



# CITRUS MARCH FORECAST

## MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

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### ALL ORANGES REDUCED TO 132.0 MILLION BOXES

The Florida all orange forecast released today by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service is 132.0 million boxes, down 8.0 million boxes from last month. The change is entirely within the early-midseason-Navel oranges. If realized, this harvest will be 10.6 percent less than last season and the lowest production since the 110.2 million boxes in the 1989-90 freeze season. Two cold spells during the past month brought below freezing temperature into the citrus belt. However, the duration was not long enough to cause any severe damage to groves. In the past 10 non-hurricane seasons, the March forecast has differed from actual production by an average of 1.7 percent with seven seasons below and three above.

### EARLY-MIDSEASON-NAVELS NOW 67.0 MILLION BOXES

The early-midseason-Navel forecast, including Temples, is lowered by 8.0 million boxes to 67.0 million boxes. The nearly 11 percent decrease is necessary based on the latest utilization figures. Fresh use has been below 90,000 boxes in recent weeks and most processors have finished with the early-midseason varieties. Results of the Row Count survey conducted February 28 and March 1 indicate harvest is nearly complete with less than three percent of the rows visited remaining unharvested. The objective survey data used in the forecast model was final in January. Subsequent data obtained showed the size and drop continued in a seasonal manner. Fruit per tree was determined following the summer Limb Count survey and has

FORECAST DATES — 2006-07 SEASON	
April 10, 2007	June 11, 2007
May 11, 2007	July 12, 2007

remained unchanged. At the beginning of each season, the latest inventory of citrus trees is adjusted to account for new plantings and groves removed from production. Tree numbers may be decreasing faster than anticipated.

**Navel** harvest has declined to the point of fewer than 10,000 boxes certified in recent weeks. Results of the Row Count survey and total utilization confirm the reduction to 2.85 million boxes for this season.

### VALENCIAS REMAIN 65.0 MILLION BOXES

The Valencia forecast is unchanged at 65.0 million boxes. This forecast is 10.6 percent less than the revised production for 2005-06. Harvest has begun with utilization to March 1 near 1.5 million boxes.

Objective survey measurements show that the rates of both growth and loss have slowed down. Fruit growth continues slightly above the average pace and final fruit size is anticipated to be larger than in most recent seasons. Droppage is tracking slightly above average with the final projection now at 15 percent. Forecast expansions based on the components below continue to support the current level.

**CITRUS PRODUCTION: MARCH 1, 2007**  
Forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2004-05	2005-06	Feb 9, 2007	Mar 9, 2007
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
<b>EARLY, MIDSEASON, AND NAVAL ORANGES:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA<sup>1/</sup></b>	<b>79,100</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>67,000</b>
California	44,000	<sup>2/</sup> 47,000	33,000	27,000
Texas	1,500	1,400	1,710	1,710
Arizona	240	250	200	200
<b>Total Above Varieties</b>	<b>124,840</b>	<b>123,650</b>	<b>109,910</b>	<b>95,910</b>
<b>VALENCIAS:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>70,700</b>	<sup>2/</sup> <b>72,700</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>65,000</b>
California	20,500	<sup>2/</sup> 13,500	13,000	10,000
Texas	270	200	270	270
Arizona	190	200	150	150
<b>Total Valencias</b>	<b>91,660</b>	<b>86,600</b>	<b>78,420</b>	<b>75,420</b>
<b>ALL ORANGES:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>149,800</b>	<b>147,700</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>132,000</b>
California	64,500	60,500	46,000	37,000
Texas	1,770	1,600	1,980	1,980
Arizona	430	450	350	350
<b>Total All Oranges</b>	<b>216,500</b>	<b>210,250</b>	<b>188,330</b>	<b>171,330</b>

### COMPONENTS USED IN THE MARCH FORECAST <sup>1/</sup>

Type	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
(1,000)				
<b>ORANGES:</b>				
Early-mid	27,209	696	8	233
Navel	1,467	342	10	130
Valencia	37,133	428	15	194

<sup>1/</sup> Survey data is considered final in December for Navels, January for early-midseason oranges, and April for Valencias.

### FCOJ YIELD NOW 1.62 GALLONS PER BOX

The projection of FCOJ is raised to 1.62 gallons per box. The early-midseason yield in Report #21 from the Florida Citrus Processors rounds to 1.56 gallons per box. Improved pounds solids led to an increase for the later maturing (Valencia) oranges, now at 1.72 gallons per box.

<sup>1/</sup> Includes Temples beginning in 2006-07. Historic Temple production listed on page 2.

<sup>2/</sup> Revised.

## GRAPEFRUIT INCREASED TO 28.0 MILLION BOXES

The Florida forecast of grapefruit for utilization (including an allocation of 700,000 boxes of gift fruit and local sales) is changed to 28.0 million boxes. Making up the forecast are 10.0 million boxes of white and 18.0 million boxes of colored grapefruit. If realized, this forecast will be 45 percent more than harvested last season.

Utilization in conjunction with the Row Count survey was the primary consideration in setting the March forecast. The survey, conducted on February 28 and March 1, shows 52 percent total grapefruit rows harvested, compared to 58 percent the same time last year. Follow-up size and drop data collected in February confirmed January's final month survey data used in the direct expansion components.

The **white** grapefruit forecast is raised to 10.0 million boxes. The Row Count survey shows 46 percent rows harvested. This is slightly higher than the average of the previous 10 seasons. Based on regressions, this supports an increase of 1.0 million boxes to the forecast. Final drop data in January, at 12 percent for white grapefruit, was higher than any season in the 10 year history previous to the hurricanes of the 2004-05 and 2005-06 seasons. Final sizes were slightly above average. February follow up size and drop data shows the same upward trend of higher than normal drop, and above average sizes. Estimated utilization to March 1 is 4.2 million boxes, compared to actual utilization of 4.0 million boxes the same time last year.

### CITRUS PRODUCTION: March 1, 2007 forecasts by varieties and States, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2004-05	2005-06	Feb 9, 2007	Mar 9, 2007
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
<b>GRAPEFRUIT:</b>				
Florida-All	12,800	19,300	26,000	28,000
White	3,400	6,500	9,000	10,000
Colored	9,400	12,800	17,000	18,000
California	6,100	6,000	6,000	4,800
Texas	6,600	5,200	6,500	6,500
Arizona	140	100	100	100
Total Grapefruit	25,640	30,600	38,600	39,400
<b>LEMONS:</b>				
California	20,500	21,000	20,500	16,500
Arizona	2,400	3,800	2,800	2,500
Total Lemons	22,900	24,800	23,300	19,000
<b>TEMPLES:</b>				
	650	700	<sup>1/</sup>	<sup>1/</sup>
<b>TANGELOS: Florida</b>				
	1,550	1,400	1,200	1,250
<b>TANGERINES:</b>				
Florida-All	4,450	5,500	4,600	4,800
Early <sup>2/</sup>	2,450	2,850	2,400	2,400
Honey	2,000	2,650	2,200	2,400
California <sup>3/</sup>	2,900	3,600	3,800	2,600
Arizona <sup>3/</sup>	400	550	400	300
Total Tangerines	7,750	9,650	8,800	7,700

<sup>1/</sup> Included in early-midseason-Navel oranges.

<sup>2/</sup> Fallglo and Sunburst varieties.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes tangelos and tangors.

## COMPONENTS USED IN THE MARCH FORECAST <sup>1/</sup>

Type	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
(1,000)				
<b>GRAPEFRUIT:</b>				
White	2,067	469	12	84
Colored	4,243	447	16	91

<sup>1/</sup> January survey data is considered final.

The **colored** grapefruit forecast is increased to 18.0 million boxes. The Row Count survey shows 55 percent of the colored rows harvested. The quality of the colored grapefruit has been excellent this year, indicated by the fact that more has gone fresh than processed. As the season progresses, the need for processed grapefruit will lead to processing surpassing fresh. January's final drop at 16 percent was higher than any season of the 10 year history prior to the last two hurricane affected seasons. January final sizes used in the expansion for colored grapefruit were slightly above average. Estimated utilization to March 1 is 10.1 million boxes, compared to actual utilization of 8.4 million boxes the same time last year.

## ALL TANGERINES 4.8 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all tangerines is raised to 4.8 million boxes. Forecast for the early varieties (**Fallglo and Sunburst**) is unchanged at 2.4 million boxes and the later maturing **Honey** variety is now at 2.4 million boxes.

The forecast of utilization for early tangerines is unchanged since October, however, the components have been adjusted. **Fallglo** tangerine harvest is complete at 630,000 boxes and **Sunburst** tangerine harvest is complete at 1,770,000 boxes.

The **Honey** tangerine forecast is raised by 200,000 boxes this month. The Honey variety has experienced a growth surge since December, and drop has remained well below average. The Row Count survey conducted on February 28 and March 1 shows 36 percent of rows harvested. Utilization to the first of the month is 1.0 million boxes compared to 1.1 million boxes the same time last season.

## TANGELOS NOW 1.25 MILLION BOXES

The tangelo forecast is raised 50,000 boxes this month to 1,250,000 boxes (including an allocation of non-certified use of 100,000 boxes). The change is a final adjustment based on utilization. Weekly utilization for Tangelos has dropped off significantly for the season, with less than a total 10,000 boxes being harvested over the past two weeks.

**UNADJUSTED MATURITY TESTS: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 2005-06 and 2006-07 seasons**

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07

*Percent*

*Percent*

*Pounds*

*Pounds*

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

**ORANGES:**

Late (146-149)

Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.60	2.50	9.03	8.91	3.51	3.59	43.14	45.74	3.89	4.08	
Nov 1	1.98	2.02	9.15	9.82	4.67	4.94	48.16	48.76	4.41	4.79	
Dec 1	1.63	1.70	9.83	9.88	6.08	5.89	51.04	51.65	5.02	5.10	
Jan 1	1.41	1.41	10.72	10.88	7.69	7.84	52.49	51.81	5.63	5.63	
Feb 1	1.29	1.22	11.85	11.96	9.27	9.94	53.41	54.55	6.33	6.52	
Mar 1	1.19	1.12	12.51	12.59	10.63	11.36	53.30	54.58	6.67	6.88	

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, MARCH 1, 2007**

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

*Percent*

*Percent*

*Pounds*

*Pounds*

**ORANGES:**

Late

Indian River District	26	1.14	12.81	11.36	54.82	7.02
Other Areas	123	1.12	12.54	11.36	54.53	6.84

## FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

Size frequency distributions developed from the February size survey are shown in the following table. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. These frequency distributions relate to fruit from regular bloom and exclude summer bloom in all years.

### FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from February measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	2005	2006	2007
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--- Percent ---

#### VALENCIA ORANGES:

64 and larger	3.7	2.5	12.6
80	19.7	12.9	30.8
100	43.7	35.4	35.7
125	25.3	31.9	16.0
163 and smaller	7.6	17.3	4.9

#### WHITE SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT:

32 and larger	29.3	30.2	36.6
36	23.9	24.9	23.1
40	16.9	20.3	16.3
48	13.5	10.1	10.4
56	6.4	5.8	6.5
63 and smaller	10.0	8.7	7.1

#### COLORED SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT:

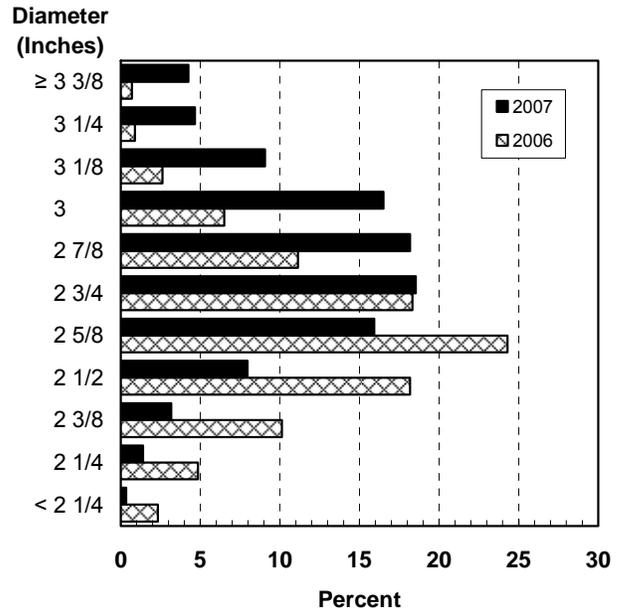
32 and larger	18.1	19.8	22.8
36	23.4	17.6	22.8
40	20.9	24.5	21.3
48	17.6	16.4	15.1
56	9.3	10.9	9.1
63 and smaller	10.7	10.8	8.9

#### HONEY TANGERINES:

80 and larger	18.0	24.5	48.2
100	32.8	38.7	31.1
120	31.4	23.1	12.5
176	10.0	5.5	4.1
210 and smaller	7.8	8.2	4.1

The charts to the right describe the relationships of the fruit size measurements with those taken in the previous year. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range, except for the smallest values.

**CHART 1:** Valencia orange size frequency by diameter from February measurements



**CHART 2:** White seedless grapefruit size frequency by diameter from February measurements

