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FLORIDA
AGRICULTURE

CITRUS

SEPTEMBER MATURITY TEST RESULTS

September 12, 1997

These are the first September 1 maturity tests conducted since 1981-82. These fruit samples were picked September 2-3 and tested September 4-5. There are no other recent maturity tests on a Statewide basis that can be used for comparison. These tests were requested by the Citrus Crops Estimates Advisory Committee.

The bloom this year, which followed the slight freeze in mid January, was very uniform and generally well set in most areas. There has been some late bloom of varying quantities in a few areas. Rainfall and general growing

conditions have been near ideal with some of the coastal caretakers reporting excessive moisture.

There are several fresh fruit packing houses in all areas of the citrus belt packing Navels, Ambersweet oranges, Robinson and Fallglo tangerines, and both white and colored grapefruit. All of those packing houses currently running are doing so on a limited basis at this time.

The next Maturity Test Results will be published with the October 10, 1997, citrus forecast. That release will be at 8:30 am.

Unadjusted maturity tests: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 1997-98 season

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	1997-98	1997-98	1997-98	1997-98	1997-98
	Percent	Percent		Pounds	Pounds
Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.					
ORANGES:					
Early (120)					
Sep 1	1.31	9.36	7.29	45.13	4.22
Mids (55)					
Sep 1	1.56	9.12	6.00	45.19	4.12
GRAPEFRUIT:					
Seedless					
White (50)					
Sep 1	1.60	9.56	6.00	34.56	3.31
Colored (50)					
Sep 1	1.54	9.63	6.27	35.08	3.38

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, September 1, 1997

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	Number	Percent	Percent		Pounds	Pounds
ORANGES:						
Early						
Indian River Dist.	11	1.30	9.62	7.45	43.56	4.18
Other Areas	109	1.31	9.34	7.27	45.28	4.23
Midseason						
Indian River Dist.	11	1.58	8.98	5.80	44.28	3.97
Other Areas	44	1.56	9.16	6.06	45.42	4.16
GRAPEFRUIT:						
White Seedless						
Indian River Dist.	35	1.61	9.65	6.00	34.52	3.33
Other Areas	15	1.57	9.35	5.99	34.64	3.24
Colored Seedless						
Indian River Dist.	38	1.57	9.72	6.24	34.99	3.40
Other areas	12	1.47	9.34	6.36	35.39	3.30