



Press Release

PR-103-06

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On: TEXAS CITRUS ESTIMATES
DOWN FROM LAST SEASON

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AUSTIN . . . The January 1, 2006, Texas grapefruit production is forecast at 5.1 million boxes for the 2005-2006 season, down 23 percent from last year's 6.6 million boxes.

All orange production is estimated at 1.53 million boxes, down 14 percent from last year. Early and mid-season oranges account for 1.3 million boxes and Valencias for 230,000 boxes. The production of all oranges totaled 1.77 million boxes the previous season.

Citrus harvest is in full swing. Grapefruit have developed very well over the last couple of months as temperatures in the Valley have cooled. So far this year there have been no reports of disease or insect problems with the citrus crop. The absence of citrus mite blemishes and sheep nosing has helped the fruit to develop its natural color which allows more grapefruit to be sold fresh. Weather conditions in the Valley have been very dry, with little or no rain. Cooler temperatures in November and December have helped fruit mature.

United States grapefruit production is forecast at 27.2 million boxes, up 7 percent from last year. All orange production is forecast at 213.9 million boxes, up 1 percent from last year.