



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

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Press Release Announcement – March 9, 2007 - For Immediate Release

ARIZONA AND NATIONAL CITRUS UPDATE

Phoenix, Arizona – Arizona citrus growing areas had extended freezing temperatures in January, effectively ending this season's harvest of lemons and tangerines. Navel orange and grapefruit harvests continued through January and February, but with a larger percentage of the crop being utilized for juice. Packers are still evaluating grove conditions following the freeze. Growers are monitoring bud count and growth and are concerned about possible damage to next season's bloom. Damage to California's citrus crop was still being assessed. Harvest for fresh market utilization continued, especially in areas that did not experience the most extreme temperatures. Harvest of oranges for juice continued.

The U.S. all orange forecast for the 2006-07 season is 7.43 million tons, down 9 percent from the previous forecast and 18 percent below last season's revised final utilization of 9.00 million tons. Florida's all orange forecast, at 132 million boxes, is down 6 percent from February and 11 percent lower than the revised utilization from the 2005-06 season's crop. Below freezing temperatures were recorded on two different occasions during the month but the duration was not long enough to cause any severe damage to groves.

California's all orange forecast, at 37.0 million boxes, is 20 percent below the January forecast and 39 percent lower than last season's revised final utilization of 60.5 million boxes. Reports of damage from January's freeze varied widely from groves being completely unaffected to others where the crop was considered a complete loss. California's navel orange harvest had begun before the freeze but many growers reported that much of their remaining fruit would be utilized for juice. California's Valencia harvest will not begin for several more weeks. The Texas all orange forecast is 1.98 million boxes, unchanged from the January 1 forecast but 24 percent higher than last season's final utilized production. The Texas crop was not faced with adverse weather conditions this season, and growers are optimistic

about their prospects for a good crop. Arizona's all orange utilization forecast, at 350,000 boxes, is unchanged from the previous forecast but 22 percent lower than the 2005-06 season. Navel harvest is nearly complete, with a higher percentage of this season's crop being utilized for juice.

The forecast for the 2006-07 U.S. lemon crop, at 19.0 million boxes, is down 18 percent from the January 1 forecast and 23 percent below last season's utilization. California production is forecast at 16.5 million boxes, down 20 percent from the previous forecast and 21 percent lower than utilization for the 2005-06 season. Harvest resumed on a limited basis in February as marketable fruit was identified. Arizona's 2006-07 lemon forecast, at 2.50 million boxes, is down 11 percent from the January forecast and down 34 percent from the previous season. The majority of the current season's crop had been harvested before the freeze, which effectively ended the season.

California's forecast of tangerine production, at 2.60 million boxes, is down 32 percent from the January 1 forecast and 28 percent below last season's utilized production. The bulk of the Clementine crop was harvested before January's freeze. Damage to later maturing varieties varied by location. Harvest continued as growers encountered marketable fruit. The Arizona tangerine forecast, at 300,000 boxes, is down 25 percent from the previous forecast and 45 percent below last year's utilization. The January freeze ended the harvest for the season.

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