

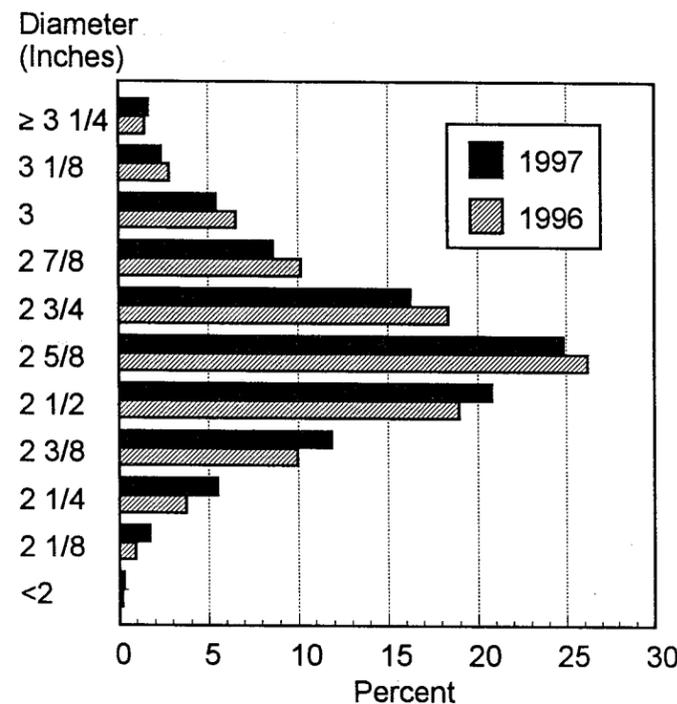
**FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS**

Size frequency distributions are from the November size survey conducted in sample groves during the period of November 3 through 26, 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.

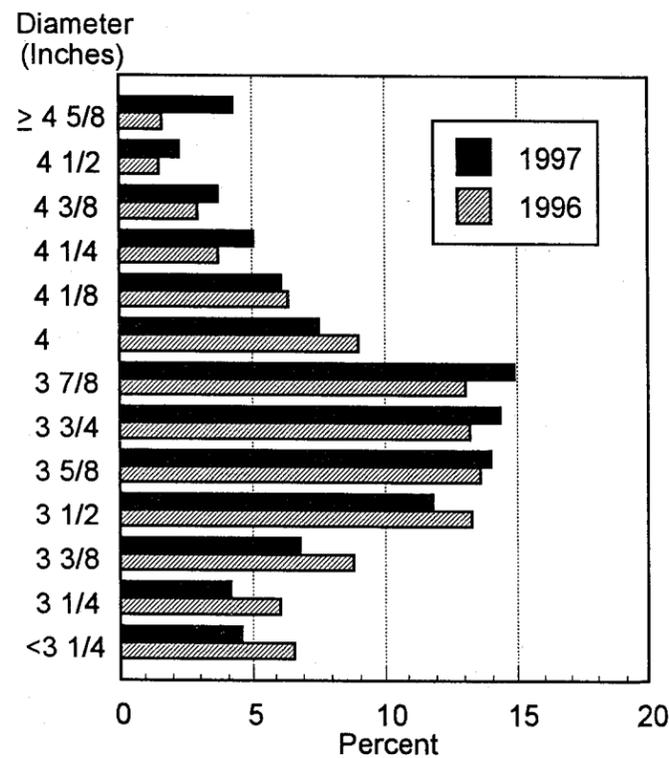
**FLORIDA CITRUS:** Size frequency distributions from November measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1995	1996	1997
--- Percent ---			
<b>Early and midseason oranges: (excluding Navels)</b>			
64 and larger	3.6	2.4	2.5
80	18.1	13.4	11.0
100	43.2	35.3	31.2
125	28.0	33.9	35.7
163 and smaller	7.1	15.0	19.6
<b>Navel oranges:</b>			
64 and larger	76.7	62.8	60.0
80	19.1	25.5	28.0
100	3.5	9.2	10.3
125	0.7	2.2	1.6
163 and smaller	0.0	0.3	0.1
<b>White seedless grapefruit:</b>			
32 and larger	28.9	12.8	18.1
36	25.6	20.0	18.9
40	18.0	18.8	21.5
48	13.0	19.6	19.0
56	6.1	12.3	9.9
63 and smaller	8.4	16.5	12.6
<b>Colored seedless grapefruit:</b>			
32 and larger	21.5	8.2	10.9
36	24.1	15.9	16.5
40	20.2	20.4	21.0
48	17.4	20.0	21.0
56	8.1	14.5	14.0
63 and smaller	8.7	21.0	16.6
<b>Sunburst tangerines:</b>			
150 and larger	81.9	52.3	72.4
176	8.6	22.1	13.8
210	6.1	13.2	9.3
246	2.8	9.5	2.5
294 and smaller	0.6	2.9	2.0
<b>Dancy tangerines:</b>			
150 and larger	59.5	42.4	37.7
176	18.6	14.7	13.2
210	15.0	15.9	21.8
246	5.8	11.9	13.7
294 and smaller	1.1	15.1	13.6
<b>Honey tangerines:</b>			
150 and larger	79.6	63.9	74.5
176	11.0	16.4	12.2
210	4.9	11.3	8.0
246	2.3	6.3	4.0
294 and smaller	2.2	2.1	1.3
<b>Tangelos:</b>			
80 and larger	48.8	22.6	42.9
100	32.1	29.3	36.0
120	15.1	27.5	13.2
156 and smaller	4.0	20.6	7.9

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



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



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**CITRUS**

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

**FILE COPY**

**FLORIDA  
 AGRICULTURE**



December 11, 1997

**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, 12 percent more than the previous record of 226.2 million boxes harvested in 1996-97. In the past 10 non-freeze seasons the December all orange forecast has deviated from recorded final production by an average of 3.7 percent. Four years were above and six 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. These data are used to update projections to harvest for the current season. Observations to date continue to support earlier projections of near average fruit size and below average droppage.

**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, December 1, 1997 forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1995-96	1996-97	Nov 10, 1997	Dec 11, 1997
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
<b>Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:</b>				
<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
<b>Valencias:</b>				
<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
<b>All Oranges:</b>				
<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**

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

Fruit growth has continued favorable following a normal seasonal pattern. Fruit size remains near average and droppage is below. Size and drop field observations made through November support the October forecast.

Harvest of early and midseason varieties is progressing ahead of normal with nearly 28 million boxes (including Navels) utilized through November 30. This compares to the previous two seasons of 20 million boxes and 32 million boxes respectively.

**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-midseason oranges, the two latest monthly surveys indicate fruit size and loss from droppage support closely those projections made for the October forecast. Fruit size is projected to average slightly larger than the average of the past seven non-freeze seasons. Loss from droppage is still expected to be near 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 Florida Citrus Processors Association final reported yield for last season was 1.57174 gallons per box. A projection of early-midseason and late (Valencia) categories will be made in the January report. All projections of yield assume processing relationships of the past several seasons. Results of orange and grapefruit maturity testing with comparisons are found on page 3.

**SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT DOWN 1 MILLION BOXES**

The total seedless grapefruit forecast is 51.5 million boxes, down 2.0 million boxes from October. The white seedless forecast is unchanged at 23.0 million boxes. The reduction in the colored varieties' forecast make this total 28.5 million boxes. The colored forecast is 2.9 million boxes less than the final recorded utilization last season.

The colored seedless fruit growth rate during the past two survey periods has declined significantly from the projections made in October. It is possible that maturity of the crop was more advanced than was estimated in September and that drier weather conditions changed the growth pattern. Although the average size is still slightly above last season, the indication is that it will take five more fruit than previously projected to make a one and three-fifths bushel box equivalent at harvest. Fruit loss from droppage through November is one percent more than last season but also one percent less than a series average. The relationships of average fruit size and loss from droppage are the only factors in this reduced forecast.

These forecasts are based on objective fruit count and measurement surveys in relationship to the harvest patterns and utilization of the past six seasons. 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.

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

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1995-96 <sup>1/</sup>	1996-97 <sup>2/</sup>	Nov 10, 1997	Dec 11, 1997
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
<b>Grapefruit:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>52,350</b>	<b>55,800</b>	<b>54,000</b>	<b>52,000</b>
<b>Seedless</b>	<b>51,300</b>	<b>54,900</b>	<b>53,500</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>30,500</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	5,000
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>68,800</b>	<b>66,800</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>3,300</b>
<b>K-Early: Florida</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Tangerines:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>5,500</b>
<b>Early <sup>3/</sup></b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>3,700</b>
<b>Honey</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,800</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>8,400</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.

Estimated utilization of all seedless grapefruit to December 1, 1997 at 6.6 million boxes is about 120,000 boxes more than last season at the same date, but about 1.0 million boxes less than December 1, 1995.

**SEEDY GRAPEFRUIT CONTINUED**

The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast is held at 500,000 boxes. This indicates the smallest amount to be certified on record. Last season 900,000 boxes were recorded. Fruit population is down 53 percent from last year. Average fruit size is larger than the series mean and loss from drop has been minimal. All seedy grapefruit is certified in processed form and records are dependent on load tickets.

**ALL TANGERINES STAY AT 5.5 MILLION BOXES**

The all tangerine forecast remains at 5.5 million boxes. The early portion comprised of Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy varieties is continued at 3.7 million boxes. Fallglo and Robinson varieties are almost complete, with the combined total near the previously allocated level. The Sunburst harvest is progressing with estimated utilization to date reflective of a smaller indicated crop than attained last season. There has been no recorded use of Dancy as of December 1, 1997.

The Honey tangerine portion of the total is held at 1.8 million boxes, the same as recorded last season. Fourteen percent fewer fruit are projected to make a full box but fruit loss through droppage is projected to be 14 percent more than the record low loss of last season. Loss is still projected to be less than the series average of 44 percent from August to harvest.

**TEMPLES HELD AT 2.3 MILLION BOXES**

The 2.3 million box Temple forecast is continued. Even though average fruit size is larger than the series mean and loss from droppage below, it does not offset the fruit population being 22 percent less than the 2.4 million boxes recorded last season.

**TANGELOS REMAIN AT 3.3 MILLION BOXES**

The tangelo forecast of 3.3 million boxes is maintained. Final average fruit sizes were above series mean and loss from droppage below. However, utilization of the crop is lagging behind the past two seasons as of December 1, 1997.

**K-EARLY NOW 100,000 BOXES**

A reduction of 30,000 boxes is made in the K-Early Citrus Fruit forecast. As of December 1, 1997 fewer than 40,000 boxes were certified. Fresh use is virtually over and, while the fruit is still available, the use of remaining amounts will be dependent on acceptability to processors.

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>										
<b>Early (97-83)</b>										
Sep 1	NA	1.32	NA	9.32	NA	7.16	NA	45.55	NA	4.25
Oct 1	1.16	1.02	9.81	9.77	8.67	9.90	48.20	47.40	4.73	4.62
Nov 1	0.91	0.87	10.21	10.54	11.56	12.38	50.78	50.02	5.18	5.27
Dec 1	0.81	0.77	11.04	11.33	13.93	14.80	51.61	50.99	5.70	5.78
<b>Mids (52-51)</b>										
Sep 1	NA	1.56	NA	9.10	NA	5.99	NA	45.25	NA	4.12
Oct 1	1.41	1.15	9.78	9.45	7.06	8.46	49.03	50.06	4.80	4.73
Nov 1	1.12	1.00	10.21	10.36	9.32	10.68	52.45	52.09	5.35	5.40
Dec 1	0.98	0.89	11.29	11.38	11.79	13.09	52.98	51.97	5.98	5.92
<b>Late (150-150)</b>										
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
<b>GRAPEFRUIT:</b>										
<b>Seedless</b>										
<b>White (49-49)</b>										
Sep 1	NA	1.60	NA	9.55	NA	6.00	NA	34.47	NA	3.29
Oct 1	1.64	1.42	10.39	9.73	6.35	6.86	37.79	38.94	3.92	3.80
Nov 1	1.45	1.34	10.11	9.93	6.99	7.45	40.62	41.62	4.11	4.14
Dec 1	1.43	1.27	10.44	9.91	7.32	7.88	43.19	43.94	4.51	4.35
<b>Colored (39-40)</b>										
Sep 1	NA	1.56	NA	9.69	NA	6.23	NA	35.13	NA	3.40
Oct 1	1.58	1.39	10.43	9.80	6.67	7.08	38.12	39.98	3.97	3.92
Nov 1	1.37	1.31	10.07	9.96	7.37	7.64	41.66	43.65	4.19	4.35
Dec 1	1.35	1.22	10.55	10.14	7.89	8.35	44.64	44.92	4.71	4.56

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, December 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
<b>Early</b>						
Indian River Dist.	6	0.78	11.58	15.07	53.13	6.15
Other Areas	77	0.77	11.31	14.78	50.82	5.75
<b>Midseason</b>						
Indian River Dist.	11	0.87	11.39	13.17	52.66	6.01
Other Areas	40	0.89	11.38	13.07	51.78	5.89
<b>Late</b>						
Indian River Dist.	25	1.53	10.57	6.96	54.98	5.81
Other Areas	125	1.43	10.16	7.26	52.88	5.38
<b>GRAPEFRUIT:</b>						
<b>White Seedless</b>						
Indian River Dist.	35	1.29	10.11	7.88	43.90	4.44
Other Areas	14	1.20	9.41	7.88	44.07	4.14
<b>Colored Seedless</b>						
Indian River Dist.	34	1.22	10.25	8.45	45.06	4.62
Other areas	6	1.23	9.47	7.77	44.11	4.18