</sup> .....	cwt	1,907	17,155	
Lentils <sup>3</sup> .....	cwt	1,300	3,367	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	cwt	(NA)	618	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
Coffee (Hawaii) .....	pounds	1,030	8,100	
Hops .....	pounds	1,868	70,995.9	
Peppermint oil .....	pounds	90	5,692	
Potatoes, all .....	cwt	426	446,693	
Spring .....	cwt	318	22,608	
Summer .....	cwt	322	15,756	
Fall .....	cwt	439	408,329	
Spearmint oil .....	pounds	114	2,784	
Sweet potatoes .....	cwt	219	29,584	
Taro (Hawaii) .....	pounds	(NA)	3,240	

(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: 2014 and 2015

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2015 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	1,203,950	1,318,480	988,660	
Corn for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	36,663,700	36,097,940	33,644,310	
Corn for silage .....	(NA)		2,578,280	
Hay, all <sup>2</sup> .....	(NA)	(NA)	23,104,560	23,104,970
Alfalfa .....	(NA)		7,464,510	
All other .....	(NA)		15,640,050	
Oats .....	1,101,970	1,186,150	416,430	
Proso millet .....	204,370		174,020	
Rice .....	1,189,380	1,179,670	1,181,290	
Rye .....	580,330		104,410	
Sorghum for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	2,888,680	3,197,050	2,590,420	
Sorghum for silage .....	(NA)		127,480	
Wheat, all <sup>2</sup> .....	22,995,300	22,406,470	18,769,930	
Winter .....	17,158,450	16,491,520	13,073,110	
Durum .....	565,760	666,520	541,070	
Other spring .....	5,271,090	5,248,420	5,155,750	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola .....	693,640	628,890	629,580	
Cottonseed .....	(X)	(X)	(X)	
Flaxseed .....	125,860	162,280	122,220	
Mustard seed .....	13,600		12,630	
Peanuts .....	547,950	599,350	536,210	
Rapeseed .....	890		850	
Safflower .....	73,450		68,880	
Soybeans for beans .....	33,872,960	34,250,940	33,613,960	
Sunflower .....	631,640	722,780	610,110	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all <sup>2</sup> .....	4,466,560	3,864,380	3,928,490	
Upland .....	4,388,860	3,803,680	3,851,840	
American Pima .....	77,700	60,700	76,650	
Sugarbeets .....	470,090	478,380	464,260	
Sugarcane .....	(NA)		353,740	
Tobacco .....	(NA)	(NA)	153,120	139,730
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas .....	9,710	8,090	6,800	
Dry edible beans .....	695,620	705,330	674,090	
Dry edible peas .....	378,390	406,710	364,020	
Lentils .....	113,720	155,810	104,810	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	(NA)		(NA)	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
Coffee (Hawaii) .....	(NA)		3,200	
Hops .....	(NA)		15,380	
Peppermint oil .....	(NA)		25,540	
Potatoes, all <sup>2</sup> .....	429,420		424,720	
Spring .....	29,870	29,540	28,770	
Summer .....	20,400		19,790	
Fall .....	379,150		376,160	
Spearmint oil .....	(NA)		9,870	
Sweet potatoes .....	55,560	55,730	54,710	
Taro (Hawaii) <sup>3</sup> .....	(NA)		150	

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Metric Units – United States:  
2014 and 2015 (continued)**

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2015 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per hectare		Production	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	3.89		3,849,230	
Corn for grain .....	10.73		361,091,140	
Corn for silage .....	45.05		116,163,190	
Hay, all <sup>2</sup> .....	5.49		126,822,610	
Alfalfa .....	7.47		55,742,870	
All other .....	4.54		71,079,740	
Oats .....	2.43		1,011,460	
Proso millet .....	1.76		305,790	
Rice .....	8.49		10,025,980	
Rye .....	1.75		182,610	
Sorghum for grain .....	4.24		10,987,910	
Sorghum for silage .....	29.34		3,740,320	
Wheat, all <sup>2</sup> .....	2.94		55,129,190	
Winter .....	2.87		37,490,110	
Durum .....	2.67		1,444,790	
Other spring .....	3.14		16,194,280	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola .....	1.81		1,138,970	
Cottonseed .....	(X)		4,820,780	
Flaxseed .....	1.32		161,750	
Mustard seed .....	1.04		13,160	
Peanuts .....	4.41		2,363,260	
Rapeseed .....	1.38		1,170	
Safflower .....	1.37		94,640	
Soybeans for beans .....	3.21		108,013,660	
Sunflower .....	1.65		1,004,630	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all <sup>2</sup> .....	0.89		3,501,880	
Upland .....	0.88		3,373,860	
American Pima .....	1.67		128,020	
Sugarbeets .....	61.33		28,472,900	
Sugarcane .....	79.97		28,288,740	
Tobacco .....	2.60		397,540	
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas .....	1.50		10,180	
Dry edible beans .....	1.97		1,324,760	
Dry edible peas .....	2.14		778,140	
Lentils .....	1.46		152,720	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	(NA)		28,030	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
Coffee (Hawaii) .....	1.15		3,670	
Hops .....	2.09		32,200	
Peppermint oil .....	0.10		2,580	
Potatoes, all <sup>2</sup> .....	47.71		20,261,650	
Spring .....	35.64		1,025,480	
Summer .....	36.11		714,680	
Fall .....	49.24		18,521,490	
Spearmint oil .....	0.13		1,260	
Sweet potatoes .....	24.53		1,341,910	
Taro (Hawaii) .....	(NA)		1,470	

(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: 2014 and 2015

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2015 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2014-2015 season. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2014 (1,000)	2015 (1,000)
<b>Citrus <sup>1</sup></b>		
Grapefruit ..... tons	1,047	985
Lemons ..... tons	824	886
Oranges ..... tons	6,764	6,683
Tangelos (Florida) ..... tons	40	32
Tangerines and mandarins ..... tons	734	758
<b>Noncitrus</b>		
Apples ..... 1,000 pounds	11,251.2	
Apricots ..... tons	64.1	
Bananas (Hawaii) ..... pounds		
Grapes ..... tons	7,769.6	
Olives (California) ..... tons	82.3	
Papayas (Hawaii) ..... pounds		
Peaches ..... tons	846.6	
Pears ..... tons	808.2	
Prunes, dried (California) ..... tons	95.0	
Prunes and plums (excludes California) ..... tons	14.8	
<b>Nuts and miscellaneous</b>		
Almonds, shelled (California) ..... pounds	1,870,000	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon) ..... tons	36.0	
Pecans, in-shell ..... pounds	265,370	
Walnuts, in-shell (California) ..... tons	565.0	
Maple syrup ..... gallons	3,167	

<sup>1</sup> Production years are 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

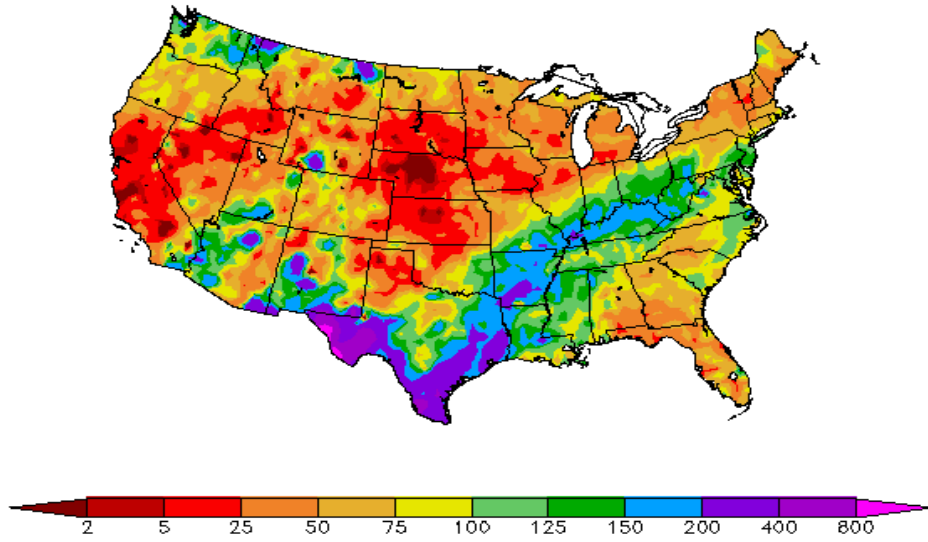
## Fruits and Nuts Production in Metric Units – United States: 2014 and 2015

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2015 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2014-2015 season. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2014 (metric tons)	2015 (metric tons)
<b>Citrus <sup>1</sup></b>		
Grapefruit .....	949,820	893,580
Lemons .....	747,520	803,770
Oranges .....	6,136,200	6,062,720
Tangelos (Florida) .....	36,290	29,030
Tangerines and mandarins .....	665,870	687,650
<b>Noncitrus</b>		
Apples .....	5,103,460	
Apricots .....	58,180	
Bananas (Hawaii) .....		
Grapes .....	7,048,490	
Olives (California) .....	74,660	
Papayas (Hawaii) .....		
Peaches .....	768,040	
Pears .....	733,200	
Prunes, dried (California) .....	86,180	
Prunes and plums (excludes California) .....	13,430	
<b>Nuts and miscellaneous</b>		
Almonds, shelled (California) .....	848,220	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon) .....	32,660	
Pecans, in-shell .....	120,370	
Walnuts, in-shell (California) .....	512,560	
Maple syrup .....	15,830	

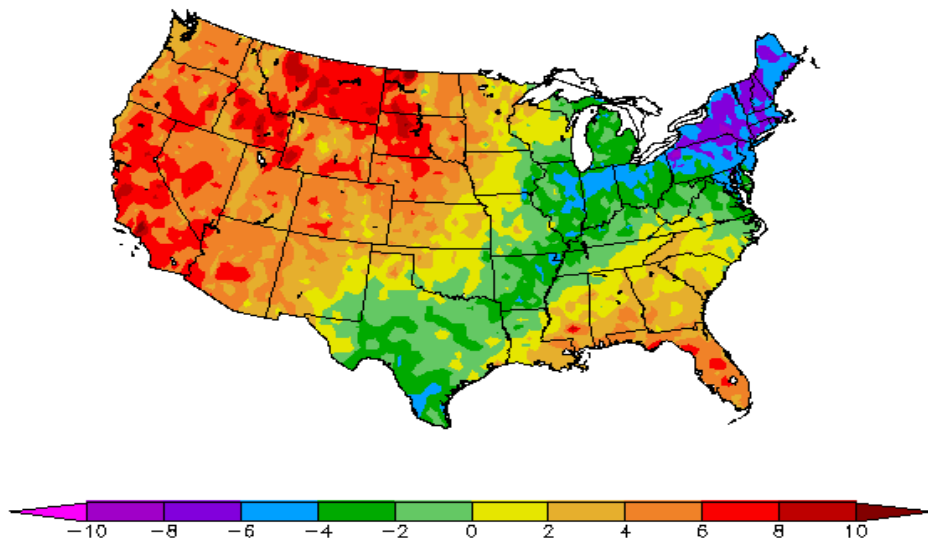
<sup>1</sup> Production years are 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
3/1/2015 – 3/31/2015



Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
3/1/2015 – 3/31/2015



Regional Climate Centers

## March Weather Summary

Warm, dry weather dominated the western and central United States, particularly from California to the central Plains and the upper Midwest. The early-spring warmth and dryness assured California and the Great Basin of a fourth consecutive year of drought and caused declines in winter wheat condition on the Great Plains. In addition, Western warmth triggered premature melting of already meager mountain snowpack, leaving the Sierra Nevada with just 5 percent of its average snow-water equivalency by April 1. Spring snowpack conditions were not much better in several other regions, including the Southwest and Pacific Northwest. Meanwhile, more than one-fifth of the winter wheat was rated in very poor to poor condition by April 5 in Nebraska (30 percent), South Dakota (27 percent), and Kansas (23 percent).

Farther east, dry conditions in the upper Midwest contrasted with saturated soils in parts of the lower Midwest, including the Ohio Valley. In fact, March rainfall and melting snow triggered widespread lowland flooding and curtailed fieldwork in a broad area stretching southwestward from the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys to the western Gulf Coast region, including the northern Mississippi Delta. By April 5, planting in Texas was behind schedule for crops such as corn (37 percent planted versus the 5-year average of 50 percent); sorghum (23 versus 40 percent); rice (21 versus 47 percent); and cotton (1 versus 10 percent). In Arkansas, rice planting was 6 percent complete by April 5, compared to the 5-year average of 13 percent.

Elsewhere, generally drier-than-normal conditions prevailed in the Northeast and Southeast, although frigid weather in the former region contrasted with warmth farther south. By month's end, snow still covered parts of the Northeast, with a foot reported on the ground by March 31 in Caribou, Maine. Meanwhile, a late-month cold snap threatened peaches, blueberries, and other blooming fruit crops in the Southeast, where a freeze occurred as far south as central Georgia on March 29.

## March Agricultural Summary

Most of the United States recorded little precipitation for the month of March with large portions of the Great Plains, the Great Basin, and California recording under 25 percent of normal precipitation. The major exception to this trend occurred in a band stretching from east Texas across the Mississippi Delta and the Ohio River Valley where locations received 6 to 12 inches of rainfall for the month. Temperatures were above average across the western United States with scattered locations across California, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota recording average temperatures more than 10°F above normal. A band stretching from Texas, the Mississippi Delta, the eastern Corn Belt, and New England recorded below average temperatures for the month with temperatures more than 6°F below normal in New York and New England.

Winter wheat conditions deteriorated in several northern Great Plains States. Kansas producers reported 39 percent of the winter wheat crop in good to excellent condition on March 29, down 5 percentage points from March 1. Condition ratings in Nebraska and South Dakota dropped to 34 and 35 percent in the good to excellent categories, respectively. These ratings were down 28 and 14 percentage points, respectively, from the beginning of the month. In Kansas, the winter wheat crop was 15 percent in the jointing stage or beyond on March 29, 10 percentage points ahead of last year but 3 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Colorado's winter wheat was 2 percent jointing at the end of the month, equal to last year and slightly behind the 5-year average.

By the end of the month, Texas pasture and range condition was reported at 47 percent in the good to excellent categories, 24 percentage points above the 5-year average. Alabama and New Mexico had rated pasture and range condition at 49 percent good to excellent. Cold and wet conditions led to less favorable pasture ratings in other parts of the United States with Virginia at 25 percent, North Carolina at 27 percent, and Arkansas at 28 percent in the good to excellent categories, respectively.

At the beginning of the month, wheat, oats, and other winter forage crops continued to grow well in California. Alfalfa fields were cultivated and planted. Ground was prepared for planting and beds were shaped in some fields, while others remained fallow awaiting warmer weather for planting. Alfalfa fields were irrigated and treated for pests. Alfalfa seed fields regrew after a short dormancy period. Established alfalfa was making good progress. Field preparations were underway for the spring planting of corn and cotton. Growers prepared ground for the upcoming cotton season by tilling

soil, making furrows, and repairing drip tape. By the end of the month, irrigation of field crops continued due to the lack of rain in the State. Growers were reporting the need to pre-irrigate fields to maintain moisture levels so that there will be sufficient levels when they do plant. Planting schedules were a couple of weeks ahead of average. Field preparations were underway for the spring planting of corn and cotton. Forage and grain crops continued to grow well but slowly, with wheat beginning to head out. Most weed spraying in forage crops came to an end and insect spraying began, particularly for alfalfa weevil in alfalfa. First cuttings of alfalfa were underway and some fields were baled.

In Florida, processing plants finished with early and midseason oranges, began running grapefruit or had transitioned to late orange harvesting. The Valencia harvest was lagging behind last season due to low maturity levels. Honey tangerines, colored grapefruit, white grapefruit, midseason oranges, Temples, and Valencias were going fresh. Grove activity included fertilizing, irrigating two to three times a week, some hedging and topping of trees after harvest, applying of herbicide, and removing brush. Citrus trees were in full bloom, petal drop began, and small pea size fruit was apparent on early variety citrus trees.

## Crop Comments

**Grapefruit:** The 2014-2015 United States grapefruit crop is forecast at 985,000 tons, down 5 percent from last month's forecast and down 6 percent from last season's revised final utilization. In Florida, the row count survey conducted March 31-April 1 indicated 92 percent of the colored grapefruit was harvested, while 70 percent of the white grapefruit rows had been harvested.

**Tangerines and mandarins:** The United States tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 758,000 tons, up 1 percent from the March forecast and up 3 percent from last season's revised final utilization. In California, mandarins were being packed in both the Central Valley and Fillmore areas. In Florida, harvest of early season varieties (Fallglo and Sunburst) was complete for the season, while the harvest of the Honey tangerine continued at a normal pace.

**Lemons:** The forecast for the 2014-2015 United States lemon crop is 886,000 tons, up 8 percent from last season's revised final utilization. In California, lemon harvest was progressing at a steady pace.

**Tangelos:** Florida's tangelo forecast is 700,000 boxes (32,000 tons), unchanged from last month's forecast but down 20 percent from last season's final utilization. The harvest in Florida is now complete, where production is the lowest since the 1960-1961 season.

**Florida citrus:** Daily high temperatures were above average all month in the citrus growing region, reaching the upper 80s to lower 90s on most days. Minimum temperatures were mostly in the 50s and 60s. Precipitation was very light until the final week of the month when much needed rainfall fell in all citrus producing counties. Reported totals were between one and a half and two inches in several counties. According to the March 31, 2015 U.S. Drought Monitor, abnormally dry conditions were present in most of Collier County and in the southern portion of Hendry County.

Processing plants were operating at full capacity by the end of the month, running mostly grapefruit and Valencia oranges. Colored grapefruit, Valencia oranges, and Honey tangerines were the varieties being harvested in significant quantities for the fresh market. Small amounts of white grapefruit, midseason oranges, and Temples also went to the fresh market. Most grove owners reported irrigating two to three times a week; some applied herbicide, mowed, performed irrigation maintenance, and removed brush. Various methods of combating greening and controlling psyllid population were implemented, including tenting, steam treatment, and spraying. Field workers across the citrus region observed heavy bloom on all citrus varieties, which was over by the end of the month. Next season's crop was beginning to form with small pea size fruit apparent on all varieties.

**California citrus:** Early citrus varieties began to bloom. Navel orange harvest continued; navel orange quality has been very good this season. Minneola Tangelos, sweet limes, and lemons continued to be harvested and packed. Orange trees were topped in advance of the bloom. Seedless Mandarins and Clementine groves and Murcotts continued to be covered with netting to prevent cross pollination. Pomelos were picked and packed. Citrus groves continued to be hedge rowed, topped, and skirted.

**California noncitrus fruits and nuts:** The pruning of stone fruit orchards was completed in March. Bloom was complete on early stone fruit varieties; later varieties of stone fruit began to bloom. Preventive fungicide applications were made to protect the blooms from brown rot and shot hole fungus. Fruit trees were leafing out. Soil fumigations were ongoing for new orchard plantings of almond and pistachios. Nut sizing in almonds began as the almond bloom neared completion. Nitrogen applications continued in almond orchards. By end of the month, most walnut varieties were reported to be in the catkin stage. Some grapevines were still being pruned and tied. Mechanical and chemical weed control continued in fruit tree orchards and vineyards. Warm temperatures caused very early bloom in many fruit orchards. Persimmon and pomegranate trees were leafing out around the end of the month. Aphids were reported in a few pomegranate orchards. Olive trees continued to be pruned; some varieties began to bloom. Early and mid-maturing varieties of grapes continued to leaf out while some late varieties had yet to start.

## Statistical Methodology

**Survey procedures:** The orange objective yield survey for the April 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which accounts for about 69 percent of the United States production. Bearing tree numbers are determined at the start of the season based on a fruit tree inventory conducted every 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 August and subsequent months, fruit size measurement and fruit droppage surveys are conducted, which, when combined with the previous components, are used to develop the current forecast of production. California and Texas conduct grower and packer surveys on a quarterly basis in October, January, April, and July. California also conducts objective measurement surveys in September for Navel oranges and in March for Valencia oranges.

**Estimating procedures:** State level objective yield estimates for Florida oranges were reviewed for errors, reasonableness, and consistency with historical estimates. Reports from growers and packers in California and Texas were also used for setting estimates. These three States submit their analyses of the current situation to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB). The ASB uses the survey data and the State analyses to prepare the published April 1 forecast.

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

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

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the April 1 orange production forecast is 2.2 percent. However, if you exclude the three abnormal production years (one freeze season and two hurricane seasons), the "Root Mean Square Error" is 2.4 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 2.2 percent, or 2.4 percent excluding abnormal seasons. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.9 percent, or 4.1 percent, excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the April 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 158,000 tons (172,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 0 to 431,000 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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