



# Crop Production

ISSN: 1936-3737

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Released March 8, 2018, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## Orange Production Down 2 Percent from February Forecast

**The United States all orange** forecast for the 2017-2018 season is 3.88 million tons, down 2 percent from last month and down 25 percent from the 2016-2017 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 45.0 million boxes (2.03 million tons), is unchanged from last month but down 35 percent from last season's final utilization. Early, midseason, and Navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 19.0 million boxes (855,000 tons), unchanged from last month but down 42 percent from last season's final utilization. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 26.0 million boxes (1.17 million tons), is unchanged from last month but down 27 percent from last season's final utilization.

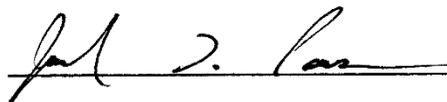
The California Valencia orange forecast is 9.50 million boxes (380,000 tons), down 14 percent from both the previous forecast and the previous season. This results in a California all orange forecast of 44.5 million boxes (1.78 million tons), down 3 percent from the previous forecast and down 12 percent from last season's final utilization. The forecast for Texas is carried forward from the previous forecast.

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This report was approved on March 8, 2018.



Secretary of Agriculture  
Designate  
Robert Johansson



Agricultural Statistics Board  
Chairperson  
Joseph L. Parsons

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## Sugarcane Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by Use – States and United States: 2016 and 2017

Use and State	Area harvested		Yield per acre <sup>1</sup>		Production <sup>1</sup>	
	2016 (1,000 acres)	2017 (1,000 acres)	2016 (tons)	2017 (tons)	2016 (1,000 tons)	2017 (1,000 tons)
<b>For sugar</b>						
Florida .....	400.0	397.0	40.3	40.9	16,120	16,237
Hawaii <sup>2</sup> .....	15.5	(NA)	86.2	(NA)	1,336	(NA)
Louisiana .....	400.0	414.0	28.8	32.5	11,520	13,455
Texas .....	37.7	40.5	37.0	36.8	1,395	1,490
United States .....	853.2	851.5	35.6	36.6	30,371	31,182
<b>For seed</b>						
Florida .....	17.0	15.7	46.1	44.9	784	705
Hawaii <sup>2</sup> .....	-	(NA)	-	(NA)	-	(NA)
Louisiana .....	31.0	35.6	28.8	36.2	893	1,289
Texas .....	1.9	1.3	37.0	48.0	70	62
United States .....	49.9	52.6	35.0	39.1	1,747	2,056
<b>For sugar and seed</b>						
Florida .....	417.0	412.7	40.5	41.1	16,904	16,942
Hawaii <sup>2</sup> .....	15.5	(NA)	86.2	(NA)	1,336	(NA)
Louisiana .....	431.0	449.6	28.8	32.8	12,413	14,744
Texas .....	39.6	41.8	37.0	37.1	1,465	1,552
United States .....	903.1	904.1	35.6	36.8	32,118	33,238

- Represents zero.

(NA) Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Net tons.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates discontinued in 2017.

## Utilized Production of Citrus Fruits by Crop – States and United States: 2016-2017 and Forecasted March 1, 2018

[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	
	2016-2017 (1,000 boxes)	2017-2018 (1,000 boxes)	2016-2017 (1,000 tons)	2017-2018 (1,000 tons)
<b>Oranges</b>				
California, all .....	50,300	44,500	2,012	1,780
Early, mid, and Navel <sup>2 3</sup> .....	39,300	35,000	1,572	1,400
Valencia .....	11,000	9,500	440	380
Florida, all .....	68,750	45,000	3,094	2,025
Early, mid, and Navel <sup>3</sup> .....	33,000	19,000	1,485	855
Valencia .....	35,750	26,000	1,609	1,170
Texas, all <sup>2</sup> .....	1,370	1,830	58	78
Early, mid, and Navel <sup>3</sup> .....	1,090	1,430	46	61
Valencia .....	280	400	12	17
United States, all .....	120,420	91,330	5,164	3,883
Early, mid, and Navel <sup>3</sup> .....	73,390	55,430	3,103	2,316
Valencia .....	47,030	35,900	2,061	1,567
<b>Grapefruit</b>				
California <sup>2</sup> .....	4,000	4,200	160	168
Florida, all .....	7,760	4,650	330	198
Red .....	6,280	3,800	267	162
White .....	1,480	850	63	36
Texas <sup>2</sup> .....	4,800	4,100	192	164
United States .....	16,560	12,950	682	530
<b>Tangerines and mandarins <sup>4</sup></b>				
California <sup>2</sup> .....	23,900	21,000	956	840
Florida .....	1,620	880	77	42
United States .....	25,520	21,880	1,033	882
<b>Lemons <sup>2</sup></b>				
Arizona .....	1,650	1,250	66	50
California .....	20,500	20,500	820	820
United States .....	22,150	21,750	886	870

<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 California-80, Florida-95; lemons-80.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates for current year carried forward from previous forecast.

<sup>3</sup> Navel and miscellaneous varieties in California. Early (including Navel) and midseason varieties in Florida and Texas.

<sup>4</sup> Includes tangelos and tangors.

## Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2017 and 2018

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2018 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	2,481		1,954	
Corn for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	90,167		82,703	
Corn for silage .....	(NA)		6,434	
Hay, all .....	(NA)		53,784	
Alfalfa .....	(NA)		16,563	
All other .....	(NA)		37,221	
Oats .....	2,588		801	
Proso millet .....	478		404	
Rice .....	2,463		2,374	
Rye .....	1,961		286	
Sorghum for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	5,626		5,045	
Sorghum for silage .....	(NA)		284	
Wheat, all .....	46,012		37,586	
Winter .....	32,696	32,608	25,291	
Durum .....	2,307		2,136	
Other spring .....	11,009		10,159	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola .....	2,077.0		2,002.0	
Cottonseed .....	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed .....	303		272	
Mustard seed .....	103.0		95.4	
Peanuts .....	1,870.6		1,775.6	
Rapeseed .....	10.1		9.7	
Safflower .....	162.0		143.2	
Soybeans for beans .....	90,142		89,522	
Sunflower .....	1,403.0		1,344.7	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all .....	12,611.5		11,348.9	
Upland .....	12,360.0		11,101.0	
American Pima .....	251.5		247.9	
Sugarbeets .....	1,131.2		1,114.1	
Sugarcane .....	(NA)		904.1	
Tobacco .....	(NA)		321.5	
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas .....	26.5		9.4	
Dry edible beans .....	2,092.0		2,012.7	
Chickpeas, all .....	618.8		599.3	
Large .....	439.3		424.5	
Small .....	179.5		174.8	
Dry edible peas .....	1,128.0		1,050.5	
Lentils .....	1,104.0		1,022.0	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	(NA)		(NA)	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
Hops .....	(NA)		53.3	
Maple syrup .....	(NA)		(NA)	
Mushrooms .....	(NA)		(NA)	
Peppermint oil .....	(NA)		60.4	
Potatoes, all .....	1,034.3		1,025.5	
Spring .....	58.0		57.7	
Summer .....	68.3		65.5	
Fall .....	908.0		902.3	
Spearmint oil .....	(NA)		22.3	
Sweet potatoes .....	161.6		159.3	
Taro (Hawaii) .....	(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: 2017 and 2018 (continued)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2018 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per acre		Production	
	2017	2018	2017 (1,000)	2018 (1,000)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	bushels	72.6	141,923	
Corn for grain .....	bushels	176.6	14,604,067	
Corn for silage .....	tons	19.9	128,356	
Hay, all .....	tons	2.44	131,455	
Alfalfa .....	tons	3.32	55,068	
All other .....	tons	2.05	76,387	
Oats .....	bushels	61.7	49,391	
Proso millet .....	bushels	36.1	14,567	
Rice <sup>2</sup> .....	cwt	7,507	178,228	
Rye .....	bushels	33.9	9,696	
Sorghum for grain .....	bushels	72.1	363,832	
Sorghum for silage .....	tons	13.3	3,772	
Wheat, all .....	bushels	46.3	1,740,582	
Winter .....	bushels	50.2	1,269,437	
Durum .....	bushels	25.7	54,909	
Other spring .....	bushels	41.0	416,236	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola .....	pounds	1,558	3,118,680	
Cottonseed .....	tons	(X)	6,725.0	
Flaxseed .....	bushels	14.1	3,842	
Mustard seed .....	pounds	632	60,250	
Peanuts .....	pounds	4,074	7,233,600	
Rapeseed .....	pounds	2,139	20,750	
Safflower .....	pounds	1,256	179,896	
Soybeans for beans .....	bushels	49.1	4,391,553	
Sunflower .....	pounds	1,613	2,168,737	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all <sup>2</sup> .....	bales	899	21,263.0	
Upland <sup>2</sup> .....	bales	889	20,570.0	
American Pima <sup>2</sup> .....	bales	1,342	693.0	
Sugarbeets .....	tons	31.7	35,325	
Sugarcane .....	tons	36.8	33,238	
Tobacco .....	pounds	2,209	710,161	
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas <sup>2</sup> .....	cwt	1,330	125	
Dry edible beans <sup>2</sup> .....	cwt	1,781	35,845	
Chickpeas, all <sup>2</sup> .....	cwt	1,152	6,905	
Large <sup>2</sup> .....	cwt	1,165	4,945	
Small <sup>2</sup> .....	cwt	1,121	1,960	
Dry edible peas <sup>2</sup> .....	cwt	1,350	14,177	
Lentils <sup>2</sup> .....	cwt	732	7,482	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	cwt	(NA)	357	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
Hops .....	pounds	1,959	104,366.0	
Maple syrup .....	gallons	(NA)	4,271	
Mushrooms .....	pounds	(NA)	928,605	
Peppermint oil .....	pounds	96	5,778	
Potatoes, all .....	cwt	430	441,307	
Spring .....	cwt	343	19,790	
Summer .....	cwt	331	21,679	
Fall .....	cwt	443	399,838	
Spearmint oil .....	pounds	125	2,796	
Sweet potatoes .....	cwt	224	35,646	
Taro (Hawaii) .....	pounds	10,530	3,686	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

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

<sup>2</sup> Yield in pounds.

## Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Metric Units – United States: 2017 and 2018

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2018 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	1,004,040		790,760	
Corn for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	36,489,680		33,469,080	
Corn for silage .....	(NA)		2,603,780	
Hay, all <sup>2</sup> .....	(NA)		21,765,850	
Alfalfa .....	(NA)		6,702,880	
All other .....	(NA)		15,062,970	
Oats .....	1,047,340		324,160	
Proso millet .....	193,440		163,490	
Rice .....	996,750		960,730	
Rye .....	793,600		115,740	
Sorghum for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	2,276,790		2,041,660	
Sorghum for silage .....	(NA)		114,930	
Wheat, all <sup>2</sup> .....	18,620,600		15,210,680	
Winter .....	13,231,740	13,196,130	10,235,010	
Durum .....	933,620		864,420	
Other spring .....	4,455,230		4,111,250	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola .....	840,540		810,190	
Cottonseed .....	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed .....	122,620		110,080	
Mustard seed .....	41,680		38,610	
Peanuts .....	757,010		718,570	
Rapeseed .....	4,090		3,930	
Safflower .....	65,560		57,950	
Soybeans for beans .....	36,479,570		36,228,660	
Sunflower .....	567,780		544,190	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all <sup>2</sup> .....	5,103,750		4,592,790	
Upland .....	5,001,970		4,492,460	
American Pima .....	101,780		100,320	
Sugarbeets .....	457,790		450,870	
Sugarcane .....	(NA)		365,880	
Tobacco .....	(NA)		130,100	
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas .....	10,720		3,800	
Dry edible beans .....	846,610		814,520	
Chickpeas <sup>2</sup> .....	250,420		242,530	
Large .....	177,780		171,790	
Small .....	72,640		70,740	
Dry edible peas .....	456,490		425,130	
Lentils .....	446,780		413,590	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	(NA)		(NA)	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
Hops .....	(NA)		21,560	
Maple syrup .....	(NA)		(NA)	
Mushrooms .....	(NA)		(NA)	
Peppermint oil .....	(NA)		24,440	
Potatoes, all <sup>2</sup> .....	418,570		415,010	
Spring .....	23,470		23,350	
Summer .....	27,640		26,510	
Fall .....	367,460		365,150	
Spearmint oil .....	(NA)		9,020	
Sweet potatoes .....	65,400		64,470	
Taro (Hawaii) .....	(NA)		140	

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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## Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Metric Units – United States: 2017 and 2018 (continued)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2018 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per hectare		Production	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	3.91		3,090,010	
Corn for grain .....	11.08		370,960,390	
Corn for silage .....	44.72		116,442,600	
Hay, all <sup>2</sup> .....	5.48		119,253,970	
Alfalfa .....	7.45		49,956,850	
All other .....	4.60		69,297,120	
Oats .....	2.21		716,910	
Proso millet .....	2.02		330,370	
Rice .....	8.41		8,084,290	
Rye .....	2.13		246,290	
Sorghum for grain .....	4.53		9,241,760	
Sorghum for silage .....	29.77		3,421,900	
Wheat, all <sup>2</sup> .....	3.11		47,370,880	
Winter .....	3.38		34,548,410	
Durum .....	1.73		1,494,380	
Other spring .....	2.76		11,328,090	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola .....	1.75		1,414,610	
Cottonseed .....	(X)		6,100,820	
Flaxseed .....	0.89		97,590	
Mustard seed .....	0.71		27,330	
Peanuts .....	4.57		3,281,110	
Rapeseed .....	2.40		9,410	
Safflower .....	1.41		81,600	
Soybeans for beans .....	3.30		119,518,490	
Sunflower .....	1.81		983,720	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all <sup>2</sup> .....	1.01		4,629,470	
Upland .....	1.00		4,478,590	
American Pima .....	1.50		150,880	
Sugarbeets .....	71.08		32,046,300	
Sugarcane .....	82.41		30,153,010	
Tobacco .....	2.48		322,120	
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas .....	1.49		5,670	
Dry edible beans .....	2.00		1,625,900	
Chickpeas, all <sup>2</sup> .....	1.29		313,210	
Large .....	1.31		224,300	
Small .....	1.26		88,900	
Dry edible peas .....	1.51		643,060	
Lentils .....	0.82		339,380	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	(NA)		16,190	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
Hops .....	2.20		47,340	
Maple syrup .....	(NA)		21,360	
Mushrooms .....	(NA)		421,210	
Peppermint oil .....	0.11		2,620	
Potatoes, all <sup>2</sup> .....	48.23		20,017,350	
Spring .....	38.44		897,660	
Summer .....	37.10		983,340	
Fall .....	49.67		18,136,350	
Spearmint oil .....	0.14		1,270	
Sweet potatoes .....	25.08		1,616,880	
Taro (Hawaii) .....	11.80		1,670	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

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

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

## Fruits and Nuts Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2017 and 2018

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2018 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2017-2018 season. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2017	2018
<b>Citrus <sup>1</sup></b>		
Grapefruit ..... 1,000 tons	682	530
Lemons ..... 1,000 tons	886	870
Oranges ..... 1,000 tons	5,164	3,883
Tangerines and mandarins ..... 1,000 tons	1,033	882
<b>Noncitrus</b>		
Apples ..... million pounds	10,444.0	
Apricots ..... tons	55,500	
Avocados ..... tons		
Bananas (Hawaii) ..... 1,000 pounds		
Blackberries (Oregon) ..... 1,000 pounds		
Blueberries, Cultivated ..... 1,000 pounds		
Blueberries, Wild (Maine) ..... 1,000 pounds		
Boysenberries (Oregon) ..... 1,000 pounds		
Cherries, Sweet ..... tons	432,760	
Cherries, Tart ..... million pounds	238.2	
Coffee (Hawaii) ..... 1,000 pounds	24,966	
Cranberries ..... barrel	9,050,000	
Dates ..... tons		
Figs (California) ..... tons		
Grapes ..... tons	7,505,300	
Kiwifruit (California) ..... tons		
Nectarines ..... tons		
Olives (California) ..... tons		
Papayas (Hawaii) ..... 1,000 pounds		
Peaches ..... tons	735,200	
Pears ..... tons	707,000	
Plums (California) ..... tons		
Prunes (California) ..... tons	105,000	
Raspberries, all ..... 1,000 pounds		
Strawberries ..... 1,000 cwt	31,992	
<b>Nuts and miscellaneous</b>		
Almonds, shelled (California) ..... 1,000 pounds	2,250,000	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon) ..... tons	36,000	
Macadamias (Hawaii) ..... 1,000 pounds		
Pecans, in-shell ..... 1,000 pounds	277,400	
Pistachios (California) ..... 1,000 pounds		
Walnuts, in-shell (California) ..... tons	650,000	

<sup>1</sup> Production years are 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

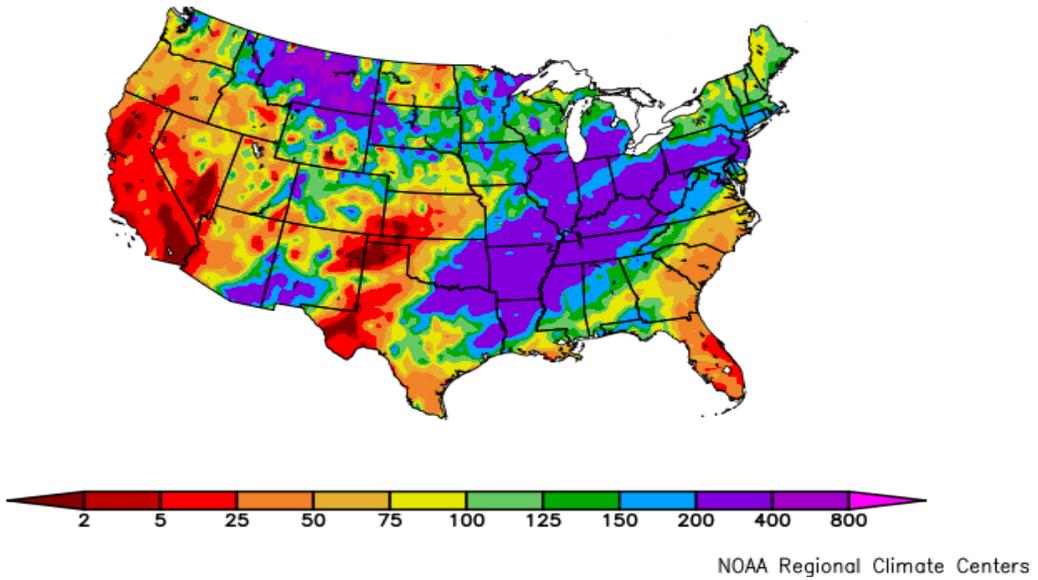
## Fruits and Nuts Production in Metric Units – United States: 2017 and 2018

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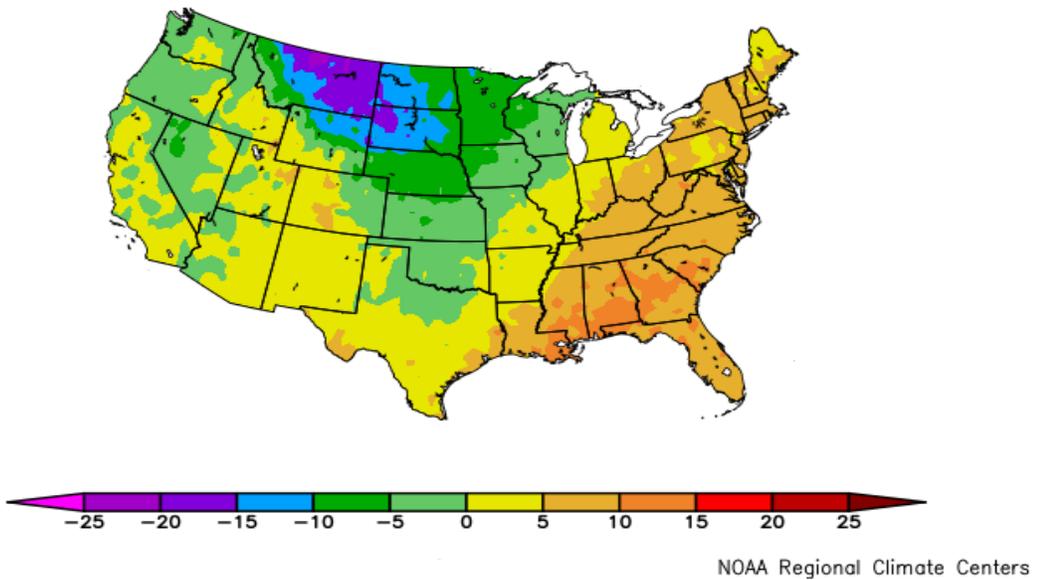
Crop	Production	
	2017 (metric tons)	2018 (metric tons)
<b>Citrus<sup>1</sup></b>		
Grapefruit .....	618,700	480,810
Lemons .....	803,770	789,250
Oranges .....	4,684,700	3,522,600
Tangerines and mandarins .....	937,120	800,140
<b>Noncitrus</b>		
Apples .....	4,737,320	
Apricots .....	50,350	
Avocados .....		
Bananas (Hawaii) .....		
Blackberries (Oregon) .....		
Blueberries, Cultivated .....		
Blueberries, Wild (Maine) .....		
Boysenberries (Oregon) .....		
Cherries, Sweet .....	392,590	
Cherries, Tart .....	108,050	
Coffee (Hawaii) .....	11,320	
Cranberries .....	410,500	
Dates .....		
Figs (California) .....		
Grapes .....	6,808,690	
Kiwifruit (California) .....		
Nectarines .....		
Olives (California) .....		
Papayas (Hawaii) .....		
Peaches .....	666,960	
Pears .....	641,380	
Plums (California) .....		
Prunes (California) .....	95,250	
Raspberries, all .....		
Strawberries .....	1,451,100	
<b>Nuts and miscellaneous</b>		
Almonds, shelled (California) .....	1,020,580	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon) .....	32,660	
Macadamias (Hawaii) .....		
Pecans, in-shell .....	125,830	
Pistachios (California) .....		
Walnuts, in-shell (California) .....	589,670	

<sup>1</sup> Production years are 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
2/1/2018 – 2/28/2018



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
2/1/2018 – 2/28/2018



## February Weather Summary

Sudden wetness across the mid-South and lower Midwest resulted in significant, late-winter flooding. Although the flooding occurred prior to the start of spring fieldwork, agricultural impacts included some cattle being moved to higher ground and many low-lying winter wheat fields being submerged. In addition, much of the Ohio River experienced its highest water levels since March 1997, leading to disruptions in barge traffic.

Just to the west, mostly dry weather persisted on the southern half of the High Plains. Rangeland, pastures, and winter grains continued to suffer in the driest and most severely drought-affected areas, particularly from Texas' northern panhandle into southwestern Kansas. By February 25, more than three-quarters (78 percent) of the winter wheat was rated in very poor to poor condition in Oklahoma, along with 73 percent in Texas and 49 percent in Kansas.

Unfavorably dry weather also persisted in California, as well as many other areas across the southern two-thirds of the western United States, leaving snowpack in dismal shape with only about a month left in the winter wet season. However, late-month storms, accompanied by colder weather, provided some drought relief in the Southwest.

Elsewhere, dryness intensified across the lower Southeast, especially in southern Florida, while frequent storms provided ample precipitation in most areas from the Pacific Northwest to the northern High Plains. Snow-melt and water-supply prospects remained favorable in Montana, Washington, Wyoming, and northern Idaho, while deep snow helped to insulate winter wheat from frigid conditions on the northern Plains. By February 25, just 5 percent of the winter wheat was rated in very poor to poor condition in Montana and Nebraska.

## February Agricultural Summary

The month of February was wetter than normal for much of the Nation. Rain and snow fell across much of the eastern half of the Country, providing some relief to drought conditions in the Southeast and Atlantic Coast States. The heaviest precipitation fell over the Ozarks late in the month. Extreme drought conditions persisted in Northern Texas, Oklahoma, and parts of the Southwest. February started off warmer than normal for many of the Western States, with part of the Rockies 15°F or more above normal during the first week. As the month progressed, temperatures fell below average for much of the Northern Plains. Temperatures in the Eastern States started off slightly cooler than normal before warming up later in the month. During the last full week of February, temperatures in much of the Southeast and Appalachia were 15°F or more above normal.

During the last full week of February, the majority of the winter wheat acreage in reporting States remained in fair to good condition. Winter wheat conditions in Kansas declined as drought conditions persisted; 50 percent of the Kansas' winter wheat acreage was rated in fair to good condition, a decrease of 5 percentage points from the end of January. Only 1 percent of Kansas' winter wheat acreage was rated in excellent condition, unchanged from the previous month. Oklahoma's winter wheat crop remained in the worst condition, with 78 percent of the 2018 crop rated in very poor to poor condition, down 1 percentage point from January.

Pasture and rangeland conditions were mostly fair in reporting States. In Oklahoma and Texas, 75 percent and 67 percent of pasture and rangeland was rated in poor to fair condition, respectively. Drought conditions affecting the Southwest pushed Arizona's condition to 61 percent in very poor to poor condition, a marked decline in condition from last month, when only 44 percent was estimated in very poor to poor condition.

Florida was mostly dry during the month of February, with drought conditions reported in the Panhandle. Average temperatures for the month were as much as 11 degrees above normal, and due to limited rain, pasture condition remained poor to fair. Cattle condition was fair to good, though producers were forced to supplement feed. At the end of the month, producers began harvesting small grains and planting field corn. Sugarcane producers continued weeding, fertilizing, and harvesting their crop. Vegetable growers prepared land and began planting spring crops. Citrus grove operations were normal for this time of year.

## Crop Comments

**Sugarcane:** Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2017 was estimated at 33.2 million tons, up 3 percent from the previous year. Producers harvested 904,100 acres for sugar and seed during the 2017 crop year, up slightly from the previous year. Yield for sugar and seed was estimated at 36.8 tons per acre, up 1.2 tons per acre from 2016.

Louisiana growing season conditions were reported as excellent and sugar recoveries were high. Reported yields were above average. The Florida sugarcane crop was negatively affected by three incidents during the growing season: drought following Hurricane Matthew, wet weather before and after Hurricane Irma, and three reported freeze events in January.

**Grapefruit:** The United States 2017-2018 grapefruit crop is forecast at 530,000 tons, unchanged from last month but 22 percent below last season's final utilization. In Florida, expected production, at 4.65 million boxes (198,000 tons), is unchanged from last month but down 40 percent from last year. California and Texas grapefruit production forecasts were carried forward from the previous month.

**Tangerines and mandarins:** The United States tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 882,000 tons, up slightly from last month but down 15 percent from last season's final utilization. The Florida forecast, at 880,000 boxes (42,000 tons), is up 2 percent from last month but down 46 percent from the 2016-2017 season. The California tangerine and mandarin forecast was carried forward from the previous month.

**Florida citrus:** In the citrus growing region, reported daily temperatures were average or above on most days. Daytime highs were consistently in the mid-70s to mid-80s, while nighttime lows were mostly in the 50s and 60s. Clermont (Lake County), Lake Alfred (Polk County), Palmdale (Glades County), and LaBelle (Hendry County) had temperatures of at least 89 degrees during the month. Monthly rainfall totals were below historical averages. More than half of the monitored citrus stations had less than an inch of rainfall during the month. Only Sebring (Highlands County) had more than two inches. According to the March 1, 2018 U.S. Drought Monitor, for the first time since last July, the citrus region was experiencing drought conditions. All of Orange, Seminole, and Collier Counties, about half of Osceola County, and the southern portion of Hendry County were experiencing abnormally dry conditions. The remainder of the citrus region was drought free.

Tangerines being harvested included Orri, Tango, Royal, and Honey tangerines. Minneola tangelos were also being harvested as mandarins. Grapefruit harvest continued consistently during the month. Twice as much grapefruit went to the processing market than went to the fresh market. Earlier variety Valencia oranges, including Vernia and Valquarius, were being harvested in small quantities. Only one or two processing plants opened to run Valencia oranges during the month. Most operations were waiting for higher ratios and better juice quality before getting started. Grove operations included fertilizing, spraying, applying herbicide, discing, and brush removal. Grove caretakers were irrigating at regular intervals. Field workers across the State reported seeing early blossoms beginning to emerge on some varieties, mainly Valencia oranges.

**California citrus:** Oranges, mandarins, tangelos, lemons, and grapefruit continued to be packed for domestic and foreign markets. Navel oranges, Cara Cara, Moro Blood, and Minneola Tangelo exports continued. By mid-month, orange trees were being topped in advance of the bloom. Seedless Mandarins and Murcotts were covered with netting to prohibit cross pollination.

**California noncitrus fruits and nuts:** Pruning and shredding continued in tree fruit and nut orchards. Fungicide applications were done to protect the blooms. Grape vineyard pruning was in full swing and canes were being shredded and tied. Vineyards with cover crops showed good growth in between vines. Many vineyards continued to receive herbicide, fungicide, and miticide treatments. Mechanical and chemical pre-emergence herbicide applications continued in fruit tree orchards and vineyards throughout the month. Kiwifruit was packed and exported. Olive trees were dormant the first of February, then pruning began about the third week. Blooming was observed on peach, plum, and nectarine trees in orchards in the southern regions of California later in the month.

## Statistical Methodology

**Survey procedures:** The orange objective yield survey for the March 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which produces about 60 percent of the United States production last season. In August and September 2017, the number of bearing trees and the number of fruit per tree is determined. In August and subsequent months, fruit size measurement and fruit droppage surveys are conducted, which are combined with the previous components to develop the current forecast of production. California and Texas conduct grower 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. The Florida Field Office submits its analysis of the current situation to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB). The ASB uses the Florida survey data and their analyses to prepare the published March 1 forecast. Reports from growers 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 March 1 forecast.

**Revision policy:** The March 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 August. 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 March 1 production forecasts, the "Root Mean Square Error," a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the March 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 March 1 orange production forecast is 4.0 percent. However, if the three abnormal production seasons (one freeze season and two hurricane seasons) are excluded, the "Root Mean Square Error" is 4.3 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 4.0 percent, or 4.3 percent excluding abnormal seasons. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 7.0 percent, or 7.4 percent excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the March 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 225,000 tons (236,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 0 tons to 733,000 tons regardless of exclusions. The March 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 9 times, above 10 times and equal to 1 time (below 8 times, above 8 times and equal to 1 time, excluding abnormal seasons). The difference does not imply that the March 1 forecasts this year are likely to understate or overstate final production.

## USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service 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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Anthony Prillaman, Head, Field Crops Section .....	(202) 720-2127
Chris Hawthorn – Corn, Flaxseed, Proso Millet .....	(202) 720-9526
James Johanson – County Estimates, Hay .....	(202) 690-8533
Jeff Lemmons – Oats, Soybeans .....	(202) 690-3234
Sammy Neal – Peanuts, Rice .....	(202) 720-7688
Joshua O’Rear – Crop Weather, Barley .....	(202) 720-7621
Jean Porter – Rye, Wheat .....	(202) 720-8068
Bianca Pruneda – Cotton, Cotton Ginnings, Sorghum.....	(202) 720-5944
Travis Thorson – Sunflower, Other Oilseeds .....	(202) 720-7369
Jorge Garcia-Pratts, Head, Fruits, Vegetables and Special Crops Section.....	(202) 720-2127
Vincent Davis – Apricots, Bananas, Cherries, Garlic, Lettuce, Mint, Papaya, Pears, Strawberries, Tomatoes.....	(202) 720-2157
Fleming Gibson – Avocados, Cauliflower, Celery, Citrus, Coffee, Dates, Figs, Kiwifruit, Nectarines, Olives, Green Peas, Taro, Watermelons .....	(202) 720-5412
Greg Lemmons – Blackberries, Blueberries, Boysenberries, Cranberries, Cucumbers, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Raspberries, Squash, Sugarbeets, Sugarcane, Sweet Potatoes .....	(202) 720-4285
Dan Norris – Artichokes, Austrian Winter Peas, Cantaloupes, Dry Beans, Dry Edible Peas, Honeydews, Lentils, Mushrooms, Peaches, Snap Beans .....	(202) 720-3250
Daphne Schauber – Bell Peppers, Broccoli, Cabbage, Chile Peppers, Floriculture, Grapes, Hops, Maple Syrup, Tree Nuts, Spinach .....	(202) 720-4215
Chris Singh – Apples, Asparagus, Carrots, Lima Beans, Onions, Plums, Prunes, Sweet Corn, Tobacco .....	(202) 720-4288

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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

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**USDA NASS Data Users' Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 24, 2018**

University of Chicago – Gleacher Center  
450 North Cityfront Plaza Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
312-464-8787

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will hold an open forum for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 2018 Data Users' Meeting in cooperation with five other USDA agencies – Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board – and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. Agency representatives will provide updates on recent and pending changes in statistical and information programs important to agriculture, answer questions, and welcome comments and input from data users.

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users' Meeting, see the meeting page on the NASS website ([https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education\\_and\\_Outreach/Meeting/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Meeting/index.php)). Contact Tina Hall (NASS) at 202-720-3896 or [tina.hall@nass.usda.gov](mailto:tina.hall@nass.usda.gov) or Patricia Snipe (NASS) at 202-720-2248 or [patricia.snipe@nass.usda.gov](mailto:patricia.snipe@nass.usda.gov) for information.

The Data Users' Meeting precedes the Industry Outlook Conference at the same location on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. The outlook meeting brings together analysts from various commodity sectors to discuss developments and trends. For registration details or additional information about the Industry Outlook Conference, see the conference page on the LMIC website (<http://lmic.info/page/meetings>) or contact James Robb at 303-716-9933.