

Texas Agricultural Statistics Service

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On: TEXAS CITRUS ESTIMATES

UP 8 PERCENT FROM LAST SEASON

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AUSTIN . . . The January 1, 2005, Texas grapefruit production is forecast at 6.2 million boxes for the 2004-2005 season, up 9 percent from last year's 5.7 million boxes.

All orange production is estimated at 1.75 million boxes, up 6 percent from last year. Early and midseason oranges account for 1.5 million boxes and Valencias for 250,000 boxes. The production of all oranges totaled 1.65 million boxes the previous season.

The citrus harvest was gaining momentum at the end of 2004. Very little freeze damage was reported from the Christmas snowfall and fruit quality has been good.

United States grapefruit production is forecast at 24.7 million boxes, down 53 percent from last year. All orange production is forecast at 224.7 million boxes, down 24 percent from last year.