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January 9, 1998

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 1 through December 24, 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 1: Valencia size frequency by diameter from December measurements.

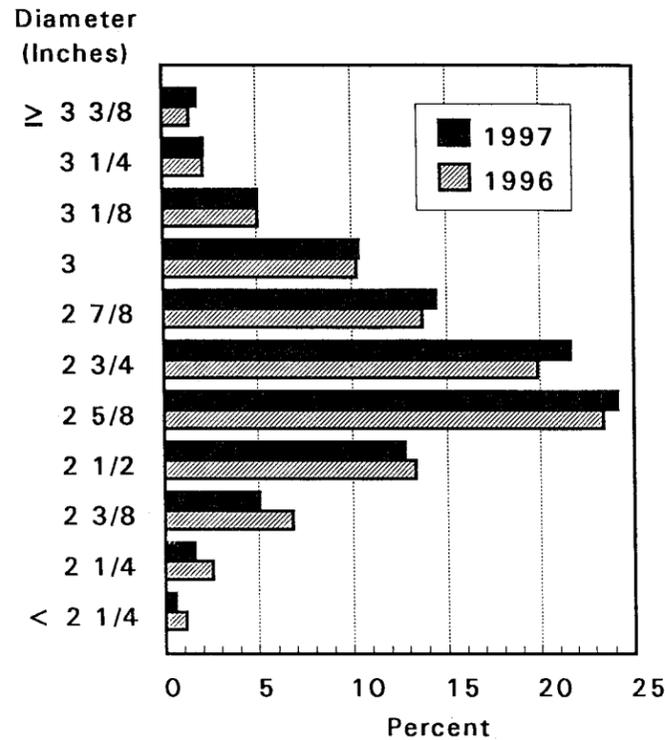
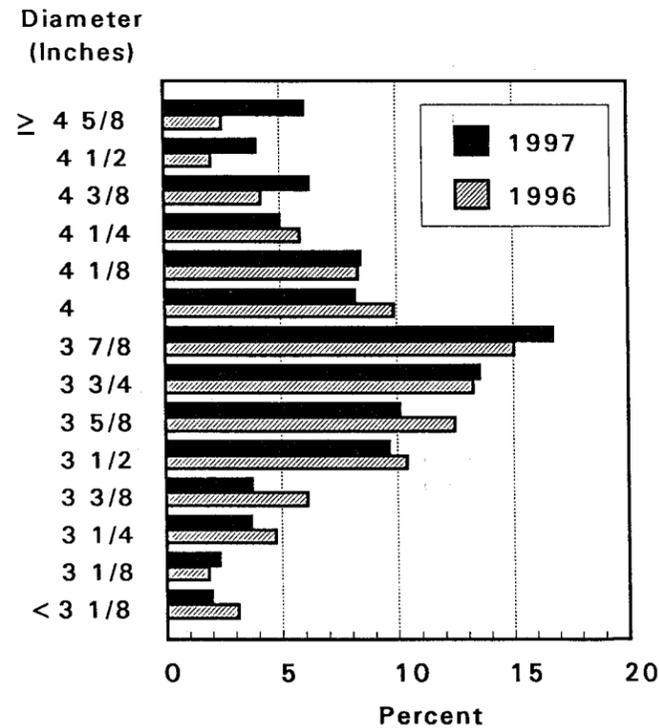


CHART 2: White seedless grapefruit size frequency by diameter from December measurements.



FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from December measurements			
Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1995	1996	1997
	--- Percent ---		
Early and midseason oranges: (excluding Navels)			
64 and larger	4.3	3.5	3.7
80	20.5	16.8	15.1
100	45.0	37.6	34.7
125	25.0	29.8	32.5
163 and smaller	5.2	12.3	14.0
Valencia oranges:			
64 and larger	5.3	5.3	5.7
80	27.4	20.9	21.0
100	43.0	37.5	40.6
125	20.3	25.8	25.4
163 and smaller	4.0	10.5	7.3
White seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	33.0	18.6	25.0
36	26.8	22.7	22.1
40	16.8	19.9	21.4
48	11.6	17.7	14.0
56	5.9	8.8	7.5
63 and smaller	5.9	12.3	10.0
Colored seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	23.1	9.3	15.1
36	26.3	19.2	20.7
40	20.7	20.4	23.3
48	16.6	21.2	20.1
56	7.0	11.7	9.9
63 and smaller	6.3	18.2	10.9
Temples:			
80 and larger	61.1	25.7	40.2
100	30.1	39.1	39.9
120	7.6	23.1	14.7
156 and smaller	1.2	12.1	5.2
Honey tangerines:			
150 and larger	88.1	77.6	90.0
176	5.3	10.5	5.7
210	4.2	7.6	2.9
246	1.3	3.3	1.3
294 and smaller	1.1	1.0	0.1

The charts to the right compare the relationship of the December 1997 fruit size measurements with those taken in December 1996. 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 1998 sizes with 1997 measurements.

CITRUS

JANUARY FORECAST MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

ORANGES UNCHANGED AT 254.0 MILLION BOXES

The 1997-98 Florida all orange forecast (excluding Temples), released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board, remains at 254.0 million boxes. If realized, this will be a record high, exceeding by 12 percent the previous record of 226.2 million boxes harvested last year. In the past 10 non-freeze seasons, the January forecast of all oranges has deviated from the recorded final production by an average of 2.9 percent. Four of those years were above and six were below the average.

Objective counts and measurements taken in sample groves during October and November were used to monitor fruit sizing and droppage since the initial October forecast. A harvest survey (Row Count) on early and mid-season oranges was also conducted December 29 and 30.

EARLY AND MIDSEASONS REMAIN AT 146.0 MILLION BOXES

Early and midseason oranges are forecast at 146.0 million boxes, unchanged from the initial forecast. This includes a projection of 7.5 million boxes of Navels, also unchanged from October. This forecast is a record for early and midseason varieties, nine percent more than the previous record of 134.2 million boxes utilized last season. The Navel crop is also projected to be a record, 17 percent greater than last season's 6.4 million boxes.

Citrus production, January 1, 1998 forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1995-96	1996-97	Dec 11 1997	Jan 9, 1998
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges: --- 1,000 boxes ---				
FLORIDA	121,200	134,200	146,000	146,000
California	38,000	40,000	44,000	44,000
Texas	830	1,300	1,400	1,400
Arizona	700	400	450	450
Total Above Varieties	160,730	175,900	191,850	191,850
Valencias:				
FLORIDA	82,100	92,000	108,000	108,000
California	20,000	28,000	30,000	30,000
Texas	110	120	150	150
Arizona	950	600	550	550
Total Valencias	103,160	120,720	138,700	138,700
All Oranges:				
FLORIDA	203,300	226,200	254,000	254,000
California	58,000	68,000	74,000	74,000
Texas	940	1,420	1,550	1,550
Arizona	1,650	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total All Oranges	263,890	296,620	330,550	330,550

FORECAST DATES 1997-98 SEASON

- February 11, 1998
- March 12, 1998
- April 9, 1998
- May 12, 1998
- June 12, 1998
- July 10, 1998

Final month size and drop observations are very near projections used in October for the initial forecast, with fruit size slightly smaller than the average and droppage slightly less. Heavy rains in some producing areas in December may be causing increased droppage, but selective harvesting of these blocks will minimize losses. With over 45 percent of the rows harvested, the Row Count survey fully supports the current forecast.

Through January 4, over 70 million boxes have been harvested. This includes over 5 million boxes of Navels. Final Navel utilization will depend on processors taking this variety for processing.

VALENCIAS HELD AT 108.0 MILLION BOXES

The late type (Valencia) orange forecast is a record 108.0 million boxes, the same as October. This forecast is 17 percent more than the previous record of 92.0 million boxes utilized last season.

As with early and midseason oranges, the latest monthly surveys, indicating fruit size and loss from droppage, support the projections made for the October forecast. Fruit size is projected to be slightly larger than the average of the past seven non-freeze seasons. Loss from droppage is still expected to be near the average. There are no new indications to support a change in the forecast.

FCOJ REMAINS AT 1.55 GALLONS PER BOX

The all orange FCOJ yield projection remains at 1.55 gallons per box of 42.0 degrees Brix concentrate. The early and midseason category is projected to yield 1.48 gallons per box and Valencias 1.65 gallons per box. Last season's final yields, as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association, were 1.57 gallons per box for all oranges, 1.52 for early-mids, and 1.68 for Valencias.

All projections of yield assume processing relationships of the past several seasons. Results of maturity testing with comparisons are found on page 3 of this report.

SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT HELD AT 51.5 MILLION BOXES

The total seedless grapefruit forecast is maintained at 51.5 million boxes. Both white seedless, at 23.0 million boxes, and the colored varieties, at 28.5 million boxes, are unchanged. The white forecast is 0.5 million boxes less than certified last season, and the colored is 2.9 million boxes less than the final recorded utilization last season.

The December fruit size survey on the remaining seedless grapefruit indicated larger average sizes than projected from the November survey for both white and colored. This probably reflects the effects of increased moisture levels. The fruit loss from droppage is now at or close to the seven year average for this time of year for both white and colored varieties.

These forecasts are based on objective fruit count and measurement surveys in relation to the harvest patterns and utilization of the past six seasons. All citrus forecasts project certified utilization and include a pre-season allocation of less than two percent for unrecorded usage. Certifications include only fruit actually shipped in fresh pack or recorded at a processing plant.

Estimated utilization of all seedless grapefruit to January 5, 1998, at 11.1 million boxes, is only 0.2 million boxes less than used to the same date a year ago.

Citrus production, January 1, 1998 forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1995-96 ^{1/}	1996-97 ^{2/}	Dec 11, 1997	Jan 9, 1998
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Grapefruit:				
FLORIDA-All	52,350	55,800	52,000	52,000
Seedless	51,300	54,900	51,500	51,500
White	23,200	23,500	23,000	23,000
Colored	28,100	31,400	28,500	28,500
Seedy (Other)	1,050	900	500	500
Texas	4,550	5,300	5,000	5,000
Arizona	1,200	900	800	800
California	8,100	8,200	9,000	9,000
Total Grapefruit	66,200	70,200	66,800	66,800
Lemons:				
California	21,000	20,000	22,000	22,000
Arizona	5,100	2,600	2,600	2,600
Total Lemons	26,100	22,600	24,600	24,600
Limes: Florida				
	300	320	375	375
Temples: Florida				
	2,150	2,400	2,300	2,300
Tangelos: Florida				
	2,450	3,950	3,300	3,300
K-Early: Florida				
	160	150	100	100
Tangerines:				
FLORIDA-All	4,500	6,300	5,500	5,500
Early ^{3/}	2,900	4,500	3,700	3,600
Honey	1,600	1,800	1,800	1,900
California	2,600	2,600	2,400	2,400
Arizona	1,000	550	500	500
Total Tangerines	8,100	9,450	8,400	8,400

^{1/} Excludes 3.0 million boxes of economic abandonment of Florida colored seedless varieties. ^{2/} Excludes 6.0 million boxes of economic abandonment in Florida: 3.0 million white seedless and 3.0 million colored varieties. ^{3/} Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy.

SEEDY GRAPEFRUIT MAINTAINED

The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast is continued at 500,000 boxes. If this amount is certified it will be the smallest crop on record. Last season 900,000 boxes were recorded. Surveys show fruit population down 53 percent from last season. However, average fruit size is above the seven season mean and loss from droppage through December is lower than in the seven previous seasons. All seedy grapefruit is certified in processed form and records are dependent on load tickets. There were only 5,000 boxes estimated to have been recorded to January 1, 1998.

ALL TANGERINES HELD AT 5.5 MILLION BOXES

Although the all tangerine forecast stays at 5.5 million boxes, there is a 0.1 million box shift from the early portion to the Honeys. The early portion consisting of Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy now totals 3.6 million boxes. Fallglo and Robinson varieties are complete at slightly less than the allocated values. Some Dancys are still being shipped, with the main quantity being Sunburst. The prolonged periods of rain have had a depressing effect on fresh shipments during the holiday season.

The Honey tangerine portion is increased to 1.9 million boxes. The monthly surveys of fruit size and loss have indicated larger average size and lower average droppage than originally projected. Loss from droppage is 10 percent less than the seven season average. Utilization has already commenced on what historically has been a crop with volume harvest in February and March.

TEMPLES REMAIN AT 2.3 MILLION BOXES

The Temple forecast at 2.3 million boxes is continued. December fruit size is at the seven season mean and fruit loss from drop is at a seasonal low. However, the main factor is the 22 percent less fruit population than last season, when 2.4 million boxes were recorded. Harvesting of Temples has started.

TANGELOS STAY AT 3.3 MILLION BOXES

The 3.3 million box tangelo forecast is held. A Route Survey (Row Count) conducted on December 29-30, 1997, indicated over 47 percent of rows harvested. When computed with estimated utilization to date, this indicated the 3.3 million box crop, as did the final objective count indications a month ago. This crop size is down 16.5 percent from last season's 3.95 million boxes, the largest crop of the past nine seasons.

K-EARLY'S CONTINUED

The 100,000 box forecast of K-Early Citrus Fruit is maintained. Fewer than 50,000 boxes have been recorded. Utilization of the remainder of this crop depends on fruit condition and processing use.

Unadjus maturity tests: Average of regular bloom fr from sample groves, 1996-97 and 1997-98 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box		
	1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98	
		Percent		Percent		Pounds		Pounds			
Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.											
ORANGES:											
Early (55-57)											
Sep 1	NA	1.32	NA	9.31	NA	7.14	NA	45.47	NA	4.23	
Oct 1	1.20	1.02	9.76	9.81	8.39	9.83	48.03	47.68	4.69	4.67	
Nov 1	0.95	0.87	10.22	10.50	11.11	12.26	50.53	49.61	5.16	5.21	
Dec 1	0.83	0.78	11.06	11.33	13.45	14.67	51.77	50.85	5.72	5.76	
Jan 1	0.79	0.74	11.81	11.91	15.09	16.35	50.53	49.58	5.96	5.90	
Mids (43-43)											
Sep 1	NA	1.58	NA	9.15	NA	5.93	NA	45.25	NA	4.14	
Oct 1	1.43	1.17	9.83	9.45	6.98	8.30	48.65	50.12	4.79	4.74	
Nov 1	1.13	1.01	10.26	10.33	9.37	10.55	52.39	51.94	5.37	5.37	
Dec 1	0.99	0.89	11.39	11.40	11.81	13.09	53.17	52.08	6.05	5.94	
Jan 1	0.90	0.82	12.13	12.06	13.78	15.07	51.91	51.12	6.29	6.17	
Late (150-150)											
Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Oct 1	2.40	2.10	8.93	8.84	3.76	4.30	46.08	47.87	4.11	4.23	
Nov 1	1.98	1.80	9.33	9.44	4.78	5.34	49.71	51.05	4.64	4.82	
Dec 1	1.64	1.44	10.29	10.23	6.37	7.21	53.19	53.23	5.48	5.45	
Jan 1	1.44	1.24	11.13	11.01	7.84	9.02	54.16	53.82	6.03	5.93	

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, 1998

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
		Percent		Pounds		Pounds
ORANGES:						
Early						
Indian River Dist.	5	0.71	11.90	16.98	50.25	5.98
Other Areas	52	0.74	11.91	16.29	49.52	5.89
Midseason						
Indian River Dist.	10	0.79	11.97	15.57	50.98	6.12
Other Areas	33	0.83	12.09	14.92	51.16	6.18
Late						
Indian River Dist.	25	1.33	11.57	8.83	55.27	6.40
Other Areas	125	1.22	10.90	9.06	53.53	5.84