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CITRUS

MAY FORECAST

MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE



FLORIDA
AGRICULTURE

May 10, 2001

ALL ORANGES 224.0 MILLION BOXES

The 2000-01 Florida all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is unchanged from last month at 224.0 million boxes. This forecast includes 128.0 million boxes of early and midseason oranges which have all been harvested and 96.0 million boxes of Valencias (late type oranges). If realized, the total crop will be four percent below last season's 233.0 million boxes. The record utilization was 244.0 million boxes in the 1997-98 season. In the past 10 seasons, the May forecast of all oranges has differed from actual recorded utilization by an average of less than one percent.

The weather in Florida's citrus growing areas continued dry but average temperatures were lower than normal. Only scattered rainfall fell in some areas with irrigation being used extensively everywhere to maintain tree and fruit condition. Some deterioration of fruit to be harvested has been reported in extremely dry groves.

EARLY & MIDSEASONS FINAL AT 128.0 MILLION BOXES

Harvest of the early and midseason varieties is complete with 128.0 million boxes certified (including an allowance for gift fruit and local sales). This estimate

Citrus production, May 1, 2001
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1998-99	1999-00	Apr 10, 2001	May 10, 2001
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:	--- 1,000 boxes ---			
FLORIDA	112,000	134,000	128,000	128,000
California	21,000	40,000	34,000	34,000
Texas	1,250	1,540	2,000	2,000
Arizona	550	600	450	450
Total Above Varieties	134,800	176,140	164,450	164,450
Valencias:				
FLORIDA	74,000	99,000	96,000	96,000
California	15,000	24,000	23,000	23,000
Texas	180	200	210	210
Arizona	600	500	550	550
Total Valencias	89,780	123,700	119,760	119,760
All Oranges:				
FLORIDA	186,000	233,000	224,000	224,000
California	36,000	64,000	57,000	57,000
Texas	1,430	1,740	2,210	2,210
Arizona	1,150	1,100	1,000	1,000
Total All Oranges	224,580	299,840	284,210	284,210

FORECAST DATES 2000-01 SEASON

June 12, 2001
July 11, 2001

of production includes 5.1 million boxes of **Navel** oranges, most of which are shipped fresh in the fall and winter months.

VALENCIAS REMAIN 96.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of Valencia oranges is 96.0 million boxes, unchanged since February. If realized, this will be three percent less than the 99.0 million boxes harvested last season. Objective count surveys (size and drop) conducted the last two weeks of April show fruit sizes continuing to increase. Droppage also increased but still remains very low. Some fruit is beginning to deteriorate from the dry weather conditions and full utilization of the remaining fruit is questionable.

The monthly Row Count survey, conducted April 30-May 1 shows slightly less than half of the rows harvested. Other than last season, this is the lowest percent harvest since the 1993-94 season. The lower interior and central part of the State have the highest harvest rates with the other areas lagging. This Row Count indicator fully supports the continued forecast.

FCOJ REMAINS AT 1.58 GALLONS

The projected all orange FCOJ yield is continued at 1.58 gallons of 42.0 degrees Brix concentrate. As of April 28, the average yield for all oranges going into concentrate was 1.563363 gallons per box as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association. This latest report from the Processors also states that 165.0 million boxes have been processed of which 99.6 million boxes have been used in frozen concentrated orange juice.

The projected season average yield for the late type (Valencia) oranges is unchanged at 1.65 gallons per box. The latest report from the Citrus Processors shows the Valencia season average yield at 1.642376 gallons. The early and midseason oranges were final at 1.540728 gallons per box as reported by the Processors on report number 23. Results of the latest maturity testing of fruit remaining to be harvested appears on page 3.

TOTAL GRAPEFRUIT CONTINUED AT 49.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all Florida grapefruit is held at 49.0 million boxes, the amount that has been forecast since February. The varietal breakdown is white grapefruit at 20.0 million boxes, unchanged since the initial October forecast, and colored grapefruit at 29.0 million boxes, down 1.0 million from October. The May forecast has deviated from final recorded utilization by an average of 2.8 million boxes in the past 10 seasons, with five seasons above and five seasons below. The record crop of 55.8 million boxes was realized in the 1996-97 season and last season's crop was 53.4 million boxes. The current forecast is 12 percent below the record and eight percent less than last season.

The monthly Row Count survey of citrus, on 18 routes that traverse the producing area, indicates that the total percent of "clean harvested" rows is less than last season for both white and colored. The amount of "off bloom" in many groves and unharvested "marginal care" groves appear to be greater than average. With the current dry weather conditions and market considerations it is possible some of these crops may not be completely picked. Analysis of the white grapefruit supports the forecast amount, but the colored harvest indicates slightly more.

Estimates of certifications through April 29 show 3.8 million boxes of white grapefruit remaining compared with 2.8 million boxes last season through the same date. The colored varieties show 3.4 million boxes remaining versus 4.2 million boxes a year ago.

Citrus production, May 1, 2001
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1998-99	1999-00	Apr 10, 2001	May 10, 2001
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Grapefruit:				
FLORIDA-All	47,050	53,400	49,000	49,000
White ^{1/}	18,350	21,500	20,000	20,000
Colored	28,700	31,900	29,000	29,000
Texas	6,100	5,930	6,700	6,700
Arizona	750	450	650	650
California	7,300	7,000	7,200	7,200
Total Grapefruit	61,200	66,780	63,550	63,550
Lemons:				
California	16,200	19,600	22,000	22,000
Arizona	3,450	3,100	3,200	3,200
Total Lemons	19,650	22,700	25,200	25,200
Limes: Florida	500	600	250 (Final)	250
Temples: Florida	1,800	1,950	1,400	1,250
Tangelos: Florida	2,550	2,200	2,100	2,100
K-Early: Florida	80	110	40	40
Tangerines:				
FLORIDA-All	4,950	7,000	5,600	5,600
Early ^{2/}	3,050	4,350	3,500	3,500
Honey	1,900	2,650	2,100	2,100
California ^{3/}	1,500	2,300	2,600	2,600
Arizona ^{3/}	950	850	650	650
Total Tangerines	7,400	10,150	8,850	8,850

^{1/} Includes seedy. ^{2/} Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy. ^{3/} Includes tangelos.

TANGERINES REMAIN 5.6 MILLION BOXES

Early Tangerines Final at 3.5 Million Boxes

Honey Tangerines Held at 2.1 Million Boxes

The 2000-01 early tangerine crop, comprised of **Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy**, is estimated at 3.5 million boxes. The record crop was 4.5 million boxes in 1996-97 and last season 4.35 million boxes were recorded. **Sunburst** comprised over 75 percent of this crop. **Robinson and Dancy** contributed less than a combined five percent.

The **Honey** tangerine forecast is continued at 2.1 million boxes. Weekly harvest has decreased toward the 50,000 box level for the past two weeks. The Row Count survey shows over 80 percent of the rows harvested. Some of the remaining rows may not be picked because of deteriorating fruit condition.

The Honey variety has increased steadily since the major freeze of December 1989. The 10 season average is 1.7 million boxes. Although this forecast is 21 percent below last season's use, it is 26 percent above the 10 season average.

TEMPLES FINAL AT 1.25 MILLION BOXES

The 2000-01 Temple crop is estimated at 1.25 million boxes, down 0.15 million boxes from the reduction last month. This is the lowest recorded crop since the series began in the 1953-54 season. Last season 1.95 million boxes were utilized. The largest crop of 6.0 million boxes was recorded in 1979-80.

Although the Row Count survey of April 1 shows over 20 percent of the rows unharvested, the weekly utilizations have declined steadily with no utilization recorded as of May 1. The remaining rows are considered unharvestable because of deteriorating fruit condition.

TANGELOS FINAL AT 2.1 MILLION BOXES

The tangelo estimate for 2000-01 is 2.1 million boxes, unchanged since the initial forecast in October. Record tangelo use was recorded in 1979-80, with 6.4 million boxes and has declined over the last 20 seasons. In 1996-97 the crop was 3.95 million boxes and has decreased in each subsequent year.

K-EARLY CITRUS FINAL AT 40,000 BOXES

The 40,000 box final utilization for this season's K-Early crop is equal to the small amount recorded in 1997-98. Production has fluctuated during the past decade. Peak production of 600,000 boxes was recorded in three consecutive seasons beginning with 1978-79.

Unadjusted Maturity Tests: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 1999-00 and 2000-01 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01
	Percent		Percent				Pounds		Pounds	

Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.

ORANGES:

Late (91-97)

Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.53	2.48	8.61	8.76	3.44	3.58	43.28	46.22	3.73	4.05
Nov 1	2.12	2.04	8.77	9.43	4.20	4.70	47.60	50.56	4.18	4.77
Dec 1	1.73	1.76	9.87	10.31	5.77	5.93	51.51	52.44	5.09	5.41
Jan 1	1.51	1.54	10.84	11.03	7.27	7.28	52.39	54.08	5.68	5.97
Feb 1	1.36	1.42	11.74	11.79	8.70	8.38	52.75	53.49	6.20	6.31
Mar 1	1.23	1.22	12.55	12.45	10.28	10.31	52.46	53.91	6.59	6.71
Apr 1	1.05	1.07	12.96	12.62	12.43	11.97	52.27	54.92	6.78	6.94
May 1	0.93	0.93	13.40	12.87	14.59	13.99	52.55	53.91	7.04	6.95

NOTICE: All samples were run through an FMC 091 machine using mechanical pressure only. This machine utilizes a .040 short strainer and standard 5/8-inch orifice tube. The beam settings are also identical to past tests and no restrictors are used.

Maturity test averages by areas, May 1, 2001

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	Number	Percent	Percent		Pounds	Pounds

ORANGES:

Late

Indian River Dist.	19	0.95	13.41	14.48	53.46	7.18
Other Areas	78	0.93	12.74	13.87	54.02	6.89

FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

Size frequency distributions from the April size survey are shown in the table below. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. Fruit sizes were measured on trees in sample groves during the period April 16 through 27, 2001. Comparable sizes for 1999 and 2000 are also shown. These measurements are of fruit from spring bloom and exclude summer bloom in all seasons.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from April measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1999	2000	2001
--- Percent ---			
Valencia oranges:			
64 and larger	5.9	10.5	8.1
80	21.9	25.9	24.3
100	38.3	35.0	39.6
125	25.1	20.1	21.2
163 and smaller	8.8	8.5	6.8

The chart to the right compares the relationship of the April 2001 Valencia orange fruit size measurements with those taken in April 2000. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range except for the smallest value.

CHART 1: Valencia orange size frequency by diameter from April measurements.

