



Press Release

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On: TEXAS CITRUS ESTIMATES
UP FROM LAST SEASON

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AUSTIN . . . As of January 1, 2007, Texas grapefruit production is forecast at 6.5 million boxes for the 2006-2007 season, up 25 percent from last season's 5.2 million boxes.

All orange production is estimated at 1.98 million boxes, up 24 percent from last season. Early and midseason oranges account for 1.71 million boxes and Valencias for 270,000 boxes. The production of all oranges totaled 1.6 million boxes the previous season.

Heavy rains in the Lower Valley during September delayed the start of the citrus season, and grapefruit shipments were lower than last season through the end of the year. However, the rains increased citrus fruit size, and more recent weather has been excellent for further growth and maturing. Cooler weather in early December prepared trees for winter temperatures and should reduce the time to de-green fruit before going to market and improve taste and quality.

United States grapefruit production is forecast at 38.6 million boxes, up 26 percent from last season. All orange production is forecast at 188.3 million boxes, down 9 percent from last season.