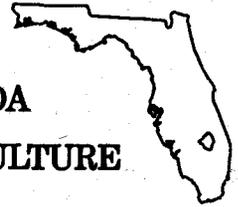




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FLORIDA
 AGRICULTURE



TROPICAL FRUIT

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ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE

APRIL 23, 1993

TROPICAL FRUIT

The Florida Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the Lime and Avocado Administrative Committees completed an inventory of the State's tropical fruit acreage in March 1993. The survey was delayed six months due to Hurricane Andrew which went directly through the producing area of Dade County August 24, 1992. All blocks of avocados, limes and mangoes in Dade County were visited to verify the commercial status of each grove. Virtually all trees except very young ones were affected by the storm. In many groves, rehabilitation has been completed and these trees depending on care, are in good to excellent condition. Rains during the winter months have been beneficial to recovery. All groves in other counties which were unaffected by the storm were surveyed during late 1992.

AVOCADO ACREAGE DECLINE ACCELERATES

Florida's avocado acreage has declined 33 percent from 9,078 acres in 1990 to 6,104 acres in 1993. Hurricane Andrew accelerated the steady decline in avocado acreage since 1984 when there were 12,872 acres. There has been a 34 percent decrease in the Dade County acreage from 8,987 acres in 1990 to 5,965 acres in 1993. It is unknown how much of this loss in Dade County is attributed to Hurricane Andrew. There was an 11 percent decrease in Dade from 10,076 acres in 1988 to 8,987 in 1990. There are 608,900 total avocado trees remaining in Florida. Trees 3 years and older are considered to be of bearing age. There are 6,101 bearing acres statewide compared to 9,031 in 1990. The current decline places the total State acreage at the lowest level since 1971-72 when there were 6,100 acres.

Those avocado trees that had been hedged, topped or pruned prior to the hurricane generally fared well with few trees lost. Many trees were cut back and set up following the hurricane and are growing in a satisfactory condition. Those groves which have received little or no cultural care since August 1992 are considered to be abandoned.

LIMES DOWN 66 PERCENT

Lime acreage is down 4,412 acres statewide since 1990, primarily due to Hurricane Andrew. Of the 6,647 acres of limes reported in 1990, only 2,235 remain. In Dade County, only 1,668 acres are currently remaining including less than 100 acres planted since the storm. This is down over 70% from the 6,071 acres reported in Dade in 1990.

These live and commercial lime groves in Dade were further divided into standing and down categories. This division reflects those lime trees with reduced bearing capacity that were blown over but are still alive. About 35 percent of the remaining trees 5 years and older are in this down category; most of the younger trees are standing. Decisions by growers to rehabilitate many of these groves have not been made and long term survival of many of these trees is unknown. The total lime acreage in Florida currently is recorded at an historical low since the beginning of the aerial photography tree census project 28 years ago.

MANGOES LOSE MORE THAN 1,000 ACRES

Mango acreage decreased more than 37 percent from 2,759 acres reported in 1990 to 1,732 currently reported. Dade County acreage decreased over 40 percent to 1,398 acres. As with avocados, many groves have been rehabilitated and are recovering. This decrease is not totally attributed to Hurricane Andrew; urbanization has also reduced the acreage of this tropical fruit. Very little new mango acreage has been set in the past few years. Current acreage is the lowest reported since 1,400 acres of mangos were recorded in 1974.

LEMONS DOWN TO 755 ACRES

Florida's lemons have continued to decline to 755 acres. This decrease in acreage is not related to Hurricane Andrew, as there are no commercial lemons in Dade County. Normal attrition, economic conditions, and general abandonment have accounted for the loss in lemon acreage since 1990. The 755 acres of lemons is the lowest since the early 60's when the 1962 freeze greatly reduced the State's acreage.

TROPICAL FRUIT ACRES

Census years	Limes	Lemons	Avocados	Mangoes
1976	4,747	7,755	7,881	1,914
1978	4,844	5,541	9,028	1,764
1980	6,535	5,491	10,495	1,746
1982	7,489	3,296	11,612	2,228
1984	7,009	2,295	12,872	2,589
1986	7,165	1,460	11,849	2,722
1988	6,792	1,204	11,239	2,895
1990	6,647	1,048	9,078	2,759
1993	2,235	755	6,104	1,732

TROPICAL FRUIT, FLORIDA: ACRES AND TREES BY YEAR SET AND TYPE OF FRUIT

Year set	Limes		Lemons		Avocados		Mangoes	
	Acres	Trees	Acres	Trees	Acres	Trees	Acres	Trees
Pre-1948	0	0	0	0	696	66,000	155	10,600
1948-57	5	500	1	100	1,111	99,300	276	18,700
1958-67	66	9,000	62	12,200	397	44,000	109	8,800
1968	0	0	110	19,300	169	16,500	31	2,300
1969	11	1,600	0	0	192	19,400	26	3,000
1970	8	1,100	0	0	183	16,700	39	4,800
1971	0	0	0	0	263	25,000	20	2,100
1972	15	2,100	0	0	117	10,900	49	4,700
1973	3	300	117	22,600	394	37,300	22	2,000
1974	10	2,000	58	9,000	118	12,100	13	1,300
1975	13	2,800	8	1,600	253	25,400	8	800
1976	106	10,200	63	7,100	107	12,000	15	1,600
1977	113	19,700	3	400	425	42,600	19	1,900
1978	137	14,800	1	100	140	16,700	21	2,000
1979	283	42,400	5	800	434	43,700	99	11,500
1980	287	51,500	0	0	511	59,200	72	7,400
1981	8	1,500	130	14,500	251	28,400	168	16,600
1982	11	2,100	10	1,100	155	14,400	99	8,300
1983	126	14,700	27	3,300	98	9,800	92	8,800
1984	40	4,700	0	0	14	1,600	71	8,000
1985	241	32,200	26	4,100	35	3,900	96	13,200
1986	39	8,400	26	4,500	17	1,600	78	9,600
1987	40	6,500	28	5,200	9	800	30	2,900
1988	143	23,800	9	1,600	2	300	83	10,700
1989	109	18,100	10	1,000	10	1,100	10	1,100
1990	129	24,600	40	7,900	1	100	8	1,200
1991	33	4,200	0	0	0	0	20	1,800
1992	192	39,100	21	4,100	0	0	3	400
1993 ¹	67	18,800	0	0	2	100	0	0
Total	2,235	356,700	755	120,500	6,104	608,900	1,732	166,100

¹ Plantings through mid-March in Dade County only.

AVOCADO PRODUCTION AND VALUE

FLORIDA: Production of avocados for the 1992-93 season was greatly reduced because of Hurricane Andrew. Certified production was reported at a total of 277,000 bushels by the Avocado Administration Committee from certifications of the Division of Fruits and Vegetables, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Very little fruit was shipped after the storm on August 24, 1992.

The season total production of 280,000 bushels (including 3,000 bushels of estimated uncertified local sales) is down 75 percent from the previous season.

The average price for fruit delivered to the packing house door was \$14.60 per bushel, up from the previous season's \$11.90 per bushel. Total value of the crop was \$4,088,000, greatly reduced because of the storm.

OTHER STATES: California production for the 1991-92 season, which ended last October, increased for the third season to over 6 million bushel equivalents. Price per bushel declined to \$29.25 from \$35.25 the previous season. Hawaii production for the 1991-92 season was down with prices averaging slightly higher.

FLORIDA AVOCADOS: Bearing acreage, production, utilization, season average price, and value of production at packing house door for crop years 1983-84 through 1992-93

Season	Bearing acreage	Total production	Certified shipments	Local fresh use	Processing	Price per bushel	Value of production
	Acres	Bushels				Dollars	
1983-84	10,900	1,080,000	1,032,000	28,000	20,000	11.50	12,409,000
1984-85	11,000	1,180,000	1,150,000	20,000	10,000	9.75	11,496,000
1985-86	10,700	1,140,000	1,111,000	19,000	10,000	14.40	16,415,000
1986-87	11,300	988,000	957,000	25,000	6,000	10.30	10,176,000
1987-88	11,300	1,160,000	1,130,000	30,000	--	7.80	9,048,000
1988-89	10,900	1,080,000	1,058,000	22,000	--	10.90	11,772,000
1989-90	10,600	1,340,000	1,300,000	40,000	--	8.30	11,122,000
1990-91	9,000	784,000	752,000	17,000	15,000	17.10	13,406,000
1991-92	8,600	1,132,000	1,111,000	21,000	--	11.90	13,471,000
1992-93	8,400	280,000	277,000	3,000	--	14.60	4,088,000

OTHER STATES AVOCADOS: Bearing acreage, production, season average price and value of production at packing house door for selected years.

Season	Bearing acreage	Total production	Fresh shipments	Processing	Price per bushel	Value of production
	Acres	Bushels 1/			Dollars	
CALIFORNIA						
1986-87	75,000	11,120,000	11,120,000	--	8.45	93,964,000
1987-88	74,800	7,200,000	7,200,000	--	28.50	205,200,000
1988-89	75,200	6,600,000	6,120,000	480,000	31.50	207,900,000
1989-90	75,000	4,200,000	3,720,000	480,000	57.00	239,400,000
1990-91	74,200	5,440,000	4,960,000	480,000	35.25	191,760,000
1991-92	73,300	6,240,000	5,720,000	520,000	29.25	182,520,000
HAWAII						
1988-89	290	24,000	24,000	--	18.25	438,000
1989-90	250	22,000	22,000	--	19.00	418,000
1990-91	250	18,000	18,000	--	22.50	405,000
1991-92	280	16,800	16,800	--	23.50	395,000

1/ Pounds converted to bushels at 50 pound equivalents.

LEMON PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Production of all lemons in 1992 was 255,000 boxes, down from the 300,000 boxes produced the previous season. Fresh shipments were less than last season and in many years. Less than 100 acres of Meyer lemons are in production with production steady for several seasons. All of the Meyers are processed.

Bearing acreage continues to decline with only 700 acres in production at this time, mostly in the lower interior of the State.

Average price for all lemons, all methods of sales was \$6.15 per box, the lowest in several years.

FLORIDA LEMONS: Bearing acreage, production, season average on-tree prices and value for crop years 1988 through 1992

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	Dollars	1,000 acres	1,000 boxes	Dollars	1,000 acres	1,000 boxes	Dollars	1,000 dollars
1988	1.1	433	NA	.1	47	NA	1.2	480	5.30	2,548
1989	1.0	333	NA	.1	42	NA	1.1	375	6.90	2,592
1990	.9	210	NA	.1	40	NA	1.0	250	6.80	1,697
1991	.8	254	NA	.1	46	NA	.9	300	12.60	3,784
1992	.6	215	NA	.1	40	NA	.7	255	6.15	1,565

MANGO PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Production of Mangoes in the summer of 1992 was 400,000 bushels, down slightly from 1991. Virtually all of the mangoes were harvested before Hurricane Andrew. Average price per bushel

for fruit delivered to the packing house door was down slightly, to \$10.70 per bushel. Acreage has remained the same for several years but is down now because of losses from the storm.

FLORIDA MANGOES: Acreage, production, season average price, and value of production at packing house door for crop years 1988 through 1992

Crop year	Acreage			Bearing trees	Production and value		
	Total	(4 years) Non-bearing	Bearing		Bushels	Price	Total value
				1,000 trees	Dollars	1,000 dollars	
1988	2,900	500	2,400	215	350,000	5,250	
1989	2,900	400	2,500	228	400,000	5,200	
1990	2,800	300	2,500	229	350,000	4,725	
1991	2,700	200	2,500	232	500,000	6,150	
1992	2,800	300	2,500	239	400,000	4,280	

LIME PRODUCTION

Lime production for the 1992-93 season which ended March 31 was reduced by Hurricane Andrew to 1.6 million bushels, down 38 percent from the previous season. Certified fresh shipments

were down 32 percent from the previous season. Only limited amounts of fruit were shipped after the storm.

FLORIDA LIMES: Utilization in bushels, 1987-88 through 1992-93 season

Season	Fresh use			Sold for processing	Total production
	Certified shipments	Local sales	Total fresh		
	Bushels				
1987-88	1,352,800	23,200	1,376,000	704,000	2,080,000
1988-89	1,492,900	27,100	1,520,000	480,000	2,000,000
1989-90	1,590,900	25,100	1,616,000	1,024,000	2,640,000
1990-91	1,459,700	28,300	1,488,000	832,000	2,320,000
1991-92	1,680,800	31,200	1,712,000	848,000	2,560,000
1992-93	1,134,500	17,500	1,152,000	448,000	1,600,000

TROPICAL FRUIT, DADE COUNTY: ACRES AND TREES BY YEAR SET AND TYPE OF FRUIT

Year set	Limes		Avocados		Mangoes	
	Acres	Trees	Acres	Trees	Acres	Trees
Pre-1948	0	0	696	66,000	93	6,300
1948-57	5	500	1,109	99,200	265	18,200
1958-67	65	8,900	397	44,000	99	7,800
1968	0	0	169	16,500	20	1,800
1969	10	1,500	192	19,400	26	3,000
1970	8	1,100	182	16,600	32	4,200
1971	0	0	263	25,000	20	2,100
1972	15	2,100	117	10,900	12	1,100
1973	3	300	394	37,300	22	2,000
1974	10	2,000	118	12,100	8	1,100
1975	13	2,800	210	21,800	8	800
1976	22	4,000	107	12,000	15	1,600
1977	113	19,700	424	42,500	16	1,600
1978	132	14,100	140	16,700	21	2,000
1979	240	38,000	400	41,000	94	11,000
1980	287	51,500	504	58,600	59	6,300
1981	8	1,500	227	25,100	135	14,400
1982	11	2,100	136	12,800	53	5,100
1983	51	8,000	90	9,000	92	8,800
1984	18	2,600	14	1,600	54	6,400
1985	77	10,500	35	3,900	82	11,800
1986	32	7,400	17	1,600	33	4,200
1987	40	6,500	9	800	30	2,900
1988	44	10,400	2	300	78	10,300
1989	51	9,400	10	1,100	10	1,100
1990	129	24,600	1	100	8	1,200
1991	26	3,100	0	0	10	800
1992	191	39,000	0	0	3	400
1993 ¹	67	18,800	2	100	0	0
Total	1,668	290,400	5,965	596,000	1,398	138,300

¹ Plantings through mid-March.

TROPICAL FRUIT, OTHER COUNTIES: ACRES AND TREES BY YEAR SET AND TYPE OF FRUIT

Year set	Limes		Lemons		Avocados		Mangoes	
	Acres	Trees	Acres	Trees	Acres	Trees	Acres	Trees
Pre-1948	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	4,300
1948-57	0	0	1	100	2	100	11	500
1958-67	1	100	62	12,200	0	0	10	1,000
1968	0	0	110	19,300	0	0	11	500
1969	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
1970	0	0	0	0	1	100	7	600
1971	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1972	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	3,600
1973	0	0	117	22,600	0	0	0	0
1974	0	0	58	9,000	0	0	5	200
1975	0	0	8	1,600	43	3,600	0	0
1976	84	6,200	63	7,100	0	0	0	0
1977	0	0	3	400	1	100	3	300
1978	5	700	1	100	0	0	0	0
1979	43	4,400	5	800	34	2,700	5	500
1980	0	0	0	0	7	600	13	1,100
1981	0	0	130	14,500	24	3,300	33	2,200
1982	0	0	10	1,100	19	1,600	46	3,200
1983	75	6,700	27	3,300	8	800	0	0
1984	22	2,100	0	0	0	0	17	1,600
1985	164	21,700	26	4,100	0	0	14	1,400
1986	7	1,000	26	4,500	0	0	45	5,400
1987	0	0	28	5,200	0	0	0	0
1988	99	13,400	9	1,600	0	0	5	400
1989	58	8,700	10	1,000	0	0	0	0
1990	0	0	40	7,900	0	0	0	0
1991	7	1,100	0	0	0	0	10	1,000
1992	1	100	21	4,100	0	0	0	0
Total	567	66,300	755	120,500	139	12,900	334	27,800