

**FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS**

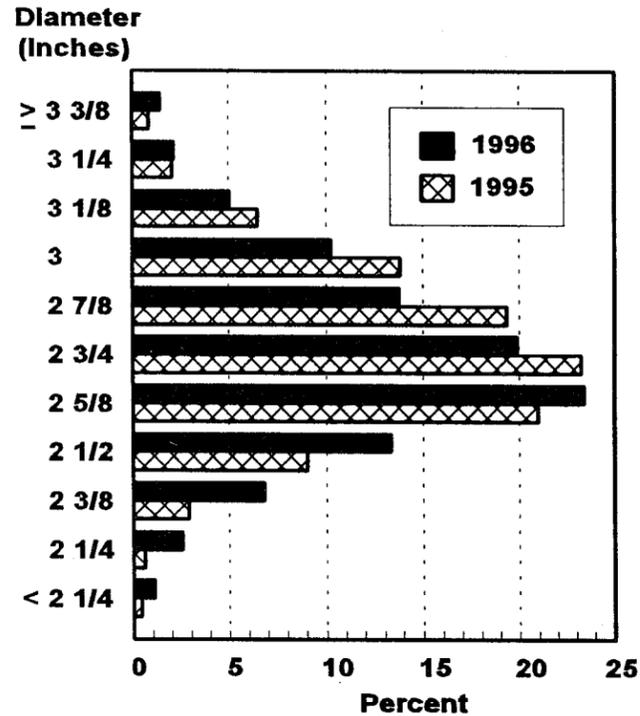
Size frequency distributions from the December size survey are shown in the table below. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. Fruit sizes were measured on trees in sample groves during the period December 2 through December 27, 1996. Comparable sizes for 1994 and 1995 are also shown. These measurements are of fruit from spring bloom and exclude summer bloom in all seasons.

**FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from December measurements**

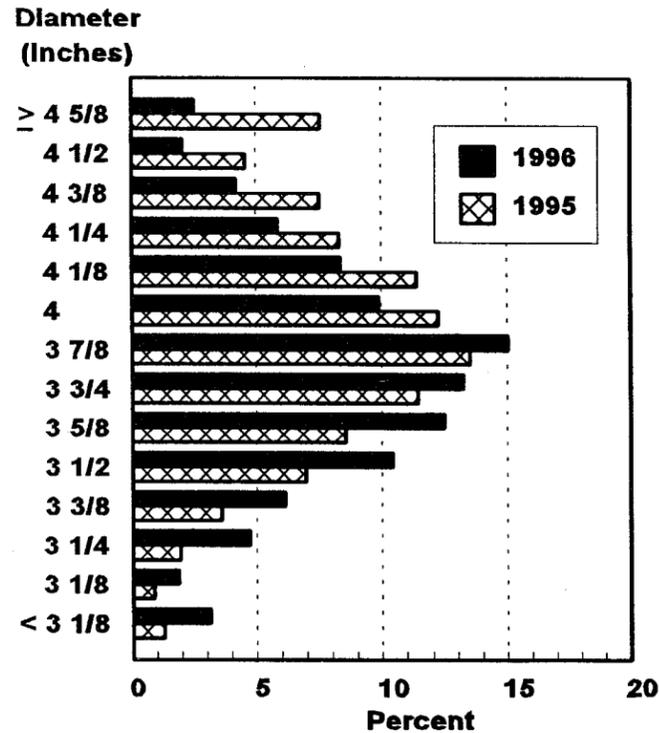
Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1994	1995	1996
--- Percent ---			
<b>Early and midseason oranges: (excluding Navels)</b>			
64 and larger	8.7	4.3	3.5
80	23.0	20.5	16.8
100	38.8	45.0	37.6
125	23.5	25.0	29.8
163 and smaller	6.0	5.2	12.3
<b>Valencia oranges:</b>			
64 and larger	8.3	5.3	5.3
80	29.2	27.4	20.9
100	41.3	43.0	37.5
125	17.7	20.3	25.8
163 and smaller	3.5	4.0	10.5
<b>White seedless grapefruit:</b>			
32 and larger	24.4	33.0	18.6
36	28.2	26.8	22.7
40	18.4	16.8	19.9
48	14.2	11.6	17.7
56	5.3	5.9	8.8
63 and smaller	9.5	5.9	12.3
<b>Colored seedless grapefruit:</b>			
32 and larger	18.0	23.1	9.3
36	16.3	26.3	19.2
40	21.1	20.7	20.4
48	14.6	16.6	21.2
56	8.3	7.0	11.7
63 and smaller	8.7	6.3	18.2
<b>Temples:</b>			
80 and larger	57.8	61.1	25.7
100	27.5	30.1	39.1
120	11.2	7.6	23.1
156 and smaller	3.5	1.2	12.1
<b>Honey tangerines:</b>			
150 and larger	86.7	88.1	77.6
176	6.9	5.3	10.5
210	3.1	4.2	7.6
246	2.4	1.3	3.3
294 and smaller	0.9	1.1	1.0

The charts to the right compare the relationship of the December 1996 fruit size measurements with those taken in December 1995. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range except for the smallest values. The February and March releases will compare 1997 sizes with 1996 measurements.

**CHART 1: Valencia size frequency by diameter from December measurements.**



**CHART 2: White seedless grapefruit size frequency by diameter from December measurements.**



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**CITRUS**

**JANUARY FORECAST MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE**



January 9, 1997

**ORANGES REMAIN AT 220.0 MILLION BOXES**

The 1996-97 Florida all orange forecast, released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board, remains unchanged at 220.0 million boxes. This forecast is comprised of 130.0 million boxes of early and midseason oranges (including Navels) and 90.0 million boxes of late type (Valencia) oranges. If realized, the 220.0 million boxes will be a record utilization and will exceed last season's 203.2 million boxes by 8 percent. In the past 10 non-freeze seasons, the January forecast of all oranges has deviated from recorded final utilization by an average of 3.6 percent. In seven of the 10 years, the January forecast was above final utilization by an average of 4.1 percent and in three years it was below by an average of 2.4 percent.

Results of objective surveys measuring size of fruit and droppage from sample limbs indicate somewhat normal patterns for all types of oranges. Current observations and averages fully support the forecast.

**EARLY AND MIDSEASON ORANGES AT 130.0 MILLION BOXES**

The early and midseason forecast remains unchanged at 130.0 million boxes. If realized, the 130.0 million boxes will be a record, exceeding the 121.2 million boxes utilized last season. The Navel portion also remains unchanged at 6.5 million, 25 percent more than last season's 5.2 million boxes. A row count survey conducted December 30-31 for the first time on Navel oranges indicates nearly 75 percent of the rows harvested.

Citrus production, January 1, 1997 forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1994-95	1995-96	Dec 12, 1996	Jan 9, 1997
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
<b>Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>119,700</b>	<b>121,200</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>
California	35,000	38,000	37,000	39,000
Texas	950	830	1,300	1,300
Arizona	400	700	650	550
<b>Total Above Varieties</b>	<b>156,050</b>	<b>160,730</b>	<b>168,950</b>	<b>170,850</b>
<b>Valencias:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>85,800</b>	<b>82,000</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>90,000</b>
California	21,000	28,000	26,000	26,000
Texas	105	110	150	150
Arizona	650	950	850	850
<b>Total Valencias</b>	<b>107,555</b>	<b>111,060</b>	<b>117,000</b>	<b>117,000</b>
<b>All Oranges:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>205,500</b>	<b>203,200</b>	<b>220,000</b>	<b>220,000</b>
California	56,000	66,000	63,000	65,000
Texas	1,055	940	1,450	1,450
Arizona	1,050	1,650	1,500	1,400
<b>Total All Oranges</b>	<b>263,605</b>	<b>271,790</b>	<b>285,950</b>	<b>287,850</b>

**FORECAST DATES 1996-97 SEASON**

February 12, 1997	May 12, 1997
March 11, 1997	June 12, 1997
April 11, 1997	July 11, 1997

Objective counts and measurements of fruit size and accumulated fruit droppage completed in late December indicate about average sizes but very low droppage. Fruit size and droppage parameters used in the October forecast were very close to these "final month" averages and support the forecast. The row count survey indicates about 44 percent of rows harvested, slightly behind the previous two seasons at this date and fully supports the forecast.

**VALENCIAS AT 90.0 MILLION BOXES**

The Valencia forecast of 90.0 million boxes remains unchanged from last month. This forecast, if realized, will be a record, exceeding the 88.8 million boxes utilized in the 1979-80 season, and is 10 percent above last season's crop.

Size and drop surveys in December indicate average sizes and very low droppage. Projections used in the October forecast for fruit size near the historic mean are confirmed by this latest survey. Fruit loss from the trees can vary even in non-freeze seasons and can be difficult to project. The parameter used in the October forecast was below the recent seasons' average and the December survey results confirmed below average droppage.

**FCOJ 1.53 GALLONS PER BOX**

The projection of average FCOJ yield per box for all oranges is continued at 1.53 gallons of 42.0 degrees Brix concentrate. Last season's yield as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association was 1.522516.

The projection of yield for fruit in the early-mid category is 1.48 gallons per box compared to last season's final of 1.45. Valencia yield is projected at 1.62 gallons per box compared to 1.67 last season. All projections are based on harvest relationships and processing procedures of the last several seasons.

**SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT CONTINUED AT 58.0 MILLION BOXES**

The all seedless grapefruit forecast is held at 58.0 million boxes. The varietal divisions of 26.5 million boxes of white and 31.5 million boxes of colored are maintained. If attained, the total seedless will be 13 percent above the 51.3 million boxes recorded last season and seven percent above the recorded high of 54.4 million boxes attained in the 1994-95 season.

The colored forecast exceeds the record 1994-95 crop of 28.7 million boxes by 10 percent and last season's by 12 percent. The white variety exceeds last season by 14 percent but will not be a record. Nine seasons in the past 20 years have been larger, with the record of 31.1 million boxes in 1979-80.

In the six most recent non-freeze seasons the fresh pack averaged 28 percent of the total for white and 65 percent for colored seedless grapefruit.

The December survey of fruit size indicated that the averages of both white and colored are surprisingly close to the means of the 28 season historic series, with whites slightly larger and colored slightly smaller. However, both averages are still far smaller than the extremely large sizes of the past two seasons. Loss from fruit droppage through late December has been minimal and well below the average of the past 5 seasons. With maturity levels that are still below those of the prior two seasons and the many small size fruit, all seedless grapefruit utilization through January 6 is behind last season by 1.7 million boxes and the 1994-95 season by 3.4 million boxes.

Citrus production, January 1, 1997 forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1994-95	1995-96	Dec 12, 1996	Jan 9, 1997
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
<b>Grapefruit:</b>				
FLORIDA-All	55,700	52,350	59,000	59,000
Seedless	54,400	51,300	58,000	58,000
White	25,700	23,200	26,500	26,500
Colored	28,700	28,100	31,500	31,500
Seedy (Other)	1,300	1,050	1,000	1,000
Texas	4,650	4,550	5,700	5,500
Arizona	1,400	1,200	1,100	1,000
California	9,300	8,100	8,000	9,000
<b>Total Grapefruit</b>	<b>71,050</b>	<b>66,200</b>	<b>73,800</b>	<b>74,500</b>
<b>Lemons:</b>				
California	20,000	21,000	22,000	22,000
Arizona	3,600	5,100	4,700	4,000
<b>Total Lemons</b>	<b>23,600</b>	<b>26,100</b>	<b>26,700</b>	<b>26,000</b>
<b>Limes: Florida</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Temples: Florida</b>	<b>2,550</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>Tangelos: Florida</b>	<b>3,150</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,800</b>
<b>K-Early: Florida</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Tangerines:</b>				
FLORIDA-All	3,550	4,500	6,000	6,000
Early <sup>1</sup>	2,350	2,900	4,200	4,200
Honey	1,200	1,600	1,800	1,800
California	2,500	2,600	2,600	2,700
Arizona	650	1,000	850	750
<b>Total Tangerines</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>8,100</b>	<b>9,450</b>	<b>9,450</b>

<sup>1</sup> Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy.

These forecasts are based on objective fruit count and measurement surveys in relationship to the harvest patterns and utilization of the past two seasons. All citrus forecasts project certified utilization including a pre-season allocation of less than two percent for unrecorded usage.

**SEEDY GRAPEFRUIT 1.0 MILLION BOXES**

The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast is held at 1.0 million boxes. The December surveys showed continued growth and increased loss from droppage. Harvest of this variety, used only in processed form, has just started.

**ALL TANGERINES HELD AT 6.0 MILLION BOXES**

The all tangerine forecast is continued at 6.0 million boxes. The early portion, comprised of Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy, remains at 4.2 million boxes. As of January 6, 1997 estimated utilization shows only 487,000 boxes remaining. Most of the remaining Sunbursts and Dancys will be utilized in processing.

The Honey tangerine portion remains at 1.8 million boxes. Average fruit sizes are still smaller than last season, and accumulated loss from droppage to date is at an historic minimum. Harvest has just started.

**TEMPLES STAY AT 2.5 MILLION BOXES**

The 2.5 million box Temple forecast is held. December surveys did not indicate a change. Harvest has just begun.

**TANGELOS HELD AT 3.8 MILLION BOXES**

The 3.8 million box tangelo forecast is continued. As of January 6, 1997, it is estimated that 2.1 million boxes have been certified. Processing is ahead of the past two seasons.

**K-EARLY CITRUS FINAL**

The 1996-97 K-Early Citrus estimate is final at 150,000 boxes. Last season's final was 160,000 boxes.

**LIMES 300,000 BOXES**

The forecast of the 1996-97 lime crop which ends in March is reduced from 375,000 boxes (600,000 bushels) to 300,000 boxes (480,000 bushels). If realized, this will be the same amount as used last season. Shipments of fresh limes were heavy in the summer months but are below last season in the winter months.

Unadjusted maturity tests: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 1995-96 and 1996-97 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box		
	1995-96	1996-97	1995-96	1996-97	1995-96	1996-97	1995-96	1996-97	1995-96	1996-97	
	Percent		Percent				Pounds		Pounds		
Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.											
<b>ORANGES:</b>											
Early (42-55)											
Oct	1	1.07	1.20	9.37	9.76	8.98	8.39	50.53	48.03	4.73	4.69
Nov	1	0.80	0.95	9.93	10.22	12.90	11.11	53.64	50.53	5.33	5.16
Dec	1	0.77	0.83	10.64	11.06	14.14	13.45	51.93	51.77	5.52	5.72
Jan	1	0.77	0.79	11.45	11.81	15.22	15.09	52.27	50.53	5.99	5.96
Mids (40-43)											
Oct	1	1.25	1.43	9.24	9.83	7.48	6.98	51.74	48.65	4.79	4.79
Nov	1	0.96	1.13	9.95	10.26	10.61	9.37	55.72	52.39	5.55	5.37
Dec	1	0.89	0.99	10.95	11.39	12.64	11.81	53.50	53.17	5.85	6.05
Jan	1	0.85	0.90	11.81	12.13	14.24	13.78	53.86	51.91	6.37	6.29
Late (150-150)											
Oct	1	2.39	2.40	8.60	8.93	3.65	3.76	47.68	46.08	4.10	4.11
Nov	1	1.77	1.98	8.68	9.33	5.00	4.78	52.66	49.71	4.58	4.64
Dec	1	1.55	1.64	9.54	10.29	6.25	6.37	53.39	53.19	5.10	5.48
Jan	1	1.38	1.44	10.44	11.13	7.67	7.84	54.23	54.16	5.67	6.03

NOTICE: All samples were run through an FMC 091 machine using mechanical pressure only. This machine utilizes a .040 short strainer and standard 5/8-inch orifice tube. The beam settings are also identical to past tests and no restrictors are used.

Maturity test averages by areas, January 1, 1997

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
<b>ORANGES:</b>						
Early						
Indian River Dist.	5	0.85	12.78	15.18	51.98	6.62
Other Areas	50	0.79	11.71	15.08	50.39	5.90
Midseason						
Indian River Dist.	9	0.89	12.47	14.23	51.41	6.39
Other Areas	34	0.91	12.04	13.66	52.04	6.27
Late						
Indian River Dist.	25	1.48	11.55	7.92	56.24	6.49
Other Areas	125	1.43	11.04	7.83	53.74	5.93