

FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

Size frequency distributions are from the October size survey conducted in sample groves during the period of October 6 through 24, 1997. The distributions are by percent from fruit within the size range of each 4/5 bushel container. These percents relate only to fruit from spring bloom and exclude summer bloom fruit in all seasons.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from October measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1995	1996	1997
---- Percent ----			
Early and midseason oranges: (excluding Navels)			
64 and larger	2.1	1.2	1.6
80	12.0	9.5	8.1
100	39.2	30.6	25.5
125	34.5	37.6	36.8
163 and smaller	12.2	21.1	28.0
Navel oranges:			
64 and larger	65.9	51.0	48.4
80	26.0	32.7	31.8
100	7.2	13.3	15.7
125	0.8	2.5	3.5
163 and smaller	0.1	0.5	0.6
White seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	19.8	8.6	12.7
36	24.2	17.8	13.9
40	19.5	17.2	17.2
48	16.8	20.1	20.3
56	8.1	13.5	13.2
63 and smaller	11.6	22.8	22.7
Colored seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	14.9	5.9	8.1
36	21.3	14.5	12.6
40	20.9	17.8	18.3
48	19.7	20.9	21.4
56	9.7	16.3	15.5
63 and smaller	13.5	24.6	24.1
Sunburst tangerines:			
150 and larger	64.5	33.5	50.2
176	16.5	20.2	19.0
210	12.1	19.7	13.3
246	5.2	14.1	10.7
294 and smaller	1.7	12.5	6.8
Dancy tangerines:			
150 and larger	17.8	12.9	8.6
176	27.5	13.6	8.2
210	19.7	21.2	10.0
246	23.9	22.0	20.9
294 and smaller	11.1	30.3	52.3
Honey tangerines:			
150 and larger	52.8	32.2	49.5
176	18.1	21.8	16.9
210	14.7	22.5	13.6
246	8.1	14.1	11.6
294 and smaller	6.3	9.4	8.4
Tangelos:			
80 and larger	25.7	9.9	17.8
100	34.9	21.8	28.2
120	25.6	27.2	31.4
156 and smaller	13.8	41.1	22.6

CHART 1: Early and midseason oranges (excluding Navels) size frequency by diameter from October measurements.

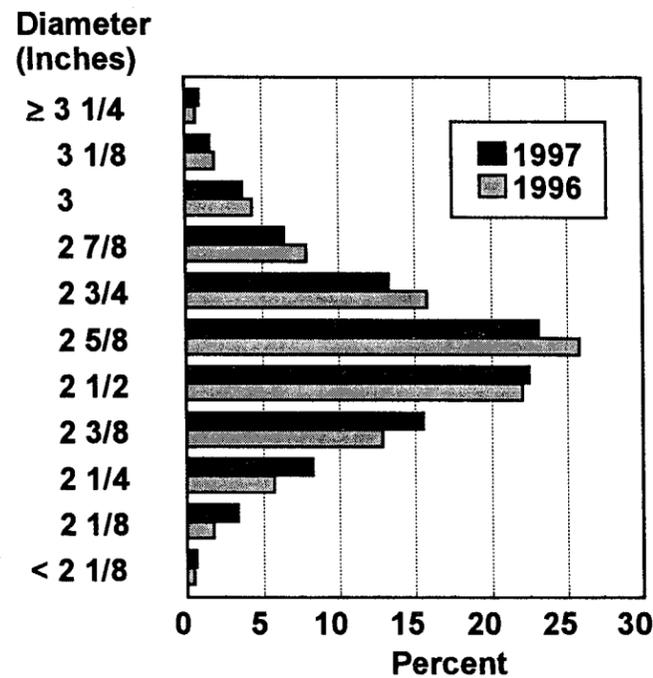
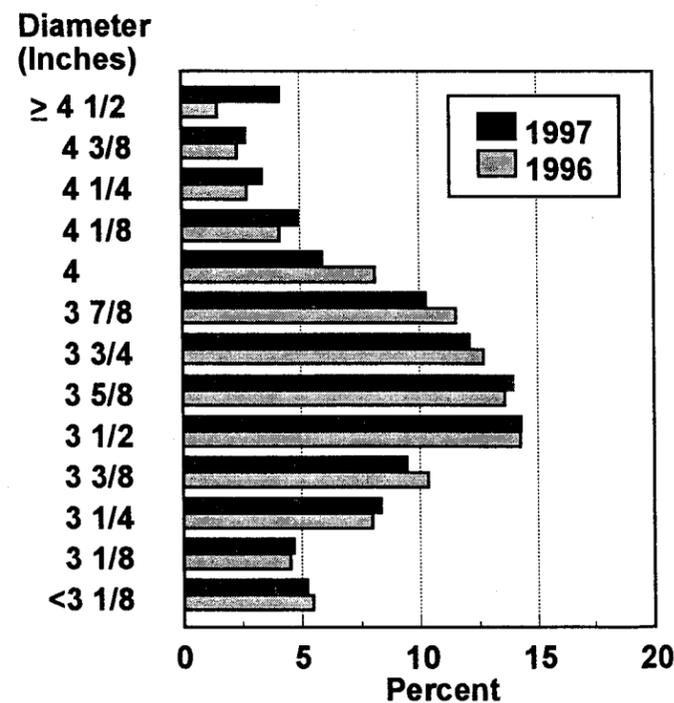


CHART 2: White seedless grapefruit size frequency by diameter from October measurements.



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FLORIDA AGRICULTURE



November 10, 1997

CITRUS

NOVEMBER FORECAST MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

ORANGES 254.0 MILLION BOXES

The October 1 orange forecasts for all states are repeated in this report since no November forecasts are made. The Florida all orange forecast is 12 percent more than the 226.2 million boxes recorded last season, which was a record high crop. During the past 10 seasons, the October forecast has deviated from final recorded utilization by an average of 3.8 percent; three of the seasons averaged 6.8 percent above and the remaining seven averaged 2.6 percent below the final estimates of utilization.

FCOJ YIELD 1.55 GALLONS PER BOX

Since there are no November forecasts or projections, the forecast for FCOJ remains at 1.55 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix equivalent. Maturity test results on fruit collected October 27 and 28 are presented on page 3. All averages are unadjusted as in prior seasons and provide a measure of changes occurring in fruit still on the trees. The tests do not reflect the same levels of maturity as those being reported by processors from plant tests or plant recovery rates because the latter relate to fruit that has been harvested.

The final 1996-97 all orange season average FCOJ yield as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association was 1.57 gallons per box. The next FCOJ projection will be released with the box forecasts on December 11.

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

Crop and State	Production			Forecast
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:				
FLORIDA	119,700	121,200	134,200	146,000
California	35,000	38,000	40,000	44,000
Texas	950	830	1,300	1,400
Arizona	400	700	400	450
Total Above Varieties	156,050	160,730	175,900	191,850
Valencias:				
FLORIDA	85,800	82,100	92,000	108,000
California	21,000	20,000	28,000	30,000
Texas	105	110	120	150
Arizona	650	950	600	550
Total Valencias	107,555	103,160	120,720	138,700
All Oranges:				
FLORIDA	205,500	203,300	226,200	254,000
California	56,000	58,000	68,000	74,000
Texas	1,055	940	1,420	1,550
Arizona	1,050	1,650	1,000	1,000
Total All Oranges	263,605	263,890	296,620	330,550

FORECAST DATES 1997-98 SEASON

- December 11, 1997
- January 9, 1998
- February 11, 1998
- March 12, 1998
- April 9, 1998
- May 12, 1998
- June 12, 1998
- July 10, 1998

CROP PROGRESS

October was generally dry in Florida's citrus belt except for the first and last few days when much needed rain covered most areas. There was a lot of irrigation used during the middle of the month as dry conditions prevailed in most counties. There were two cool snaps during the month that slowed new growth and reduced soil evaporation.

Most early maturing fruit is showing good on-tree color break. By the end of October, harvest was well underway on Navels, Ambersweet and Hamlin oranges, Fallglo and Robinson tangerines, and white and colored grapefruit, Satsumas, and K-Early citrus fruit. There were only a few processing plants open during the first half of the month as packing house eliminations were not very much in demand. A large quantity of packing house elimination grapefruit was dumped in pastures and destroyed.

Caretakers have been cutting cover crops, spraying, and fertilizing. Some growers are mowing dead weeds for fire prevention. Most grove operators are cutting back on general production activities to reduce production costs.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Distribution of 1996-97 production and 1997-98 forecast by marketing districts and fruit types

Fruit type	Indian River		Gulf		Florida SunRidge		State total	
	1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98
ORANGES: --- 1,000 BOXES ---								
Early & Midseason (Including Navels)	11,700	11,000	27,600	24,000	94,900	111,000	134,200	146,000
Valencia	11,700	14,000	25,000	24,500	55,300	69,500	92,000	108,000
All	23,400	25,000	52,600	48,500	150,200	180,500	226,200	254,000
GRAPEFRUIT:								
White Seedless	14,800	15,100	2,400	2,100	6,300	5,800	23,500	23,000
Colored Seedless	22,300	19,500	4,200	6,500	4,900	4,500	31,400	30,500
Other (Seedy)	100	40	60	40	740	420	900	500
All	37,200	34,640	6,660	8,640	11,940	10,720	55,800	54,000

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

Crop and State	Production			Forecast
	1994-95	1995-96 ^{1/}	1996-97 ^{2/}	1997-98
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Grapefruit:				
FLORIDA-All	55,700	52,350	55,800	54,000
Seedless	54,400	51,300	54,900	53,500
White	25,700	23,200	23,500	23,000
Colored	28,700	28,100	31,400	30,500
Seedy (Other)	1,300	1,050	900	500
Texas	4,650	4,550	5,300	5,000
Arizona	1,400	1,200	900	800
California	9,300	8,100	8,200	9,000
Total Grapefruit	71,050	66,200	70,200	68,800
Lemons:				
California	20,000	21,000	20,000	22,000
Arizona	3,600	5,100	2,600	2,600
Total Lemons	23,600	26,100	22,600	24,600
Limes: Florida	230	300	320	375
Temples: Florida	2,550	2,150	2,400	2,300
Tangelos: Florida	3,150	2,450	3,950	3,300
K-Early: Florida	120	160	150	130
Tangerines:				
FLORIDA-All	3,550	4,500	6,300	5,500
Early ^{3/}	2,350	2,900	4,500	3,700
Honey	1,200	1,600	1,800	1,800
California	2,500	2,600	2,600	2,400
Arizona	650	1,000	550	500
Total Tangerines	6,700	8,100	9,450	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.

ESTIMATE OF PRODUCTION BY MARKETING DISTRICTS

The production forecasts made in October for Florida oranges and grapefruit have been divided between marketing districts for this report. These are shown in the table above with the 1996-97 production for comparison.

MATURITY TEST RESULTS

The maturity test results reported on page 3 are from fruit collected October 27-28 and tested October 29-31. These samples were collected from the same trees as the September 1 and October 1 surveys and generally reflect maturity levels for unharvested fruit.

The next maturity tests and FCOJ projection will be released with the crop forecast December 11 at 8:30 a.m.

The weather during October was near ideal for citrus. Moisture was a little short during the middle of the month; however, growers were able to maintain adequate levels with periodic irrigation. Acid levels for all types of fruit tested are lower and the acid to solids ratios and average pounds solids are higher than last season to the same date.

Unadjusted maturity tests: Average of regular bloom fruit samples from 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 (120-116)										
Sep 1	NA	1.31	NA	9.35	NA	7.25	NA	45.20	NA	4.22
Oct 1	1.14	0.99	9.85	9.78	8.84	10.13	48.14	47.31	4.74	4.63
Nov 1	0.89	0.85	10.26	10.54	11.80	12.62	50.75	50.11	5.20	5.28
Mids (55-54)										
Sep 1	NA	1.55	NA	9.10	NA	6.04	NA	45.23	NA	4.12
Oct 1	1.40	1.14	9.76	9.43	7.07	8.47	48.95	50.05	4.78	4.72
Nov 1	1.12	0.99	10.21	10.36	9.34	10.72	52.44	51.91	5.35	5.38
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
GRAPEFRUIT:										
Seedless										
White (49-50)										
Sep 1	NA	1.60	NA	9.56	NA	6.00	NA	34.56	NA	3.31
Oct 1	1.64	1.43	10.39	9.74	6.35	6.85	37.79	38.94	3.92	3.80
Nov 1	1.45	1.34	10.11	9.94	6.99	7.46	40.62	41.61	4.11	4.14
Colored (40-43)										
Sep 1	NA	1.56	NA	9.66	NA	6.22	NA	35.18	NA	3.39
Oct 1	1.58	1.38	10.42	9.75	6.67	7.09	38.19	39.94	3.97	3.90
Nov 1	1.37	1.30	10.06	9.92	7.37	7.67	41.71	43.56	4.19	4.33

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, November 1, 1997

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
ORANGES:						
Early						
Indian River Dist.	10	0.84	10.76	13.11	51.61	5.56
Other Areas	106	0.86	10.52	12.57	49.97	5.26
Midseason						
Indian River Dist.	11	0.98	10.30	10.77	51.67	5.32
Other Areas	43	1.00	10.37	10.71	51.97	5.40
Late						
Indian River Dist.	25	1.90	9.71	5.18	52.78	5.13
Other Areas	125	1.78	9.38	5.37	50.70	4.76
GRAPEFRUIT:						
White Seedless						
Indian River Dist.	35	1.34	10.06	7.54	41.79	4.20
Other Areas	15	1.35	9.67	7.26	41.20	3.99
Colored Seedless						
Indian River Dist.	36	1.32	10.01	7.65	43.89	4.40
Other areas	7	1.23	9.47	7.79	41.92	3.97