



Florida Agricultural Statistics Service  
1222 Woodward Street  
Orlando, Florida 32803  
407 / 648-6013

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl>



FILE COPY

**CITRUS**

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

May 12, 1998

**ALL ORANGES 248.0 MILLION BOXES**

The 1997-98 Florida all orange forecast (excluding Temples), released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is 248.0 million boxes, the same as forecast last month but six million less than the initial forecast in October. Harvest of the early-mid portion is complete at 140.0 million boxes and the Valencia portion forecast remains unchanged at 108.0 million boxes.

This all orange forecast is two percent below the initial forecast in October of 254.0 million boxes but nearly 10 percent above last season's record high utilization of 226.2 million boxes and 22 percent higher than the 1995-96 crop.

**EARLY AND MIDSEASONS FINAL AT 140.0 MILLION BOXES**

The estimate of early and midseason orange utilization (including Navels and a pre-season allocation for gift and unrecorded use) is 140.0 million boxes. This is four percent less than the initial forecast in October of 146.0 million boxes but four percent more than the 1996-97 utilization of 134.2 million boxes. This is the fourth season in a row for record high early and mid utilization.

Although not a record, the Navel portion is the second largest at 6.3 million boxes. Last season's utilization was a record 7.5 million boxes.

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

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1995-96	1996-97	Apr 9, 1998	May 12, 1998
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:	--- 1,000 boxes ---			
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>121,200</b>	<b>134,200</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>
California	38,000	40,000	44,000	44,000
Texas	830	1,300	1,400	1,400
Arizona	700	400	450	450
<b>Total Above Varieties</b>	<b>160,730</b>	<b>175,900</b>	<b>185,850</b>	<b>185,850</b>
Valencias:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>82,100</b>	<b>92,000</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>108,000</b>
California	20,000	24,000	30,000	30,000
Texas	110	120	150	170
Arizona	950	600	550	550
<b>Total Valencias</b>	<b>103,160</b>	<b>116,720</b>	<b>138,700</b>	<b>138,720</b>
All Oranges:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>203,300</b>	<b>226,200</b>	<b>248,000</b>	<b>248,000</b>
California	58,000	64,000	74,000	74,000
Texas	940	1,420	1,550	1,570
Arizona	1,650	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>Total All Oranges</b>	<b>263,890</b>	<b>292,620</b>	<b>324,550</b>	<b>324,570</b>

1/ Revised.

FORECAST DATES 1997-98 SEASON	
June 12, 1998	July 10, 1998

**VALENCIAS REMAIN 108.0 MILLION BOXES**

The late type (Valencia) orange forecast is continued from last month and October at a record high 108.0 million boxes. This is 17 percent above last season's record of 92.0 million boxes and over 31 percent greater than the 1995-96 crop.

Fruit size and droppage from the trees up to harvest were near the projections in October with fruit size slightly less and droppage near the same. Droppage is low relative to the historic average and has been trending downward in recent seasons. Surveys conducted in April show droppage increasing slightly, following somewhat normal patterns.

The primary indicator of crop utilization at this time is the Row Count survey which was conducted April 29-30. With almost 60 percent of the rows harvested, this indicator of crop size confirms the forecast. Estimated utilization to May 1 at almost 69 million boxes is ahead of last season to the same time when only 52 million boxes had been harvested.

**FCOJ YIELD NOW 1.58 GALLONS PER BOX**

The all orange FCOJ yield projection is increased to 1.58 gallons per box of 42.0 degrees concentrate from 1.56 last month. This will be a record high yield, surpassing the 1992-93 season yield of 1.57 gallons per box. The Valencia yield is also increased to 1.70 gallons per box from 1.67 last month. This will also be a record, surpassing the 1991-92 season when the yield was 1.69608 gallons. Valencias are currently being processed at record weekly amounts. The early and midseason portion is final at 1.492548 gallons per box with almost 100 million boxes used.

The 7.41 pounds solids per box average from maturity tests conducted May 1 is the second highest in the past nine years, surpassed only by the 7.42 solids per box average in 1992. The Brix (percent soluble solids per box) at 13.51, is the second highest in the past nine years, exceeded only in 1992 at 13.57. Fifty percent of the remaining samples on May 1 had a 16 to 1 ratio or higher reflecting advanced maturity. It now appears that the accelerated harvest pattern for late oranges has been very beneficial to both growers and processors in maximizing yield per box.

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 REDUCED TO 48.4 MILLION BOXES**

The all seedless grapefruit forecast is lowered 1.1 million boxes. White seedless is forecast at 18.4 million boxes, down 2.6 million boxes. Colored seedless is forecast at 30.0 million boxes, up 1.5 million boxes. These forecasts are a projection of final seasonal utilization of the crop, based on utilization to date relationships from past seasons and the percentages of rows harvested on the route surveys. All citrus forecasts project certified utilization and include a preseason 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 white seedless to May 4, 1998, was only 16.4 million boxes. Weekly utilizations have been declining. The export market has not provided the fresh use level of recent years. Processing use is lagging over 4.5 million boxes behind the past two seasons to date and low delivered in prices have been a major factor.

The white forecast is now almost 22 percent less than utilized last season. Except for the freeze season of 1989-90, when 18.0 million boxes were recorded, it would be the smallest crop since 1969-70.

The increase of the colored varieties forecast to 30.0 million boxes is based on the indication of row harvest from the April 29-30 route survey. Estimated certifications for May 4, 1998, are 28.0 million boxes. Weekly utilization, while declining, is still above 0.5 million boxes.

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

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1995-96 <sup>1/</sup>	1996-97 <sup>2/</sup>	Apr 9, 1998	May 12, 1998
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
<b>Grapefruit:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>52,350</b>	<b>55,800</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>49,000</b>
<b>Seedless</b>	<b>51,300</b>	<b>54,900</b>	<b>49,500</b>	<b>48,400</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>23,200</b>	<b>23,500</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>18,400</b>
<b>Colored</b>	<b>28,100</b>	<b>31,400</b>	<b>28,500</b>	<b>30,000</b>
<b>Seedy (Other)</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>600</b>
Texas	4,550	5,300	4,600	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>64,400</b>	<b>63,400</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>(Final) 440</b>	<b>(Final) 440</b>
<b>Temples: Florida</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,250</b>
<b>Tangelos: Florida</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>3,950</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>2,850</b>
<b>K-Early: Florida</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Tangerines:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>5,250</b>
<b>Early <sup>3/</sup></b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,200</b>
<b>Honey</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>2,050</b>
<b>California</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,400</b>
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Total Tangerines</b>	<b>8,100</b>	<b>9,450</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>8,150</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 INCREASED**

The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast is increased 100,000 boxes to 600,000 boxes. As of May 4, 1998, close to this amount has been utilized. The last weekly estimate of utilization was only 4,000 boxes. There does not appear to be demand for the remaining crops. All seedy grapefruit is certified in processed form and the total amount depends on load ticket classification.

**TOTAL TANGERINES AT 5.25 MILLION BOXES  
EARLYS FINAL AT 3.2 MILLION BOXES  
HONEYYS INCREASED TO 2.05 MILLION BOXES**

The early portion of the tangerine forecast (Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy) is final at 3.2 million boxes. This is almost 30 percent less than was utilized last season.

The Honey tangerine (late portion) is adjusted upward by 150,000 boxes to 2.05 million boxes. Over 1.9 million boxes have been recorded as of May 3, 1998. There continues to be weekly certifications and the route survey indicated some available rows with usable productivity.

**TEMPLES FINAL AT 2.25 MILLION BOXES**

The estimate of Temple utilization is 2.25 million boxes, a reduction of 0.05 million boxes from the 2.3 million boxes forecast since October. Only about 6,000 boxes have been recorded in the past month. Utilization during the past seven seasons has averaged 2.39 million boxes, ranging from 2.15 to 2.5 million boxes.

**TANGELOS FINAL**

The estimate of tangelo utilization is final at 2.85 million boxes. Weekly utilizations have declined steadily. The route survey indicated some rows still remaining, mostly in small blocks or as pollinators. Last season's recorded crop of 3.95 million boxes was the largest since 1987-88.

**K-EARLY CITRUS FINAL AT 40,000 BOXES**

Original survey indicators were for 130,000 boxes but only 40,000 boxes have been certified. 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>										
Late (71-60)										
Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.50	2.18	9.00	8.86	3.65	4.13	46.32	47.55	4.17	4.22
Nov 1	2.05	1.86	9.36	9.44	4.62	5.18	49.50	50.82	4.63	4.80
Dec 1	1.70	1.51	10.37	10.23	6.17	6.90	53.68	52.69	5.57	5.40
Jan 1	1.48	1.28	11.19	11.02	7.66	8.73	54.09	54.46	6.06	6.01
Feb 1	1.34	1.14	11.99	11.86	9.08	10.57	54.72	55.31	6.56	6.56
Mar 1	1.16	1.06	12.48	12.73	10.92	12.21	54.52	54.40	6.82	6.93
Apr 1	0.98	0.99	12.84	12.91	13.20	13.26	55.00	53.74	7.08	6.94
May 1	0.90	0.85	13.15	13.51	14.94	16.07	54.18	54.78	7.14	7.41

NOTICE: All samples were run through an FMC O91 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, 1998

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.	10	0.90	14.14	15.96	56.46	7.99
Other Areas	50	0.84	13.39	16.09	54.45	7.29

**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 28, 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 April measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1996	1997	1998
--- Percent ---			
<b>Valencia oranges:</b>			
64 and larger	13.5	12.1	9.1
80	30.5	24.9	22.9
100	36.3	33.2	35.8
125	16.1	21.2	23.8
163 and smaller	3.6	8.6	8.4

The chart to the right compares the relationship of the April 1998 Valencia orange fruit size measurements with those taken in April 1997. 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.

