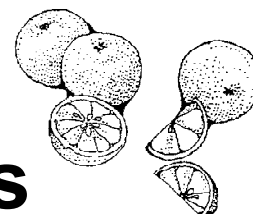


2002-03 California Valencia Orange Objective Measurement Survey Results



Released: March 11, 2003



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

The initial 2002-03 Valencia orange forecast is 44.0 million (37.5-pound) cartons, similar to last season's estimated total. Survey data indicated an average fruit set of 708 oranges per tree in the Central Valley, and 518 oranges per tree in Southern California. The Central Valley set is the region's highest fruit set since the 1992-93 season. Fruit sizes have decreased this year, with an average diameter of 2.625 inches in the Central Valley, and 2.483 inches in Southern California. The State average fruit set is 653 fruits per tree, with an average size of 2.584 inches.

A special thanks goes to the many Valencia orange farm operators and owners who provided information on their operations.

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A Valencia Orange Objective Measurement Survey will continue to be collected in February with the results published in March. Below are the data by district for the 1999-00, 2000-01, 2001-02, and 2002-2003 seasons.

Data were collected from 781 groves. Two trees per grove were selected with two paths in each tree.

California Agricultural Statistics Service
publications are available on the Internet at:
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/ca>

CALIFORNIA VALENCIA ORANGE DATA BY DISTRICT

District and Season	No. of Samples	Bearing Acres	Average			
			Trees Per Acre	Set Per Tree	Diameter as of March 1	Diameter as of July 1
					(Inches)	
Central Valley						
1999-00	214	44,700	125	596	2.641	2.779
2000-01	391	45,500	125	402	2.671	2.937
2001-02	412	45,500	125	489	2.761	2.910
2002-03	402	45,500	125	708	2.625	2.774
Southern California						
1999-00	129	24,800	125	548	2.473	2.655
2000-01	391	21,000	125	640	2.489	2.715
2001-02	392	21,000	125	585	2.439	2.648
2002-03	378	18,500	125	518	2.483	2.692
State Total						
1999-00	343	69,500	125	579	2.581	2.743
2000-01	782	66,500	125	477	2.614	2.867
2001-02	804	66,500	125	519	2.659	2.827
2002-03	780	64,000	125	653	2.584	2.750