CITRUS
MARCH FORECAST
MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

TOTAL ORANGES NOW 222.0 MILLION BOXES

The 1996-97 Florida all orange forecast, released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board, is 222.0 million boxes, 2.0 million more than last month's forecast. All of the increase is in the early and midseason portion, now at 135.0 million boxes. The late type (Valencia) portion remains at 87.0 million boxes.

The total forecast is one percent above the 220.0 million box forecast held since October 1996. If realized, the total will be a record crop, surpassing by seven percent the 206.7 million boxes in 1979-80 and nine percent more than last season's 203.2 million boxes. At this point in the season with the early and midseason crop nearing completion and the volume harvest of Valencias just starting, the forecast is primarily Valencias and remaining amounts of early-mid seasons.

EARLY-MIDSEASON PORTION UP TO 135.0 MILLION BOXES

The early and midseason orange forecast is increased from 133.0 million boxes last month, to 135.0 million boxes, based on estimated utilization through February 27, 1997 and the remaining rows on the route survey (low count) of the same date. This amount is four percent above the 133.0 million box forecast made initially in October 1996. The forecast includes Navelns, at a record 8.5 million boxes, unchanged since October. The major factor in the increased utilization of the crop is the record low fruit droppeage loss through

Citrus production, March 1, 1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop and State</th>
<th>Production</th>
<th>Forecast</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1994-95</td>
<td>Apr 11, 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>119,700</td>
<td>133,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>39,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>550</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Above Varieties</td>
<td>156,050</td>
<td>173,850</td>
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<td>Valencias:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>85,800</td>
<td>87,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>21,000</td>
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<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
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<td>850</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Valencias</td>
<td>107,555</td>
<td>114,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Oranges:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>205,500</td>
<td>220,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>1,056</td>
<td>1,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total All Oranges</td>
<td>253,606</td>
<td>287,850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VALENCIAS REMAIN 87.0 MILLION BOXES

The late type (Valencia) orange forecast is unchanged at 87.0 million boxes. The monthly fruit size and loss survey indicates that the average fruit size is only slightly below the mean of the past 11 seasons; however, the current average size is smaller than three of the past five seasons. At the time of the February survey, a very small percent of groves had been harvested. The accumulated loss from fruit dropage was below the average of the past five seasons and only slightly above last season's record low loss. There appears to be no correlation between this season and any season when freezing weather occurred in January.

FCOJ REMAINS 1.54 GALLONS PER BOX

The estimated final yield for all fruit going into FCOJ is unchanged from last month at 1.54 gallons per box of 42.0 degrees Brix concentrate. The early and midportion is now forecast to be 1.52 gallons per box, up from 1.50 last month. Report number 22 from the Florida Citrus Processors Association shows over 100 million boxes of fruit used in the early portion of FCOJ which includes some Valencia processed since the cold weather of January 19.

The yield for the remaining late season portion is estimated to be 1.60 gallons per box, unchanged from last month.

March 11, 1997
## SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT REMAII. 58.0 MILLION BOXES

The all seedless grapefruit forecast is unchanged from last month and October at 58.0 million boxes. White seedless remain at 26.5 million boxes and colored varieties at 31.5 million boxes.

- Fruit size increased from the previous month but at a very low rate. Sizes for all varieties are near the historic mean, but much smaller than the previous two seasons. Loss of fruit from unharvested trees in the Indian River area continues to be the lowest in many seasons. Dropage, however, in the interior is increasing in those groves affected by the January 19 freezing weather.

- The March 1 row count survey, conducted February 26-27, indicated the lowest percent rows fully harvested in many seasons to this date. These indicators, based on a weighted average that accounts for productivity differences between age groups of trees and areas of the State, fully support the forecast.

- Utilization to date, including an allocation for gift fruit, is lagging the previous seasons March to 1 with only an estimated 8.7 million boxes of white seedless harvested. Last month, about 12 million boxes had been utilized. Colored varieties utilization is estimated at 17.3 million boxes compared to over 18 million last week. Weekly harvest of field-run grapefruit is increasing as processors allocate more time between orange harvests.

### S. JY GRAPEFRUIT 1.0 MILLION BOXES

The Seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast remains at 1.0 million boxes. Harvest has been very limited but will increase rapidly this month as processors allocate more time to grapefruit. Last season, slightly over 1 million boxes of seedy were certified.

### ALL TANGERINES NOW 6.3 MILLION BOXES

The all tangerine forecast is increased by 100,000 boxes to 6.3 million boxes. The increase is in the early category (Robinson, Fallglo, Dancy, and Sunburst). Sunburst utilization accounts for over 75 percent of fresh shipments of these early tangerine varieties. Most processing tangerines have been packing house eliminations, but limited amounts of Sunburst and Dancys have been field run.

The Honey tangerine portion is unchanged at 1.7 million boxes. Although this is down slightly from the January forecast, it is still more than anticipated in October. Dropage has been extremely low even with the cold weather of January 19. Utilization is estimated at 1.1 million boxes, slightly ahead of last season. Fruit that is not shipped fresh will be harvested for processing.

### TEMPLES 2.5 MILLION BOXES

The Temple forecast is maintained at 2.5 million boxes. Fruit sizes are near average and dropage was low through the January survey period. Dropage has increased, however, following the January 19 cold weather. Most utilization is to processing plants. Total utilization is near the same as last season at 1.7 million boxes.

### TANGELOS 4.0 MILLION BOXES

Tangelo harvest is near completion with estimated utilization over 3.9 million boxes. The row count survey indicated some rows still unharvested. This is the largest harvested crop since the 1987-88 season.

### K-EARLY CITRUS FINAL

The K-Early Citrus Fruit estimate of production is final at 150,000 boxes. Last season's utilization was 160,000 boxes.

### FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

Size frequency distributions from the February size survey are shown in the table below. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range. This 1995-96 Annual Report was measured on trees in sample groves during the period February 10 through 25, 1997. Comparable sizes for 1995 and 1996 are also shown. These measurements are of fruit from spring bloom and exclude summer bloom in all seasons.

### CHART: Valencia size frequency by diameter from February measurements.

The chart below compares the relationship of the February 1996 Valencia orange fruit size measurements with those taken in February each year. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range except for the smallest values.

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