



Production of Florida lemons in 1979 was 1,250,000 boxes, close to the level of production in the years preceding the January 1977 freeze. The volume of true lemon varieties and of Meyers both increased from a year earlier.

Value of production in 1979 at \$8,063,000 was a record high due to increases in both crop size and a record high price per box. About 35 percent of the true lemon crop moved into fresh channels, and nearly all of the Meyer fruit was processed.

Bearing acreage of true lemon varieties increased slightly while that of Meyers has stabilized. True lemons acreage which peaked in the early 1970's has been steadily declining and the 1977 freeze sharply accelerated this loss.

Lemon trees currently are in good condition and production during the summer of 1980 is expected to be at least as large as in 1979. The early March cold may have affected the bloom in some true lemon groves, but a good bloom was observed on the Meyer varieties.

Florida lemons: Bearing acreage, production, season average
on-tree prices and value for crop years 1967 through 1979

Season	True lemons			Meyer lemons			All lemons			
	Bearing acres	Production	Price per box	Bearing acres	Production	Price per box	Bearing acres	Production	Price per box	Value of production
	1,000 acres	1,000 boxes	Dols.	1,000 acres	1,000 boxes	Dols.	1,000 acres	1,000 boxes	Dols.	1,000 dols.
1967	5.2	230	1.70	1.4	380	1.10	6.6	610	1.32	805
1968	5.8	430	1.60	1.6	540	1.30	7.4	970	1.42	1,377
1969	6.3	890	1.75	1.7	620	1.05	8.0	1,510	1.47	2,220
1970	6.7	750	2.05	1.7	495	1.00	8.4	1,245	1.61	2,004
1971	7.1	1,140	2.50	1.6	325	1.50	8.7	1,465	2.23	3,267
1972	6.8	1,180	3.00	1.6	670	1.40	8.4	1,850	2.47	4,570
1973	6.3	1,010	3.25	1.6	590	1.45	7.9	1,600	2.58	4,128
1974	6.0	1,150	2.50	1.6	530	.70	7.6	1,680	1.92	3,231
1975	5.4	850	3.60	1.5	450	1.45	6.9	1,300	2.85	3,697
1976	5.6	900	2.45	1.4	470	1.30	7.0	1,370	2.05	2,808
1977	3.7	200	4.55	1.4	190	1.55	5.1	390	3.05	1,190
1978	3.5	370	5.25	1.4	330	1.60	4.9	700	3.50	2,450
1979	3.9	770	8.90	1.3	480	2.50	5.2	1,250	6.45	8,063



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