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All Orange Production Up Slightly from December

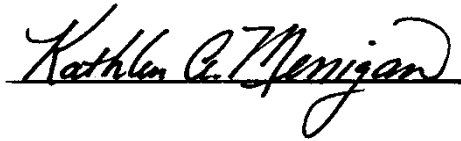
The U.S. all orange forecast for the 2009-10 season is 8.21 million tons, up slightly from the December 1 forecast but down 11 percent from the 2008-09 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 135 million boxes (6.08 million tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but down 17 percent from last season's final utilization. Early, midseason, and navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 69.0 million boxes (3.11 million tons), unchanged from December but 18 percent lower than last season. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 66.0 million boxes (2.97 million tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but down 15 percent from the 2008-09 crop. Fruit size is slightly above average for the early, midseason, and navel varieties, while fruit drop is slightly below average. Fruit size remains below average for the Valencia crop. The drop rate for Valencia's is slightly above average. This report reflects conditions as of January 1 and is based on data collected in December 2009. It does not include any effects of the cold weather in Florida during January.

The all orange forecast in California, at 55.0 million boxes (2.06 million tons), is unchanged from October's forecast but 13 percent above last season. The navel forecast is 40.0 million boxes (1.50 million tons), unchanged from the October 1 forecast but up 16 percent from the 2008-09 final utilization. California's Valencia orange forecast is 15.0 million boxes (563,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but 7 percent above last season. Navel harvest progressed with good fruit size and quality reported.

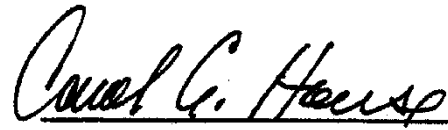
The Texas all orange forecast is 1.59 million boxes (68,000 tons), up 9 percent from both October and last season. The early and midseason forecast is 1.31 million boxes (56,000 tons), up 5 percent from October and 1 percent more than the 2008-09 season. Texas Valencia oranges are forecast at 277,000 boxes (12,000 tons), up 39 percent from October and 74 percent above last season.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield forecast for the 2009-10 season is 1.60 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, down 2 percent from the December 1 forecast and down 4 percent from last season's final yield of 1.66 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion is projected at 1.53 gallons per box, down 4 percent from last season's record yield of 1.60 gallons per box. The Valencia portion is expected to total 1.70 gallons per box, 3 percent lower than last year's final yield of 1.75 gallons per box. All projections of yield assume the processing relationship this season will be similar to those of the past several seasons.

This report was approved on January 12, 2010.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Kathleen A. Merrigan



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Carol C. House

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**Potatoes: Area Planted, Harvested, Yield, and Production
by Seasonal Group, State, and United States, 2008-2009¹**

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield		Production	
	Planted		Harvested		2008	2009	2008	2009
	2008	2009	2008	2009				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
Spring								
AZ	3.5	4.0	3.5	4.0	300	280	1,050	1,120
CA	15.4	17.8	15.4	17.5	450	410	6,930	7,175
FL	28.5	32.6	27.9	28.9	285	266	7,952	7,700
Hastings	17.4	20.0	17.0	16.5	285	260	4,845	4,290
Other FL	11.1	12.6	10.9	12.4	285	275	3,107	3,410
NC	14.5	16.0	14.0	15.0	180	225	2,520	3,375
TX	8.4	8.8	8.0	8.3	210	235	1,680	1,951
Total	70.3	79.2	68.8	73.7	293	289	20,132	21,321

¹ 2009 revised.

Papayas: Area and Fresh Production by Month, Hawaii, 2008-2009

Month	Area				Fresh Production ¹	
	Total in Crop		Harvested		2008	2009
	2008	2009	2008	2009		
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Oct	2,315	1,970	1,405	1,310	3,075	2,585
Nov	2,420	1,975	1,450	1,320	2,745	2,500

¹ Utilized fresh production.

**Citrus Fruits: Utilized Production by Crop, State, and United States,
2007-08, 2008-09 and Forecasted January 1, 2010 ¹**

Crop and State	Utilized Production Boxes			Utilized Production Ton Equivalent		
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
	<i>1,000 Boxes ²</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes ²</i>	<i>1,000 Boxes ²</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
Oranges						
Early Mid & Navel ³						
AZ ⁴	230	150		9	5	
CA	45,000	34,500	40,000	1,688	1,294	1,500
FL	83,500	84,600	69,000	3,758	3,807	3,105
TX	1,600	1,300	1,310	68	55	56
US	130,330	120,550	110,310	5,523	5,161	4,661
Valencia						
AZ ⁴	150	100		6	4	
CA	17,000	14,000	15,000	637	525	563
FL	86,700	77,800	66,000	3,901	3,501	2,970
TX	196	159	277	9	7	12
US	104,046	92,059	81,277	4,553	4,037	3,545
All						
AZ ⁴	380	250		15	9	
CA	62,000	48,500	55,000	2,325	1,819	2,063
FL	170,200	162,400	135,000	7,659	7,308	6,075
TX	1,796	1,459	1,587	77	62	68
US	234,376	212,609	191,587	10,076	9,198	8,206
Grapefruit						
White						
FL	9,000	6,600	5,500	383	280	234
Colored						
FL	17,600	15,100	14,000	748	642	595
All						
AZ ⁴	100	25		3	1	
CA	5,200	5,600	4,200	174	188	141
FL	26,600	21,700	19,500	1,131	922	829
TX	6,000	5,500	5,490	240	220	220
US	37,900	32,825	29,190	1,548	1,331	1,190
Tangerines and Mandarins						
AZ ⁵	400	250	350	15	9	13
CA ⁵	6,700	6,700	8,200	251	251	308
FL	5,500	3,850	4,700	261	183	223
US	12,600	10,800	13,250	527	443	544
Lemons						
AZ	1,500	3,000	2,500	57	114	95
CA	14,800	22,000	20,000	562	836	760
US	16,300	25,000	22,500	619	950	855
Tangelos						
FL	1,500	1,150	900	68	52	41

¹ The crop year begins with the bloom of the first year shown and ends with the completion of harvest the following year.

² Net lbs. per box: oranges-AZ & CA-75, FL-90, TX-85; grapefruit-AZ & CA-67, FL-85, TX-80; lemons-76; tangelos-90; tangerines and mandarins-AZ & CA-75, FL-95.

³ Navel and miscellaneous varieties in AZ and CA. Early (including navel) and midseason varieties in FL and TX. Small quantities of tangerines in TX and Temples in FL.

⁴ Estimates discontinued beginning with the 2009-10 crop year.

⁵ Includes tangelos and tangors.

**Hay: Stocks on Farms by State and United States,
December 1 and May 1, 2007-2009**

State	Dec 1			May 1	
	2007	2008	2009	2008	2009
	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
AL	1,318	1,540	1,700	150	375
AZ	260	475	500	36	50
AR	2,700	3,020	2,900	530	570
CA	1,890	2,380	2,400	250	470
CO	2,400	1,975	2,500	520	400
CT	69	65	71	8	9
DE	8	20	29	1	4
FL	492	587	535	66	58
GA	1,013	1,319	1,374	145	238
ID	2,400	2,012	2,750	300	450
IL	1,100	1,386	1,400	210	300
IN	973	1,191	1,360	93	185
IA	3,500	3,918	3,100	640	750
KS	5,465	5,700	5,400	1,100	1,350
KY	3,312	4,169	4,905	186	465
LA	820	921	710	100	60
ME	160	145	134	27	18
MD	240	431	350	52	111
MA	74	77	75	12	12
MI	1,700	1,998	1,451	320	450
MN	3,140	3,891	3,570	535	790
MS	1,459	1,365	1,058	196	214
MO	6,662	7,744	8,280	900	2,050
MT	4,530	3,831	4,100	1,025	590
NE	4,205	4,115	4,490	990	935
NV	767	1,000	1,012	90	170
NH	57	70	45	6	8
NJ	68	94	102	5	26
NM	580	600	570	125	105
NY	1,674	1,453	1,582	283	420
NC	682	962	1,523	79	311
ND	4,990	4,032	5,500	1,260	700
OH	1,653	1,992	2,013	165	325
OK	6,100	4,595	4,435	1,600	1,000
OR	1,700	1,561	2,200	150	270
PA	1,750	2,500	2,400	500	700
RI	6	10	8	1	1
SC	350	451	590	55	115
SD	7,816	7,660	8,290	1,930	1,900
TN	2,121	3,038	3,219	215	552
TX	13,400	8,483	7,700	4,906	2,100
UT	1,130	1,300	1,330	215	285
VT	228	175	204	60	37
VA	1,705	2,174	1,940	226	450
WA	1,335	1,182	1,418	200	350
WV	720	787	938	92	156
WI	3,467	3,603	3,021	790	950
WY	1,900	1,532	2,040	240	230
US	104,089	103,658	107,222	21,585	22,065

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2008-2009
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	3,567.0		3,113.0	
Corn for Grain ²	86,482.0		79,630.0	
Corn for Silage			5,605.0	
Hay, All			59,755.0	
Alfalfa			21,227.0	
All Other			38,528.0	
Oats	3,404.0		1,379.0	
Proso Millet	350.0		293.0	
Rice	3,135.0		3,103.0	
Rye	1,241.0		252.0	
Sorghum for Grain ²	6,633.0		5,520.0	
Sorghum for Silage			254.0	
Wheat, All	59,133.0		49,868.0	
Winter	43,311.0	37,097.0	34,485.0	
Durum	2,554.0		2,428.0	
Other Spring	13,268.0		12,955.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	827.0		814.0	
Cottonseed ³				
Flaxseed	317.0		314.0	
Mustard Seed	51.5		49.8	
Peanuts	1,116.0		1,081.0	
Rapeseed	1.0		0.9	
Safflower	175.0		165.5	
Soybeans for Beans	77,451.0		76,407.0	
Sunflower	2,030.0		1,953.5	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	9,149.2		7,690.5	
Upland	9,007.5		7,552.0	
Amer-Pima	141.7		138.5	
Sugarbeets	1,183.2		1,145.3	
Sugarcane			877.7	
Tobacco			354.1	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	20.5		13.7	
Dry Edible Beans	1,537.5		1,463.0	
Dry Edible Peas	863.3		837.9	
Lentils	415.0		407.0	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			6.3	
Hops			39.7	
Peppermint Oil			69.8	
Potatoes, All	1,069.8		1,045.0	
Winter	9.0		8.7	
Spring	79.2		73.7	
Summer	44.5		43.0	
Fall	937.1		919.6	
Spearmint Oil			20.5	
Sweet Potatoes	106.7		103.3	
Taro (HI) ⁴			0.4	

¹Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2010 crop year.

²Area planted for all purposes.

³Acreage is not estimated.

⁴Area is total acres in crop, not harvested acreage.

Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 2008-2009
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Units	Yield		Production	
		2009	2010	2009	2010
				<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Grains & Hay					
Barley	Bu	73.0		227,323	
Corn for Grain	"	165.2		13,151,062	
Corn for Silage	Tons	19.3		108,209	
Hay, All	"	2.47		147,442	
Alfalfa	"	3.35		71,030	
All Other	"	1.98		76,412	
Oats	Bu	67.5		93,081	
Proso Millet	"	33.7		9,865	
Rice ²	Cwt	7,085		219,850	
Rye	Bu	27.8		6,993	
Sorghum for Grain	"	69.4		382,983	
Sorghum for Silage	Tons	14.5		3,680	
Wheat, All	Bu	44.4		2,216,171	
Winter	"	44.2		1,522,718	
Durum	"	44.9		109,042	
Other Spring	"	45.1		584,411	
Oilseeds					
Canola	Lbs	1,811		1,474,130	
Cottonseed ³	Tons			4,178.0	
Flaxseed	Bu	23.6		7,423	
Mustard Seed	Lbs	991		49,364	
Peanuts	"	3,412		3,688,350	
Rapeseed	"	1,700		1,530	
Safflower	"	1,462		241,970	
Soybeans for Beans	Bu	44.0		3,361,028	
Sunflower	Lbs	1,554		3,036,460	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops					
Cotton, All ²	Bales	774		12,401.3	
Upland ²	"	763		12,011.0	
Amer-Pima ²	"	1,353		390.3	
Sugarbeets	Tons	25.8		29,519	
Sugarcane	"	34.5		30,265	
Tobacco	Lbs	2,325		823,290	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils					
Austrian Winter Peas ²	Cwt	1,328		182	
Dry Edible Beans ²	"	1,733		25,360	
Dry Edible Peas ²	"	2,045		17,137	
Lentils ²	"	1,440		5,859	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³	"			874	
Potatoes & Misc.					
Coffee (HI)	Lbs	1,270		8,000	
Hops	"	2,383		94,677.9	
Peppermint Oil	"	91		6,379	
Potatoes, All	Cwt	413		431,425	
Winter	"	245		2,132	
Spring	"	289		21,321	
Summer	"	336		14,469	
Fall	"	428		393,503	
Spearmint Oil	Lbs	132		2,698	
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt	201		19,647	
Taro (HI) ³	Lbs			4,000	

¹Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2010 crop year.

²Yield in pounds.

³Yield is not estimated.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2008-2009
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	1,443,530		1,259,800	
Corn for Grain ²	34,998,400		32,225,460	
Corn for Silage			2,268,290	
Hay, All ³			24,182,250	
Alfalfa			8,590,350	
All Other			15,591,900	
Oats	1,377,560		558,070	
Proso Millet	141,640		118,570	
Rice	1,268,700		1,255,750	
Rye	502,220		101,980	
Sorghum for Grain ²	2,684,310		2,233,890	
Sorghum for Silage			102,790	
Wheat, All ³	23,930,530		20,181,080	
Winter	17,527,530	15,012,780	13,955,730	
Durum	1,033,580		982,590	
Other Spring	5,369,430		5,242,760	
Oilseeds				
Canola	334,680		329,420	
Cottonseed ⁴				
Flaxseed	128,290		127,070	
Mustard Seed	20,840		20,150	
Peanuts	451,630		437,470	
Rapeseed	400		360	
Safflower	70,820		66,980	
Soybeans for Beans	31,343,650		30,921,150	
Sunflower	821,520		790,560	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ³	3,702,590		3,112,270	
Upland	3,645,250		3,056,220	
Amer-Pima	57,340		56,050	
Sugarbeets	478,830		463,490	
Sugarcane			355,200	
Tobacco			143,320	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	8,300		5,540	
Dry Edible Beans	622,210		592,060	
Dry Edible Peas	349,370		339,090	
Lentils	167,950		164,710	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ⁴				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			2,550	
Hops			16,080	
Peppermint Oil			28,250	
Potatoes, All ³	432,940		422,900	
Winter	3,640		3,520	
Spring	32,050		29,830	
Summer	18,010		17,400	
Fall	379,230		372,150	
Spearmint Oil			8,300	
Sweet Potatoes	43,180		41,800	
Taro (HI) ⁵			180	

¹Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2010 crop year.

²Area planted for all purposes.

³Total may not add due to rounding.

⁴Acreage is not estimated.

⁵Area is total hectares in crop, not harvested hectares.

Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 2008-2009
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Yield		Production	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	3.93		4,949,370	
Corn for Grain	10.37		334,052,360	
Corn for Silage	43.28		98,165,550	
Hay, All ²	5.53		133,757,130	
Alfalfa	7.50		64,437,330	
All Other	4.45		69,319,800	
Oats	2.42		1,351,070	
Proso Millet	1.89		223,730	
Rice	7.94		9,972,230	
Rye	1.74		177,630	
Sorghum for Grain	4.35		9,728,220	
Sorghum for Silage	32.48		3,338,440	
Wheat, All ²	2.99		60,314,290	
Winter	2.97		41,441,590	
Durum	3.02		2,967,640	
Other Spring	3.03		15,905,060	
Oilseeds				
Canola	2.03		668,650	
Cottonseed ³			3,790,220	
Flaxseed	1.48		188,550	
Mustard Seed	1.11		22,390	
Peanuts	3.82		1,673,010	
Rapeseed	1.91		690	
Safflower	1.64		109,760	
Soybeans for Beans	2.96		91,472,190	
Sunflower	1.74		1,377,320	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ²	0.87		2,700,070	
Upland	0.86		2,615,090	
Amer-Pima	1.52		84,980	
Sugarbeets	57.78		26,779,190	
Sugarcane	77.30		27,455,950	
Tobacco	2.61		373,440	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	1.49		8,260	
Dry Edible Beans	1.94		1,150,310	
Dry Edible Peas	2.29		777,320	
Lentils	1.61		265,760	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³			39,640	
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)	1.42		3,630	
Hops	2.67		42,950	
Peppermint Oil	0.10		2,890	
Potatoes, All ²	46.27		19,569,110	
Winter	27.47		96,710	
Spring	32.43		967,100	
Summer	37.71		656,300	
Fall	47.96		17,849,000	
Spearmint Oil	0.15		1,220	
Sweet Potatoes	21.32		891,170	
Taro (HI) ³			1,810	

¹Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2010 crop year.

²Production may not add due to rounding.

³Yield is not estimated.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2008-2010
(Domestic Units) ¹

Crop	Units	Production		
		2008	2009	2010
		<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Citrus ²				
Grapefruit	Tons	1,548	1,331	1,190
Lemons	"	619	950	855
Oranges	"	10,076	9,198	8,206
Tangelos (FL)	"	68	52	41
Tangerines	"	527	443	544
Noncitrus				
Apples	1,000 Lbs	9,769.3	10,016.0	
Apricots	Tons	81.6	75.3	
Bananas (HI)	Lbs	17,400.0		
Grapes	Tons	7,303.3	7,021.0	
Olives (CA)	"	66.8	50.0	
Papayas (HI)	Lbs	33,500.0		
Peaches	Tons	1,133.3	1,078.3	
Pears	"	870.9	935.3	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	"	129.0	170.0	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	"	15.5	18.3	
Nuts & Misc.				
Almonds (CA) (shelled)	Lbs	1,630,000	1,350,000	
Hazelnuts (OR) (in-shell)	Tons	32.0	38.0	
Pecans (in-shell)	Lbs	193,890	301,200	
Walnuts (CA) (in-shell)	Tons	436.0	415.0	
Maple Syrup	Gals	1,912	2,327	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2010 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2009-10 season.

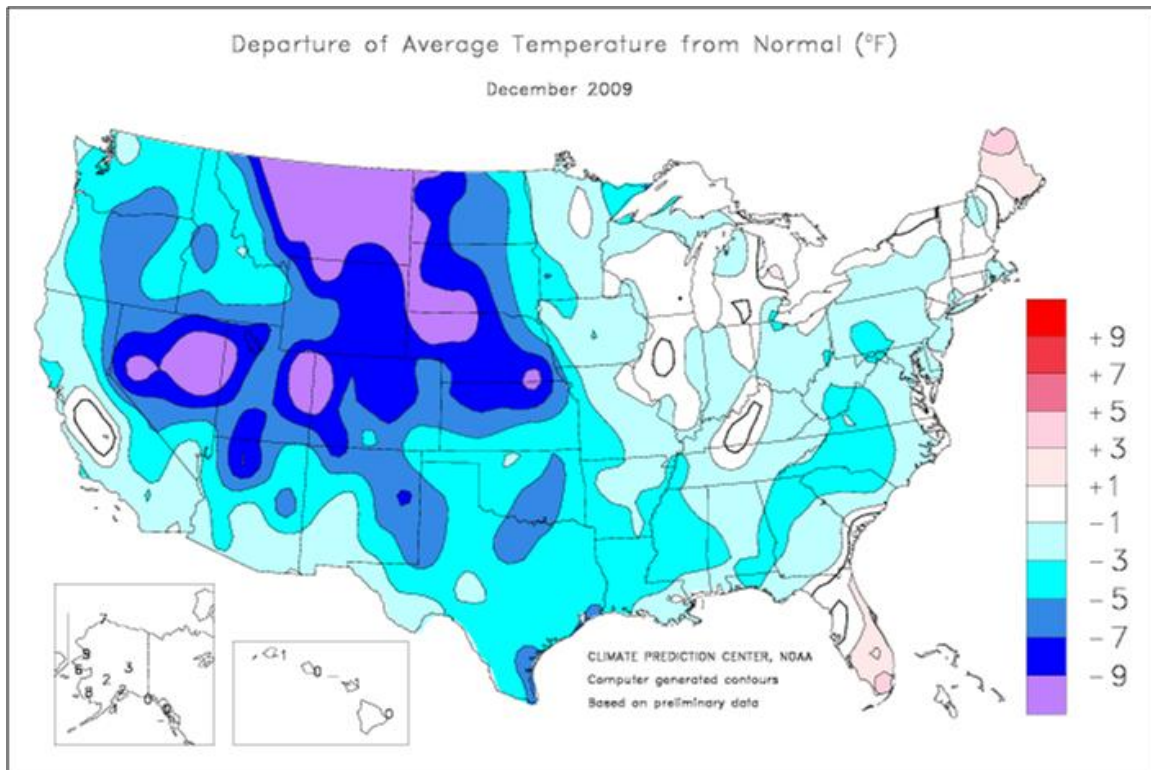
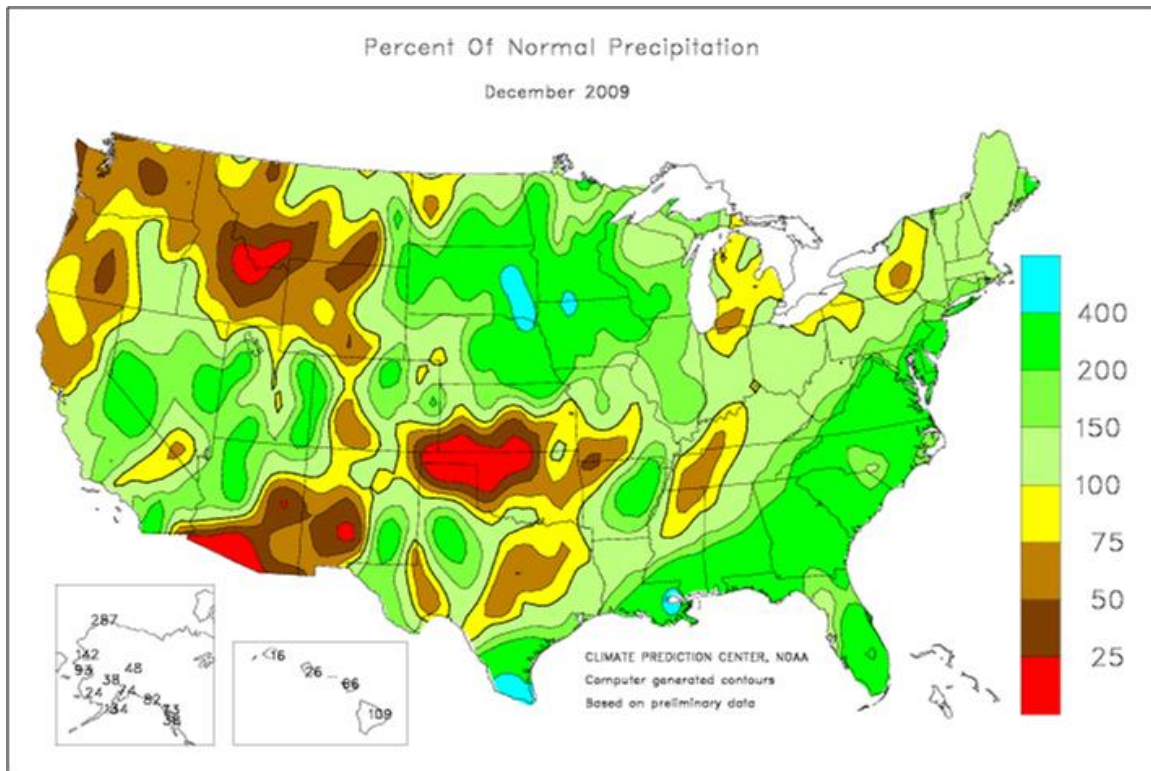
² Production years are 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10.

Fruits and Nuts Production, United States, 2008-2010
(Metric Units) ¹

Crop	Production		
	2008	2009	2010
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>Metric tons</i>
Citrus ²			
Grapefruit	1,404,320	1,207,460	1,079,550
Lemons	561,550	861,830	775,640
Oranges	9,140,790	8,344,290	7,444,360
Tangelos (FL)	61,690	47,170	37,190
Tangerines	478,090	401,880	493,510
Noncitrus			
Apples	4,431,280	4,543,180	
Apricots	74,040	68,270	
Bananas (HI)	7,890		
Grapes	6,625,410	6,369,340	
Olives (CA)	60,600	45,360	
Papayas (HI)	15,200		
Peaches	1,028,120	978,250	
Pears	790,020	848,490	
Prunes, Dried (CA)	117,030	154,220	
Prunes & Plums (Ex CA)	14,060	16,600	
Nuts & Misc.			
Almonds (CA) (shelled)	739,360	612,350	
Hazelnuts (OR) (in-shell)	29,030	34,470	
Pecans (in-shell)	87,950	136,620	
Walnuts (CA) (in-shell)	395,530	376,480	
Maple Syrup	9,560	11,630	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2010 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2009-10 season.

² Production years are 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10.



December Weather Summary

In the wake of a mild November, cold, stormy December weather stressed livestock but buried winter grains beneath a protective blanket of snow. Monthly temperatures generally averaged 4 to 12 degrees Fahrenheit below normal across the Plains, with early- to mid month readings falling to -40 degrees Fahrenheit in parts of Montana and below 0 degrees Fahrenheit in eastern Colorado and much of Kansas.

Major storms struck the Nation's mid-section on December 7-9 and 23-26, leaving late-month snow depths of 1 to 2 feet across the north-central U.S. The snow hampered rural travel across the Plains and Midwest, and necessitated supplemental feeding for livestock. By December 20, the corn harvest was 95 percent complete, although nearly one in three fields (32 percent) remained unharvested in North Dakota.

Farther south and east, seemingly incessant rains soaked areas from southern Texas into the southern and middle Atlantic States. Monthly rainfall topped 20 inches in parts of the central Gulf Coast region, slowing late-season sugarcane harvesting. In addition, the Nation's cotton harvest was just 94 percent complete by December 20, with Georgia and Alabama reporting 82 and 84 percent harvested, respectively. From December 18-20, major snow accumulations (1 to 2 feet) were reported from the southern Appalachians into southern New England.

Elsewhere, beneficial precipitation fell during December from central and southern California into the Intermountain West, while drier-than-normal conditions prevailed in the Northwest. Despite California's precipitation, the end-of-month water content of the Sierra Nevada snow pack stood at just 9 inches, 86 percent of normal for the date.

December Agricultural Summary

Temperatures during the month of December were well below average throughout much of the Great Basin, Rocky Mountains, Great Plains, and into southern Texas, with several areas in the Rocky Mountains dipping to 10 degrees or more below normal. Elsewhere, temperatures were near normal. Strong winter storm systems delivered above average precipitation to the Great Basin, the northern and central Great Plains, Corn Belt, and the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts, with numerous locations receiving total accumulations greater than 200 percent of normal. Elsewhere, the Pacific Northwest and southern Great Plains were abnormally dry.

As December began and when weather conditions were conducive, producers in most of the 18 major corn-producing States were busy harvesting their remaining 2009 crop. Mostly dry weather in the Dakotas at the start of the month promoted a rapid harvest pace with 13 percent or more of the crop combined from November 29 to December 6. Harvest continued throughout much of December in all estimating States except North Carolina and Texas where harvest was complete by December 6. Nationally, harvest had advanced to 95 percent complete by December 20, over 3 weeks behind normal.

By December 6, sorghum harvest was complete on 94 percent of the Nation's acreage, with progress in Kansas, the largest sorghum-producing State, over 2 weeks behind normal. With the exception of Arkansas, Louisiana, and New Mexico, where harvest was complete, progress remained active in all estimating States.

Emergence of the 2010 winter wheat crop reached 93 percent complete by December 6 and was complete or nearly complete in most estimating States. In California, emergence was evident on 78 percent of the acreage, well ahead of the 5-year average. Delays of 1 week or more existed in Illinois, Missouri, and North Carolina. Overall, 63 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition on December 6.

As the calendar rolled to December, sunflower harvest was most active in Kansas where dry weather provided ample time for fieldwork. By December 6, producers Nationwide had harvested 94 percent of the 2009 crop, 12 days behind normal.

As the month began, peanut harvest remained slow in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Oklahoma as producers continued to battle abnormally wet fields that had plagued them throughout much of the season. Nationally, 94 percent of the crop was dug and combined by December 6.

As of December 6, cotton producers had harvested 88 percent of their crop. During the next 7 days, just 3 percent of the crop was harvested. While producers in Kansas made excellent progress, harvesting 16 percent of their acreage from December 7 to December 13, rainfall hampered fieldwork in Alabama, where progress remained well behind

normal. By December 20, harvest was complete or nearly complete in all estimating States except Alabama, Georgia, Kansas, and Oklahoma. Nationally, 94 percent of the crop was harvested.

Crop Comments

Spring Potatoes: Production for 2009 is estimated at 21.3 million cwt, unchanged from the May 1 forecast but 6 percent higher than 2008. Area harvested totaled at 73,700 acres, up slightly from the previous forecast and 7 percent above 2008. The average yield of 289 cwt per acre is down 2 cwt from the May 1 forecast and 4 cwt lower than 2008.

Florida's production is estimated at 7.70 million cwt, down 2 percent from the May 1 forecast and 3 percent below the 2008 production. Heavy rains interrupted harvest, which resulted in lower than normal yields. In California, production increased 4 percent from last year. Growers in North Carolina produced 34 percent more spring potatoes than in the previous year due to a yield increase of 45 cwt per acre. Most growers reported excellent growing conditions with better than average yields. Production in Texas increased 16 percent from 2008 and Arizona production increased 7 percent from last year.

Papayas: Hawaii fresh papaya production is estimated at 2.50 million pounds for November 2009, down 3 percent from October and 9 percent lower than a year ago. Total crop area for November is estimated at 1,975 acres, up slightly from October but 18 percent below November 2008. Harvested area totaled 1,320 acres, up 1 percent from the previous month but 9 percent lower than last year. Cooler temperatures in November slowed fruit development.

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 2009-10 U.S. grapefruit crop is 1.19 million tons, down 2 percent from the December 1 forecast and down 11 percent from the 2008-09 final utilization. Florida's grapefruit production is forecast at 19.5 million boxes (829,000 tons), down 2 percent from the December 1 forecast and 10 percent below last season.

The Florida all white grapefruit forecast is 5.50 million boxes (234,000 tons), down 5 percent from December and down 17 percent from the previous year. The colored grapefruit forecast, at 14.0 million boxes (595,000 tons), is unchanged from the December 1 forecast but 7 percent lower than last season. White grapefruit size is measuring below average.

The Texas grapefruit production forecast is 5.49 million boxes (220,000 tons), up 4 percent from the October 1 forecast but slightly lower than last season. Grapefruit production in California is forecast at 4.20 million boxes (141,000 tons), down 11 percent from October and 25 percent below last season. Rio Red harvest began in the Desert Region of California in early November.

Lemons: The forecast for the 2009-10 U.S. lemon crop is 855,000 tons, unchanged from the October 1 forecast but down 10 percent from 2008-09. California production is forecast at 20.0 million boxes (760,000 tons), unchanged from October but down 9 percent from last season. The California lemon harvest continued in the Desert Region and began in the Central Valley. Lemon production in Arizona is forecast at 2.50 million boxes (95,000 tons), unchanged from the October 1 forecast but down 17 percent from last season.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast is 900,000 boxes (41,000 tons), down 10 percent from the December 1 forecast and down 22 percent from last season's final production. If realized, this will be the smallest tangelo crop since 1962, when Florida had a damaging December freeze.

Tangerines and Mandarins: The U.S. tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 544,000 tons, up 8 percent from the December 1 forecast and 23 percent above the 2008-09 crop. California's tangerine and mandarin forecast is 8.20 million boxes (308,000 tons), up 17 percent from the October 1 forecast and 22 percent higher than last season. If realized, this will be a record high production in California. Harvesting of Clementine, Satsuma, and Fairchild varieties was underway. Florida's tangerine crop is forecast at 4.70 million boxes (223,000 tons), down 2 percent from the December 1 forecast but up 22 percent from the previous season. Harvest of early tangerine varieties was nearly complete while late variety harvest had just begun. Arizona's tangerine forecast, at 350,000 boxes (13,000 tons), is unchanged from October but 40 percent higher than last season.

Florida Citrus: Temperatures in the 70's and 80's and lows in the 30's and 40's were reported during the month of December. Increased rainfall helped relieve drought conditions. Overall, the weather was beneficial to citrus progress. Harvesting of Murcott tangerines has begun. Weekly navel orange harvesting picked up in early December but dropped off at the end of the month.

Most of the processing plants have opened and are mainly receiving early and midseason oranges and grapefruit. Grove activity included limited herbicide applications and mowing. Grove caretakers continued to survey groves for greening, removed affected trees, and sprayed trees for citrus psyllid control.

Arizona Citrus: Lemon harvest began in early September. Harvested fruit was reported to be larger than average. Tangerine harvest started in November with good quality being reported.

California Citrus: Harvest of navel oranges, Satsuma and Clementine mandarins, grapefruit, and lemons continued. In citrus orchards along the coast and in the Central Valley, helicopters and wind machines were deployed to increase air circulation to combat freezing temperatures in mid-December. Growers also used orchard heaters and ran irrigation water to limit the drop in temperature. The extent of damage was still being assessed. Normal spraying and maintenance continued in citrus orchards.

California Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts: Grape and pomegranate harvests were complete. Grape growers were pruning, irrigating, cultivating, and removing old vines. The extent of frost damage due to cold mid-December temperatures was still being determined but damage appeared to be localized to small areas. Almond hulling and stockpiling was completed in early-December. Nut trees began entering dormancy by the end of the month.

Hay Stocks on Farms: All hay stored on farms December 1, 2009 totaled 107 million tons, up 3 percent from a year ago. Disappearance from May-December 2009 totaled 62.3 million tons, compared with 64.2 million tons for the same period a year ago.

Compared with December 1, 2008, hay stocks increased in the Rocky Mountains, Pacific Northwest, northern Great Plains, and the Southeast with the exception of Florida. Higher hay production and lower cattle inventories contributed to the higher hay stocks on December 1. Stocks in North Carolina and Delaware showed the largest increases with 58 and 45 percent, respectively. The southern Great Plains and Great Lake States showed decreases in stocks for 2009.

Reliability of January 1 Orange Forecast

Survey Procedures: The orange objective yield survey for the January 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which produces about 75 percent of the U.S. 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 4.8 percent. However, if you exclude the 5 abnormal production years (3 freeze seasons and 2 hurricane seasons), the "Root Mean Square Error" is 3.5 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current orange production forecast will not be above or below the final estimates by more than 4.8 percent, or 3.5 percent excluding abnormal seasons. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 8.2 percent, or 6.1 percent excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the January 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 373,000 tons (339,000 tons excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 64,000 tons to 1.13 million tons (64,000 tons to 638,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons). The January 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 7 times and above 13 times (below 6 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.

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