



**NASS** Florida Agricultural Statistics Service  
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**CITRUS**

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

May 12, 1997

**All ORANGES INCREASED TO 224.2 MILLION BOXES**

The 1996-97 season Florida all orange forecast is increased 3.0 million boxes to 224.2 million in a report released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board. The increase is in the Valencia portion which is now forecast at 90.0 million boxes. Early and midseason oranges are final at 134.2 million boxes.

This all orange forecast is two percent more than was forecast initially in October and over one percent more than last month. If realized, the total will be a record high crop, surpassing the 206.7 million boxes in 1979-80 by over eight percent and last season's 203.2 million boxes by ten percent.

**EARLY AND MIDSEASONS FINAL AT 134.2 MILLION BOXES**

The early and midseason varieties are final at 134.2 million boxes. Harvest was completed in April with a record high crop certified. The total (including an allocation of 1.0 million boxes for gift and unrecorded uses) is almost eleven percent more than the previous record of 121.2 million boxes last season.

Navel orange production was 6.4 million boxes, over ten percent more than the 1994-95 season previous record high crop of 5.8 million boxes. Last season 5.2 million boxes were utilized.

**FORECAST DATES 1996-97 SEASON**  
 June 12, 1997      July 11, 1997

**VALENCIAS NOW 90.0 MILLION BOXES**

The late type (Valencia) orange forecast is increased 3.0 million boxes to 90.0 million. This is the same as the initial October forecast of 90.0 million boxes and ten percent more than last season's production of 82.0 million boxes.

Surveys of fruit sizing and droppage rates show that in spite of the cold event experienced on January 19 droppage has increased only slightly over the projection used to make the October forecast. Processing of fruit began almost immediately after the cold weather and has accelerated steadily. Utilization has been running at about 7 million boxes per week for the last month. The size/weight relationship of this season's crop has also been excellent.

The row count survey conducted April 30-May 1 shows over 56 percent of the rows harvested and is considered a reliable indicator of total crop size at this time. It supports the three million box increase in the forecast.

**FCOJ YIELD NOW 1.58 GALLONS PER BOX**

The all orange FCOJ yield projection is increased slightly from 1.57 gallons per box of 42.0 degrees Brix concentrate to 1.58 gallons, a record high level. The increase is in the Valencia portion which is now projected at 1.68 gallons, up from 1.66 last month. This projection is higher than the final yield for the previous three seasons.

The early and mid portion final yield is 1.52360 as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association. This is second only to the record 1992-93 early portion yield of 1.52480 gallons.

As shown on page three of this report, juice per box averages from unharvested sample groves have remained high. Brix levels have increased steadily and average pounds solids per box of fruit to be harvested is higher than last season.

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

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1994-95	1995-96	Apr 11, 1997	May 12, 1997
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:	--- 1,000 boxes ---			
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>119,700</b>	<b>121,200</b>	<b>134,200</b>	<b>134,200</b>
California	35,000	38,000	43,000	43,000
Texas	950	830	1,300	1,300
Arizona	400	700	500	500
<b>Total Above Varieties</b>	<b>156,050</b>	<b>160,730</b>	<b>179,000</b>	<b>179,000</b>
Valencias:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>85,800</b>	<b>82,000</b>	<b>87,000</b>	<b>90,000</b>
California	21,000	28,000	28,000	28,000
Texas	105	110	120	120
Arizona	650	950	800	800
<b>Total Valencias</b>	<b>107,555</b>	<b>111,060</b>	<b>115,920</b>	<b>118,920</b>
All Oranges:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>205,500</b>	<b>203,200</b>	<b>221,200</b>	<b>224,200</b>
California	56,000	66,000	71,000	71,000
Texas	1,055	940	1,420	1,420
Arizona	1,050	1,650	1,300	1,300
<b>Total All Oranges</b>	<b>263,605</b>	<b>271,790</b>	<b>294,920</b>	<b>297,920</b>

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**SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT STAY AT 58.0 MILLION BOXES**

The all seedless grapefruit forecast remains unchanged from the initial October forecast at 58.0 million boxes. White seedless grapefruit is forecast at 26.5 million and the colored varieties are forecast at 31.5 million boxes. This would be the largest white seedless crop since the 27.7 million boxes harvested in the 1988-89 season and the largest colored seedless crop, surpassing the 28.7 million boxes recorded in 1994-95.

Fruit sizes were smaller than the previous two seasons but near the historic average. Droppage was slightly less than average. Harvest started later than last season and utilization has lagged all season. White utilization is slightly less than last season at an estimated 21.8 million boxes compared to last season's 22.5 million to the same date. Colored varieties, however, are estimated at 27.2 million boxes compared to last season's 27.0.

The May 1 row count survey, which compares the percent of rows clean harvested to estimated utilization to the same time, shows about 20 percent of the white and about 23 percent of colored rows remaining to be harvested. On a weighted basis (by age of tree and production area of the State), this indicator supports and confirms the current forecasts. Recent weekly harvest rates have continued strong with an estimated 1.4 million boxes harvested in the latest reporting week compared to 0.6 million in the same week last season.

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

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1994-95	1995-96	Apr 11, 1997	May 12, 1997

--- 1,000 boxes ---

Grapefruit:				
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	5,300	5,300
Arizona	1,400	1,200	1,000	1,000
California	9,300	8,100	9,200	9,200
<b>Total Grapefruit</b>	<b>71,050</b>	<b>66,200</b>	<b>74,500</b>	<b>74,500</b>

Lemons:				
California	20,000	21,000	22,000	22,000
Arizona	3,600	5,100	3,000	3,000
<b>Total Lemons</b>	<b>23,600</b>	<b>26,100</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>

Limes: Florida	230	300	(Final) 320	(Final) 320
Temples: Florida	2,550	2,150	2,500	2,400
Tangelos: Florida	3,150	2,450	3,950	3,950
K-Early: Florida	120	160	150	150

Tangerines:				
FLORIDA-All	3,550	4,500	6,300	6,400
Early <sup>1</sup>	2,350	2,900	4,600	4,600
Honey	1,200	1,600	1,700	1,800
California	2,500	2,600	2,900	2,900
Arizona	650	1,000	650	650
<b>Total Tangerines</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>8,100</b>	<b>9,850</b>	<b>9,950</b>

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

**SEEDY GRAPEFRUIT 1.0 MILLION BOXES**

The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast is unchanged at 1.0 million boxes. Weekly harvest, all for processing, is beginning to decline with an estimated 750 thousand boxes certified to date. The row count survey shows some rows remaining unharvested, mostly in Polk county. Final certifications of this crop are dependent on processing plant records. Last season, slightly over 1.0 million boxes were certified.

**ALL TANGERINES INCREASED TO 6.4 MILLION BOXES**

The all tangerine forecast is increased 0.1 million boxes to 6.4 million. The increase is all in the Honey variety which is now forecast at 1.8 million boxes. The early portion (Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy) is final at 4.6 million boxes.

The row count survey shows some Honey tangerine rows to be harvested. An estimated 1.75 million boxes have been certified to May.

**TEMPLES NOW 2.4 MILLION BOXES**

The Temple forecast is reduced slightly to 2.4 million boxes. This is the first change since the initial forecast of 2.5 million boxes in October. An estimated 2.38 million boxes have been certified to date and the row count survey shows a few rows remaining. Weekly harvest has declined but some late bloom is expected to be harvested for processing.

**TANGELOS FINAL AT 3.95 MILLION BOXES**

The tangelo crop is final at 3.95 million boxes. This is the largest recorded tangelo crop since the 1987-88 season, when 4.2 million boxes were harvested. Last season only 2.45 million boxes were recorded.

**K-EARLY CITRUS 150,000 BOXES**

The K-Early Citrus Fruit estimate is final at 150,000 boxes, slightly less than last season's 160,000 boxes recorded but 25 percent greater than the 1994-95 crop.

Unadjusted maturity tests: Average of regular bloom 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.										

**ORANGES:**

Late (75-71)

Oct 1	2.46	2.50	8.61	9.00	3.54	3.65	47.64	46.32	4.10	4.17
Nov 1	1.83	2.05	8.67	9.36	4.84	4.62	52.88	49.50	4.59	4.63
Dec 1	1.60	1.70	9.52	10.37	6.04	6.17	53.66	53.68	5.12	5.57
Jan 1	1.42	1.48	10.51	11.19	7.50	7.66	54.10	54.09	5.69	6.06
Feb 1	1.25	1.34	11.36	11.99	9.19	9.08	55.19	54.72	6.28	6.56
Mar 1	1.16	1.16	11.85	12.48	10.32	10.92	54.42	54.52	6.45	6.82
Apr 1	1.04	0.98	12.23	12.84	11.90	13.20	51.66	55.00	6.32	7.08
May 1	0.89	0.90	12.72	13.15	14.46	14.94	53.94	54.18	6.87	7.14

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, May 1, 1997

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
<b>ORANGES:</b>		Number	Percent	Percent	Pounds	Pounds
Late						
Indian River Dist.	16	0.91	13.95	15.61	57.03	7.96
Other Areas	55	0.89	12.91	14.75	53.34	6.91

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

Size frequency distributions from the April 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 April 16 through 29, 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.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from April measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1995	1996	1997
--- Percent ---			
Valencia oranges:			
64 and larger	13.3	13.5	12.1
80	26.6	30.5	24.9
100	35.2	36.3	33.2
125	19.1	16.1	21.2
163 and smaller	5.8	3.6	8.6

The chart to the right compares the relationship of the April 1997 Valencia orange fruit size measurements with those taken in April 1996. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range except for the smallest values.

CHART: Valencia size frequency by diameter from April measurements.

