



# CITRUS ABANDONED ACRES

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751  
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

September 18, 2009

## FLORIDA CITRUS: Abandoned acreage by county and survey

County	Parcels		Abandoned					
	2008	2009	Grove		Understory		Total	
			2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
<i>Acres</i>								
Brevard	490	596	5,873	6,056	70	70	5,943	6,126
Charlotte	201	194	2,634	2,481	0	0	2,634	2,481
Citrus	10	11	192	175	0	27	192	202
Collier	29	27	522	430	0	0	522	430
DeSoto	493	490	5,473	5,352	0	0	5,473	5,352
Glades	33	35	557	565	0	0	557	565
Hardee	469	446	3,394	3,195	0	0	3,394	3,195
Hendry	400	407	12,259	12,272	37	37	12,296	12,309
Hernando	46	50	839	923	0	20	839	943
Highlands	186	194	2,105	2,147	0	0	2,105	2,147
Hillsborough	506	252	3,952	4,378	0	0	3,952	4,378
Indian River	786	791	13,781	13,220	0	0	13,781	13,220
Lake	782	808	9,290	9,750	754	1,242	10,044	10,993
Lee	107	109	887	897	0	0	887	897
Manatee	324	336	3,067	3,227	0	0	3,067	3,227
Marion	23	26	212	213	0	82	212	295
Martin	278	402	11,114	15,411	0	0	11,114	15,411
Okeechobee	56	88	1,092	2,066	0	0	1,092	2,066
Orange	261	274	2,530	2,631	0	49	2,530	2,680
Osceola	322	359	2,860	3,330	0	0	2,860	3,330
Palm Beach	176	169	5,857	5,619	0	0	5,857	5,619
Pasco	224	237	2,158	2,162	243	271	2,401	2,433
Polk	1,329	1,344	11,640	11,716	19	118	11,659	11,834
Putnam	14	12	117	98	0	0	117	98
Sarasota	22	18	347	132	0	0	347	132
Seminole	95	93	762	646	0	0	762	646
St. Lucie	750	903	24,737	26,741	548	548	25,285	27,289
Volusia	175	192	1,538	1,707	0	0	1,538	1,707
Others <sup>1/</sup>	10	11	80	85	0	0	80	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,597</b>	<b>9,147</b>	<b>129,869</b>	<b>137,625</b>	<b>1,671</b>	<b>2,464</b>	<b>131,540</b>	<b>140,089</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Alachua and Pinellas counties.

## ABANDONED ACREAGE

In combination with the latest commercial citrus tree inventory, abandoned citrus groves were also identified. Experienced agricultural personnel evaluated tree condition and made an overall assessment of citrus groves contained in the maps of Florida citrus growing areas.

The amount of abandoned citrus acreage is updated and published on an annual basis to keep pace with constant changes. Some citrus groves previously identified as abandoned have been removed and destroyed. Additional groves are added each year when they meet the abandoned grove criteria.

A grove is considered abandoned when the following conditions exist: no production care during the past 2 years, no weed control or grass mowing, livestock present, weather damage, neglected trees that are not economically feasible to maintain or no commercial harvest during the last 2 seasons. In some cases, property owners or caretakers were contacted and questioned regarding future use of their citrus groves.

Results of this survey include 2,465 understory acres comprised of pine stands and forested areas with abandoned, unintentional, or feral citrus trees scattered under their canopy. These acres pose a potential threat as a possible source of pests and diseases.

The Indian River District leads with 51,926 abandoned acres and includes St. Lucie County, (27,289) with nearly 20 percent of the State total. Other counties with more than 10,000 abandoned acres include Martin, Indian River, Hendry, Polk, and Lake. An additional 13 counties have 1,000 or more abandoned acres.

**FLORIDA CITRUS: Abandoned acreage by production area and survey**

Commercial Citrus Production Area	Parcels		Abandoned						
			Grove		Understory		Total		
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	
			<i>Acres</i>						
Indian River District	2,103	2,478	45,609	51,378	548	548	46,157	51,926	
Northern Area	1,595	1,658	16,664	17,839	997	1,691	17,661	19,530	
Central Area	1,879	1,934	18,285	18,515	89	188	18,374	18,703	
Western Area	1,800	1,819	16,291	16,348	0	0	16,291	16,348	
Southern Area	1,220	1,258	33,020	33,545	37	37	33,057	33,582	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,597</b>	<b>9,147</b>	<b>129,869</b>	<b>137,625</b>	<b>1,671</b>	<b>2,464</b>	<b>131,540</b>	<b>140,089</b>	

