

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

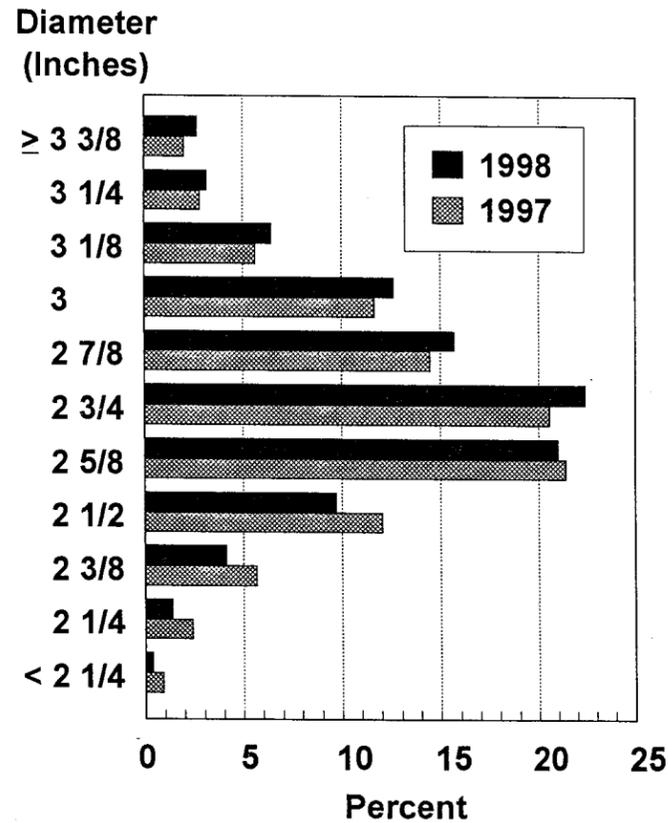
Size frequency distributions from the January size survey are shown in the table below. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. Fruit sizes were measured on trees in sample groves during the period January 20 through 30, 1998. Comparable sizes for 1996 and 1997 are also shown. These measurements are of fruit from spring bloom and exclude summer bloom in all seasons.

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

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1996	1997	1998
--- Percent ---			
<b>Valencia oranges:</b>			
64 and larger	7.5	6.5	8.4
80	29.3	23.2	24.5
100	41.9	37.5	40.5
125	17.7	23.7	20.6
163 and smaller	3.6	9.1	6.0
<b>White seedless grapefruit:</b>			
32 and larger	42.8	21.3	28.5
36	25.8	23.9	25.6
40	14.5	22.9	17.6
48	8.6	15.9	13.2
56	4.2	7.9	6.8
63 and smaller	4.1	8.1	8.3
<b>Colored seedless grapefruit:</b>			
32 and larger	27.8	12.6	18.2
36	28.6	21.5	23.4
40	20.3	24.5	21.7
48	12.7	20.7	19.1
56	5.7	11.3	8.4
63 and smaller	4.9	9.4	9.2
<b>Temples:</b>			
80 and larger	64.7	38.0	42.5
100	25.7	35.2	36.1
120	8.3	17.4	16.2
156 and smaller	1.3	9.4	5.2
<b>Honey tangerines:</b>			
150 and larger	91.1	79.3	91.5
176	3.3	10.9	5.2
210	3.1	6.1	1.9
246	2.1	2.6	1.1
294 and smaller	0.4	1.1	0.3

The chart below compares the relationship of the January 1998 Valencia orange fruit size measurements with those taken in January 1997. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range except for the smallest value. The March release will compare 1998 Valencia sizes with 1997 measurements.

**CHART:** Valencia size frequency by diameter from January measurements.



**NASS** Florida Agricultural Statistics Service  
 1222 Woodward Street  
 Orlando, Florida 32803  
 407 / 648-6013  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl>

**FILE COPY**

**FLORIDA AGRICULTURE**



February 11, 1998

**CITRUS**

**FEBRUARY 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 unchanged at 254.0 million boxes. This forecast is comprised of 146.0 million boxes of early and midseason oranges (including Navels) and 108.0 million boxes of late (Valencia) oranges. If realized, this total will be a record utilization, exceeding by 12 percent the previous record of 226.2 million boxes utilized last year.

Results of objective surveys used to monitor fruit sizing and droppage during January fully support the current forecast of no change. The monthly Row Count survey also supports this all orange level.

**EARLY AND MIDSEASON UNCHANGED AT 146.0 MILLION BOXES**

The early-midseason orange forecast at 146.0 million boxes is unchanged from last month's forecast. If attained, production will exceed last season's record crop of 134.2 million boxes by nine percent. The Navel portion of the crop is lowered to 7.0 million boxes from 7.5 but is still a record, nine percent above last season's 6.4 million boxes. The monthly Row Count survey supports this reduction in expected utilization.

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

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1995-96	1996-97	Jan 9, 1998	Feb 11, 1998
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>121,200</b>	<b>134,200</b>	<b>146,000</b>	<b>146,000</b>
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:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>82,100</b>	<b>92,000</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>108,000</b>
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:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>203,300</b>	<b>226,200</b>	<b>254,000</b>	<b>254,000</b>
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**

March 12, 1998  
 April 9, 1998  
 May 12, 1998  
 June 12, 1998  
 July 10, 1998

The primary indication used in this month's forecast is the Row Count survey. This survey provides the percent of rows harvested for comparison to recorded utilization at the survey date. As harvest advances, this indicator becomes increasingly reliable. With 78 percent rows harvested, the survey supports the current forecast.

**VALENCIAS HELD AT 108.0 MILLION BOXES**

The late type (Valencia) orange forecast is a record 108.0 million boxes, unchanged since the initial forecast in October. This forecast is 17 percent above the previous record of 92.0 million boxes utilized last season.

January field measurements indicate fruit size continues above average. Loss from droppage is still expected to be near the average. There are no new indications to support a change in the forecast. Harvest has started in limited amounts for fresh and processed usage.

**FCOJ INCREASED TO 1.56 GALLONS PER BOX**

The estimated final yield for all fruit going into FCOJ has been increased to 1.56 gallons per box from 1.55 of 42.0 degrees Brix concentrate. The early and midseason portion of the total crop is now forecast at 1.50 gallons, up from 1.48 gallons per box. Report number 18 from the Florida Citrus Processors Association shows about 79.5 million boxes of early and mid oranges utilized through January 31. The seasonal yield to date is 1.464931. This amount also includes some Valencia oranges which have been used for their color and higher acid levels.

The late season (Valencia) oranges are still projected to 1.65 gallons of FCOJ per box, unchanged from last month. Last season's final all orange yield was 1.57174 gallons per box. The early and mids were final at 1.52360 gallons per box and the late oranges were 1.677009.

After five days return to  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 National Agricultural Statistics Service  
 1222 Woodward Street, Orlando, Florida 32803

Official Business  
 PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

**SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT REMAINS 51.5 MILLION BOXES**

The total seedless grapefruit forecast is held at 51.5 million boxes. The forecasts of 23.0 million boxes of white seedless and 28.5 million boxes of colored varieties are maintained. The white forecast is 0.5 million boxes less and the colored forecast is 2.9 million boxes less than the final recorded utilization for last season.

The January fruit size survey on the remaining white seedless indicated an average identical to that projected in October. Fruit loss from droppage is only one-half percent more than projected in October. With the colored varieties, the average fruit size is slightly larger than projected on December 1 when the forecast was decreased. However, loss from droppage accelerated in the past month. The February 2-3, 1998, route survey (Row Count) supports the levels of the forecast based on recent seasons certified values.

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 through February 1, at 16.8 million boxes, is only 0.4 million boxes less than the amount used to the same date a year ago.

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

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1995-96 <sup>1/</sup>	1996-97 <sup>2/</sup>	Jan 9, 1998	Feb 11, 1998
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
<b>Grapefruit:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>52,350</b>	<b>55,800</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>52,000</b>
<b>Seedless</b>	<b>51,300</b>	<b>54,900</b>	<b>51,500</b>	<b>51,500</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>23,200</b>	<b>23,500</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>
<b>Colored</b>	<b>28,100</b>	<b>31,400</b>	<b>28,500</b>	<b>28,500</b>
<b>Seedy (Other)</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
Texas	4,550	5,300	5,000	4,600
Arizona	1,200	900	800	800
California	8,100	8,200	9,000	9,000
<b>Total Grapefruit</b>	<b>66,200</b>	<b>70,200</b>	<b>66,800</b>	<b>66,400</b>
<b>Lemons:</b>				
California	21,000	20,000	22,000	22,000
Arizona	5,100	2,600	2,600	2,600
<b>Total Lemons</b>	<b>26,100</b>	<b>22,600</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>24,600</b>
<b>Limes: Florida</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>375</b>
<b>Temples: Florida</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,300</b>
<b>Tangelos: Florida</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>3,950</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>K-Early: Florida</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Tangerines:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>5,050</b>
<b>Early <sup>3/</sup></b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>3,250</b>
<b>Honey</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>1,800</b>
California	2,600	2,600	2,400	2,400
Arizona	1,000	550	500	500
<b>Total Tangerines</b>	<b>8,100</b>	<b>9,450</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>7,950</b>

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

**SEEDY GRAPEFRUIT CONTINUED**

The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast is maintained 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 January 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 45,000 boxes estimated to have been certified to February 2, 1998.

**TOTAL TANGERINES REDUCED TO 5.05 MILLION BOXES**

A reduction of 0.45 million boxes is made in the all tangerine forecast. The early portion, consisting of **Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy**, is complete. Final recorded utilization is 3.250 million boxes, a reduction of 0.35 million boxes from last month. Weather conditions, especially on **Sunburst**, were detrimental to fresh shipments, resulting in more eliminations than anticipated.

The **Honey** tangerine (late portion) is reduced 0.1 million boxes to the 1.8 million box forecast prior to last month. This crop has also been adversely affected by recent wet, stormy weather. Even though average fruit size is very close to record large, the fruit loss from droppage increased to near the average loss for this time of the season. About 67 percent of the revised forecast remains to be harvested as of February 1, 1998.

**TEMPLES STAY AT 2.3 MILLION BOXES**

The Temple forecast at 2.3 million boxes is held. January average fruit size is slightly below the seasonal mean. Fruit loss from droppage is now slightly above the average. Estimated utilization to date is at the level of last season at this time.

**TANGELOS LOWERED 0.3 MILLION BOXES**

The tangelo forecast is reduced to 3.0 million boxes. The route survey (Row Count) of February 3, 1998, indicated about 84 percent of the rows harvested, which supports the reduction. This projected crop size is now 24 percent less than last season's 3.95 million boxes, the largest crop in the past nine seasons.

**K-EARLY'S FINAL AT 40,000 BOXES**

Only 40,000 boxes have been certified. Original survey indications were for 130,000 boxes. There has been very limited demand for this fruit and virtually none for processing.

Unadjusted maturity tests: Average of regular bloom fruit 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.											
<b>ORANGES:</b>											
Early (16-20)											
Sep 1	NA	1.33	NA	9.28	NA	7.14	NA	46.04	NA	4.27	
Oct 1	1.21	1.04	9.82	9.73	8.26	9.59	48.44	47.11	4.76	4.58	
Nov 1	0.95	0.91	10.21	10.63	11.09	11.97	50.42	49.44	5.15	5.27	
Dec 1	0.84	0.81	11.02	11.43	13.22	14.35	51.97	50.81	5.73	5.80	
Jan 1	0.79	0.76	11.80	11.89	15.12	15.88	49.82	49.33	5.88	5.86	
Feb 1	0.75	0.74	12.07	12.94	16.36	17.84	48.94	49.22	5.92	6.38	
Mids (15-16)											
Sep 1	NA	1.64	NA	9.33	NA	5.79	NA	44.94	NA	4.19	
Oct 1	1.41	1.26	9.71	9.47	6.98	7.59	48.81	49.67	4.74	4.70	
Nov 1	1.16	1.10	10.26	10.29	8.98	9.52	52.51	51.09	5.38	5.26	
Dec 1	1.02	0.94	11.53	11.38	11.52	12.24	53.90	52.22	6.21	5.95	
Jan 1	0.94	0.88	12.27	11.98	13.26	13.70	50.46	51.14	6.19	6.12	
Feb 1	0.86	0.91	12.99	13.13	15.48	14.58	50.54	50.95	6.57	6.69	
Late (150-149)											
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	47.84	4.11	4.23	
Nov 1	1.98	1.80	9.33	9.44	4.78	5.33	49.71	51.06	4.64	4.82	
Dec 1	1.64	1.45	10.29	10.23	6.37	7.21	53.19	53.19	5.48	5.45	
Jan 1	1.44	1.24	11.13	11.01	7.84	9.01	54.16	53.84	6.03	5.93	
Feb 1	1.28	1.10	11.88	11.84	9.39	10.86	54.05	54.89	6.43	6.50	

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, February 1, 1998

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
<b>ORANGES:</b>						
Early		Percent		Pounds		Pounds
Indian River Dist.	3	0.78	13.20	17.17	47.34	6.25
Other Areas	17	0.73	12.90	17.95	49.55	6.40
Midseason		Percent		Pounds		Pounds
Indian River Dist.	2	1.04	14.05	13.64	54.67	7.68
Other Areas	14	0.89	12.99	14.72	50.41	6.55
Late		Percent		Pounds		Pounds
Indian River Dist.	25	1.19	12.29	10.41	56.51	6.95
Other Areas	124	1.09	11.75	10.96	54.56	6.41