



CITRUS ABANDONED ACRES

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
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Abandoned Acreage Down 3 Percent

Untended citrus groves were identified, and their location recorded during the annual Commercial Citrus Tree Inventory. Citrus tree condition was evaluated and an overall assessment was made of citrus groves shown on the maps of Florida citrus growing areas. Citrus groves previously identified as abandoned have either been destroyed, returned back to production, or remain abandoned. Abandoned groves are a threat to the citrus industry and are a haven for psyllids carrying the bacterium that causes greening disease.

Additional groves are added each year when they meet the abandoned grove criteria. A citrus grove is classified as abandoned when the following conditions exist: no production care during the past 2 years, lack of weed control or grass mowing, livestock present, weather damaged or neglected trees that are not economically feasible to maintain, or no commercial harvest during the last 2 seasons. Whenever possible, property owners or caretakers were contacted regarding the future use of their groves. Understory acres include pine stands and forested areas with abandoned, unintentional, or feral citrus trees scattered underneath their canopy.

Of the 30 counties surveyed, 14 show increases, and 16 show decreases in total abandoned acreage. Four of the five production areas show decreases in abandoned acres. The Indian River production area has the largest percent of the states total abandoned acreage at 44 percent. By county, St. Lucie County has the largest number of abandoned acres at 33,435 acres, followed by Martin County with 17,482 acres abandoned.

Citrus Abandoned Acreage by County and Survey Year – Florida: 2013-2015

County	Parcels			Abandoned								
				Grove			Understory			Total		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
(number)	(number)	(number)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Brevard	565	483	501	4,585	2,695	3,380	70	247	247	4,655	2,942	3,627
Charlotte	175	181	167	2,297	2,418	2,148	-	-	-	2,297	2,418	2,148
Collier.....	31	31	32	662	662	707	-	-	-	662	662	707
De Soto.....	339	353	342	3,112	3,216	3,393	-	-	-	3,112	3,216	3,393
Glades.....	38	45	49	675	674	720	-	-	-	675	674	720
Hardee	362	344	326	2,858	2,566	2,399	-	-	-	2,858	2,566	2,399
Hendry	377	382	385	8,449	9,337	8,989	37	37	-	8,486	9,374	8,989
Hernando	57	55	54	941	931	921	37	37	20	978	968	941
Highlands.....	232	149	151	3,240	1,528	1,994	-	15	2	3,240	1,543	1,996
Hillsborough.....	487	491	372	3,664	3,462	2,010	-	-	-	3,664	3,462	2,010
Indian River.....	781	815	878	12,307	12,414	13,802	124	124	124	12,431	12,538	13,926
Lake.....	1,033	1,012	970	10,766	9,966	9,092	2,731	4,191	4,324	13,497	14,157	13,416
Lee.....	93	96	93	736	749	647	-	-	-	736	749	647
Manatee.....	308	286	270	3,139	2,762	2,564	-	-	-	3,139	2,762	2,564
Marion.....	67	81	86	205	267	294	691	691	684	896	958	978
Martin.....	554	596	608	16,495	17,350	17,482	-	-	-	16,495	17,350	17,482
Okeechobee.....	105	94	86	1,568	1,411	1,265	-	-	-	1,568	1,411	1,265
Orange.....	261	243	258	2,420	2,138	2,288	486	416	429	2,906	2,554	2,717
Osceola.....	337	357	354	2,836	2,955	3,134	-	162	121	2,836	3,117	3,255
Pasco.....	207	250	240	1,680	2,236	1,927	465	493	493	2,145	2,729	2,420
Polk.....	1,063	1,017	963	8,436	7,636	6,813	410	410	410	8,846	8,046	7,223
Putnam.....	16	17	21	93	99	118	-	-	-	93	99	118
St. Lucie.....	1,134	1,287	1,367	28,145	31,584	33,113	322	322	322	28,467	31,906	33,435
Sarasota.....	18	32	28	131	298	274	-	-	-	131	298	274
Seminole.....	60	52	49	309	250	203	8	-	-	316	250	203
Volusia.....	198	181	178	1,676	1,458	1,439	112	112	112	1,788	1,570	1,551
Others ¹	180	179	57	5,553	5,551	1,628	76	76	76	5,630	5,627	1,704
Total.....	9,078	9,109	8,885	126,978	126,613	122,744	5,569	7,333	7,364	132,547	133,946	130,108

- Represents zero.

¹ Citrus, Palm Beach, and Pinellas counties in 2013-2014; includes Alachua, Citrus, Palm Beach, and Pinellas counties in 2015

Citrus Abandoned Acreage by Production Area and Survey Year – Florida: 2013-2015

Production Area	Parcels			Abandoned								
				Grove			Understory			Total		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Indian River	2,756	2,896	3,028	50,372	53,314	56,295	558	735	735	50,930	54,049	57,030
Northern Area	1,823	1,809	1,784	17,521	16,723	15,648	4,494	5,904	6,026	22,015	22,627	21,674
Central Area	1,667	1,530	1,474	15,803	12,262	12,082	480	657	603	16,283	12,919	12,685
Western Area	1,517	1,509	1,344	12,920	12,321	10,689	-	-	-	12,920	12,321	10,689
Southern Area	1,315	1,365	1,255	30,362	31,993	28,030	37	37	-	30,399	32,030	28,030
Total	9,078	9,109	8,885	126,978	126,613	122,744	5,569	7,333	7,364	132,547	133,946	130,108

- Represents zero.

