

FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

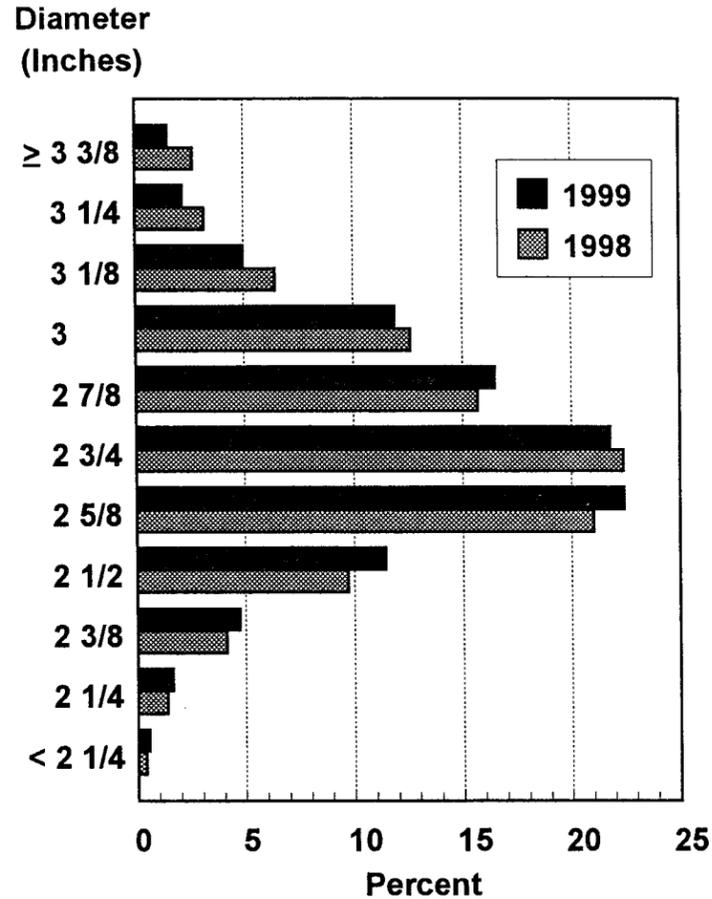
Size frequency distributions from the January size survey are shown in the table below. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. Fruit sizes were measured on trees in sample groves during the period January 4 through 25, 1999. Comparable sizes for 1997 and 1998 are also shown. These measurements are of fruit from spring bloom and exclude summer bloom in all seasons.

The chart below compares the relationship of the January 1999 Valencia orange fruit size measurements with those taken in January 1998. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range except for the smallest value. The March release will compare 1999 Valencia sizes with 1998 measurements.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from January measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1997	1998	1999
--- Percent ---			
Valencia oranges:			
64 and larger	6.5	8.4	5.4
80	23.2	24.5	23.7
100	37.5	40.5	40.3
125	23.7	20.6	23.6
163 and smaller	9.1	6.0	7.0
White seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	21.3	28.5	18.7
36	23.9	25.6	23.2
40	22.9	17.6	21.6
48	15.9	13.2	16.9
56	7.9	6.8	8.3
63 and smaller	8.1	8.3	11.3
Colored seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	12.6	18.2	10.0
36	21.5	23.4	18.9
40	24.5	21.7	20.8
48	20.7	19.1	21.3
56	11.3	8.4	11.5
63 and smaller	9.4	9.2	17.5
Temples:			
80 and larger	38.0	42.5	35.3
100	35.2	36.1	43.2
120	17.4	16.2	16.3
156 and smaller	9.4	5.2	5.2
Honey tangerines:			
150 and larger	79.3	91.5	96.0
176	10.9	5.2	2.5
210	6.1	1.9	1.3
246	2.6	1.1	0.2
294 and smaller	1.1	0.3	0.0

CHART 1: Valencia size frequency by diameter from January measurements.



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FLORIDA AGRICULTURE



CITRUS

FEBRUARY FORECAST MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

February 10, 1999

ORANGES NOW 194.0 MILLION BOXES

The 1998-99 Florida all orange forecast, released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is increased 4.0 million to 194.0 million boxes. This is a two percent increase from last month and the initial forecast in October. The increase is in the early and midseason varieties. This is still the smallest crop since the 1993-94 season and 20 percent less than the record of 244.0 million boxes harvested last season.

Objective count and measurement surveys conducted during January that monitor the progress of fruit sizing and droppage were used in combination with bearing tree numbers and average fruit counts made last summer. A survey to measure harvest percent related to the amount of fruit delivered to packing houses and processing plants provides an indication of fruit remaining to be harvested.

During the past 10 non-freeze seasons, the February forecast has deviated from the final recorded production by an average of 2.1 percent. In four seasons the forecast was below final production and in six seasons it was above.

EARLY AND MIDSEASONS INCREASED TO 116.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of early and midseason varieties is increased 4.0 million to 116.0 million boxes. This is the smallest crop since the 1993-94 season when 107.3 million boxes were harvested. Monthly measurements continue to show fruit size to be below average. Droppage of the unharvested portion of the crop

Citrus production, February 1, 1999 forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1996-97	1997-98	Jan 11, 1999	Feb 10, 1999
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:				
FLORIDA	134,200	140,000	112,000	116,000
California	40,000	44,000	19,000	19,000
Texas	1,300	1,350	1,300	1,300
Arizona	400	350	450	450
Total Above Varieties	175,900	185,700	132,750	136,750
Valencias:				
FLORIDA	92,000	104,000	78,000	78,000
California	24,000	30,000	19,000	19,000
Texas	120	175	140	140
Arizona	600	650	550	550
Total Valencias	116,720	134,825	97,690	97,690
All Oranges:				
FLORIDA	226,200	244,000	190,000	194,000
California	64,000	74,000	38,000	38,000
Texas	1,420	1,525	1,440	1,440
Arizona	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total All Oranges	292,620	320,525	230,440	234,440

FORECAST DATES 1998-99 SEASON

March 11, 1999
 April 9, 1999
 May 12, 1999
 June 11, 1999
 July 12, 1999

is high and the average for the entire season is above the past eight seasons. The monthly Row Count survey, with almost two thirds of the rows harvested indicates the higher forecast.

Harvest is progressing rapidly with over seven million boxes being used weekly. Spot labor shortages have been reported which may lead to a less efficient harvest this season. Including Navels, estimated utilization to date is almost 83.5 million boxes.

The Navel portion of the early and midseason forecast remains 4.9 million boxes. The Row Count survey shows very few rows remaining to be harvested. Estimated utilization to February 1 is 4.8 million boxes.

VALENCIAS HELD AT 78.0 MILLION BOXES

The late type (Valencia) orange forecast is continued at 78.0 million boxes. If attained, this would be smaller than the four previous crops and 25 percent below the record 104.0 million boxes of last season. Fruit sizes continue projected below but near the average of the past eight seasons. Also, as projected in October, droppage is above the average.

FCOJ INCREASED TO 1.60 GALLONS PER BOX

The projection of all orange FCOJ yield is increased to 1.60 gallons per box. This is a record, surpassing the 1992-93 season average of 1.57893. The early and midseason portion is increased to 1.56 gallons per box, also a record. The Valencia portion is maintained at 1.67 gallons per box, below last season's record of 1.715249 gallons per box. Average pounds solids of the midseason samples remaining to be harvested are at record levels. Recovery rates at processing plants are also very high.

This forecast attempts to project final FCOJ yield as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association.

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

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TOTAL SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT UNCHANGED

The total seedless grapefruit forecast of utilization is maintained, however, the varietal division is adjusted. The white variety is increased 1.0 million boxes to 19.0 million boxes and the colored varieties are now 30.5 million boxes, down 1.0 million boxes.

The objective count surveys of fruit size and loss from droppage are the prime indicators for the varietal shift. The white indicators were almost identical with those projected in October. It appears that economic conditions favoring some additional use of white seedless grapefruit have improved this season over recent years and are better than anticipated at the beginning of the season. The colored indications show, however, that average fruit size, on the remaining crops, is less than projected. This may be the result of more selective spot picking than in recent seasons. Loss from droppage is more than projected to this point of time.

The route survey, conducted on January 26-27, 1999, although not a primary indicator for grapefruit at this point of harvest, supports the varietal adjustment and indicates the total seedless grapefruit forecast level.

Estimated certifications of total seedless grapefruit, by the Division of Fruit and Vegetables, as of February 1, 1999, is 15.9 million boxes as compared with 17.2 million boxes last season to the same date. Usage of white seedless is only lagging last season by about 200,000 boxes.

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 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, February 1, 1999 forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1996-97 ^{1/}	1997-98 ^{2/}	Jan 11, 1999	Feb 10, 1999
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Grapefruit:				
FLORIDA-All	55,800	49,550	50,000	50,000
Seedless	54,900	48,900	49,500	49,500
White	23,500	18,300	18,000	19,000
Colored	31,400	30,600	31,500	30,500
Seedy (Other)	900	650	500	500
Texas	5,300	4,800	5,000	5,000
Arizona	900	800	700	700
California	8,200	9,000	8,000	8,000
Total Grapefruit	70,200	64,150	63,700	63,700
Lemons:				
California	22,600	22,000	18,000	18,000
Arizona	2,600	2,600	3,200	3,200
Total Lemons	25,200	24,600	21,200	21,200
Limes: Florida	320	440	450	450
Temples: Florida	2,400	2,520	2,000	2,000
Tangelos: Florida	3,950	2,850	2,500	2,700
K-Early: Florida	150	40	60	80
Tangerines:				
FLORIDA-All	6,300	5,200	4,500	4,600
Early ^{3/}	4,500	3,200	2,900	3,000
Honey	1,800	2,000	1,600	1,600
California ^{4/}	2,600	2,400	1,600	1,600
Arizona ^{4/}	550	600	700	700
Total Tangerines	9,450	8,200	6,800	6,900

^{1/} Excludes 6 million boxes of economic abandonment in FL: 3 million white seedless and 3 million colored. ^{2/} Excludes 6 million boxes of economic abandonment in FL: 5 million white seedless and 1 million colored. ^{3/} Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy. ^{4/} Includes tangelos.

SEEDY GRAPEFRUIT CONTINUED

The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast is held at 500,000 boxes. As of the January surveys, the average fruit size indicates that it will take seven more fruit to make the 85 lb. standard box weight. However, loss from droppage has been over two percent less than projected. Estimated certifications of this crop at 163,000 boxes are about three times the use of the past two seasons at this point of time. All seedy grapefruit is certified in processed form and records are dependent on load tickets.

EARLY TANGERINES INCREASED

The total early tangerine forecast is increased 0.1 million boxes to 3.0 million boxes. The Robinson and Fallglo varieties harvest is complete. Harvest is still continuing on Sunburst and Dancy. Maturity levels and weather this season have allowed for later harvest of some crops than in recent seasons.

HONEY TANGERINES HELD

The later maturing Honey tangerine forecast is continued at 1.6 million boxes. The average fruit size as of late January was above the eight season mean but smaller than last season. Loss from droppage was 14 percent greater than last season but six percent less than the record of almost 61 percent in the 1990-91 season. Harvest is increasing, however, the maturity of the crop thus far has limited harvest to over 200,000 boxes less than the past two seasons to the first of February.

TEMPLES REMAIN 2.0 MILLION BOXES

The Temple forecast of 2.0 million boxes is continued. This is the smallest non-freeze indication since the series began in 1954-55. The route survey indicated only 21 percent of rows harvested. Average fruit size is close to the smallest in the series. Loss from droppage has been record low to late January.

Maturity has lagged on this crop, as it has with other hybrids this season, and less than 0.4 million boxes have been recorded to February 1.

TANGELOS INCREASED TO 2.7 MILLION BOXES

The all tangelo forecast is raised 0.2 million boxes to 2.7 million boxes. The route survey and estimated utilization to that date indicated the increase. If realized, the crop will still be five percent less than last season and 32 percent less than recorded in 1996-97. As with other hybrids, maturity levels are allowing later volume harvest.

K-EARLY'S NOW 80,000 BOXES

The estimated utilization to February 1, 1999, is 73,000 boxes. Maturity and weather have allowed harvest to continue later than most seasons. Last season only 40,000 boxes were recorded.

Unadjusted maturity tests: Average of regular bloom from groves, 1997-98 and 1998-99 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box		
	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	
		Percent		Percent		Pounds		Pounds			
Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.											
ORANGES:											
Early (20-35)											
Sep 1	1.33	1.77	9.28	9.52	7.14	5.49	46.04	41.89	4.27	3.98	
Oct 1	1.04	1.18	9.73	9.38	9.59	8.06	47.11	47.66	4.58	4.46	
Nov 1	0.91	0.94	10.63	10.09	11.97	10.92	49.44	50.15	5.27	5.06	
Dec 1	0.81	0.76	11.43	11.18	14.35	14.93	50.81	50.89	5.80	5.69	
Jan 1	0.76	0.69	11.89	11.72	15.88	17.24	49.33	51.52	5.86	6.04	
Feb 1	0.74	0.67	12.94	12.71	17.84	19.11	49.22	51.35	6.38	6.54	
Mids (16-25)											
Sep 1	1.64	1.94	9.33	9.34	5.79	4.87	44.94	42.06	4.19	3.93	
Oct 1	1.26	1.30	9.47	9.09	7.59	7.10	49.67	48.25	4.70	4.39	
Nov 1	1.10	1.06	10.29	9.88	9.52	9.38	51.09	52.11	5.26	5.14	
Dec 1	0.94	0.85	11.38	11.06	12.24	13.15	52.22	54.86	5.95	6.07	
Jan 1	0.88	0.79	11.98	12.24	13.70	15.64	51.14	52.43	6.12	6.41	
Feb 1	0.91	0.75	13.13	12.77	14.58	17.28	50.95	53.33	6.69	6.82	
Late (149-150)											
Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Oct 1	2.10	2.44	8.84	8.65	4.30	3.60	47.84	45.68	4.23	3.95	
Nov 1	1.80	2.02	9.44	8.98	5.33	4.51	51.06	50.66	4.82	4.55	
Dec 1	1.45	1.58	10.23	9.91	7.21	6.34	53.19	53.31	5.45	5.28	
Jan 1	1.24	1.33	11.01	10.79	9.01	8.18	53.84	54.20	5.93	5.85	
Feb 1	1.10	1.24	11.84	11.91	10.86	9.69	54.89	55.24	6.50	6.58	

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, 1999

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
		Percent		Pounds		Pounds
ORANGES:						
Early						
Indian River Dist.	2	0.65	13.25	20.43	54.87	7.27
Other Areas	33	0.68	12.67	19.03	51.14	6.50
Midseason						
Indian River Dist.	7	0.79	13.24	16.97	53.42	7.08
Other Areas	18	0.73	12.59	17.41	53.29	6.71
Late						
Indian River Dist.	25	1.33	12.44	9.45	56.90	7.07
Other Areas	125	1.22	11.81	9.74	54.91	6.48