



CITRUS ABANDONED ACRES

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1222 Woodward St. · Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

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FLORIDA CITRUS: Abandoned acreage by county

County	Parcels	Abandoned		
		Grove	Understory	Total
<i>Acres</i>				
Brevard	490	5,873	70	5,943
Charlotte	201	2,634	0	2,634
Citrus	10	192	0	192
Collier	29	522	0	522
DeSoto	493	5,473	0	5,473
Glades	33	557	0	557
Hardee	469	3,394	0	3,394
Hendry	400	12,259	37	12,296
Hernando	46	839	0	839
Highlands	186	2,105	0	2,105
Hillsborough	506	3,952	0	3,952
Indian River	786	13,781	0	13,781
Lake	782	9,290	754	10,044
Lee	107	887	0	887
Manatee	324	3,067	0	3,067
Marion	23	212	0	212
Martin	278	11,114	0	11,114
Okeechobee	56	1,092	0	1,092
Orange	261	2,530	0	2,530
Osceola	322	2,860	0	2,860
Palm Beach	176	5,857	0	5,857
Pasco	224	2,158	243	2,401
Polk	1,329	11,640	19	11,659
Putnam	14	117	0	117
Sarasota	22	347	0	347
Seminole	95	762	0	762
St. Lucie	750	24,737	548	25,285
Volusia	175	1,538	0	1,538
Others ^{1/}	10	80	0	80
Total	8,597	129,869	1,671	131,540

^{1/} Alachua and Pinellas counties.

ABANDONED ACREAGE

In conjunction with the biennial tree census to update records of active commercial groves, additional information was collected on abandoned citrus acreage. Since counties or portions of counties without commercial citrus may not have been visited, these numbers do not represent the total of all abandoned acres. More accurate numbers could be attained with additional surveys for this purpose. Results of this first survey include 129,869 abandoned acres and 1,671 acres of understory citrus for a total of 131,540 acres located in 8,597 parcels across 30 counties.

St. Lucie County leads with 25,285 abandoned acres, nearly as much as the next two counties combined. Following are Indian River with 13,781 and Hendry with 12,296. Others with more than 10,000 abandoned acres, in descending order, are Polk (11,659), Okeechobee (11,114), and Lake (10,044). An additional 13 counties have 1,000 or more acres abandoned.

A grove of trees is abandoned with any of the following conditions: no production care during the past season, indicated by high weed growth or by "fire hazard" cultivation only to maintain an agricultural exemption; livestock present; weather damaged or unpruned trees that are not economically feasible to maintain; trees pruned after a freeze but with no further care; or unharvested fruit. Growers or caretakers were also contacted to determine the status in some cases. Abandoned understory acres refers to pine stands with unintentional, feral, or abandoned citrus trees scattered throughout.

Field personnel were instructed to determine the status of all abandoned groves marked on the quad maps used for the tree census. Additionally, if any unmarked citrus was found during the performance of regular census activities, the maps were to be updated to show such parcels. Some known abandoned areas away from other active groves were marked on county maps for special visits. Members of the office staff were utilized to check the status of such areas in nearby counties.

