

1999-2000 LIMES FORECAST AT 960,000 BUSHELS

Florida's 1999-2000 lime crop, which began harvest April 1 is forecast at 960,000 55-pound bushels (600,000 88-pound boxes). This is 20 percent more than the 800,000 bushels (500,000 boxes) produced in the just completed 1998-99 season. Production has increased each season since the low of 320,000 bushels produced in the season following hurricane Andrew.

Trees planted in Dade County since the storm are producing increasing quantities of fruit. Bearing acreage statewide is estimated to be 2,800 acres, up 100 acres from last season and from 1,900 acres following the storm in 1992. All of the newly planted acreage is in Dade County with other counties losing most acreage to cold weather in January 1997.

FLORIDA LIMES: Utilization in bushels, 1989-90 through 1998-99 season, and total forecast for 1999-2000 season

Season	Fresh use			Sold for processing	Total production
	Certified shipments	Local sales	Total fresh		
	Bushels				
1989-90	1,590,900	25,100	1,616,000	1,024,000	2,640,000
1990-91	1,459,700	28,300	1,488,000	832,000	2,320,000
1991-92	1,680,800	31,200	1,712,000	848,000	2,560,000
1992-93	1,146,100	21,900	1,168,000	432,000	1,600,000
1993-94	228,500	11,500	240,000	80,000	320,000
1994-95	289,300	14,700	304,000	64,000	368,000
1995-96	371,400	12,600	384,000	96,000	480,000
1996-97	398,300	9,700	408,000	104,000	512,000
1997-98	510,400	17,600	528,000	176,000	704,000
1998-99	645,400	10,600	656,000	144,000	800,000
FORECAST					
1999-2000	--	--	--	--	960,000

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CITRUS

APRIL FORECAST
 MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE
 LIME UTILIZATION AND 1999-2000 FORECAST

FILE COPY



April 9, 1999

ORANGES REDUCED TO 190.0 MILLION BOXES

The 1998-99 Florida all orange forecast (excluding Temples) released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is now 190.0 million boxes, a 2.0 million box reduction from last month. If the forecast is attained, this crop would be 22 percent less than the record high 244.0 million boxes produced last season and the smallest crop since the 1993-94 season. In the past 10 non-freeze seasons the April forecasts of total oranges have differed from final recorded utilization 1.2 percent, ranging from 2.6 percent above to 2.2 percent below.

EARLY AND MIDSEASONS FINAL AT 112.0 MILLION BOXES

The early and midseason portion (including Navels and the pre-season allocation of 1.5 million boxes of unrecorded use) is complete at 112.0 million boxes. This estimate of utilization is the same as the initial forecast in October. The level of projected production of the final one-third of the crop after February 1, based on the harvest to that date, was not realized. In past seasons, the Row Count survey has been an extremely accurate indicator;

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

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1996-97	1997-98	Mar 11, 1999	Apr 9, 1999
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:	--- 1,000 boxes ---			
FLORIDA	134,200	140,000	114,000	112,000
California	40,000	44,000	19,000	17,000
Texas	1,300	1,350	1,300	1,300
Arizona	400	350	450	550
Total Above Varieties	175,900	185,700	134,750	130,850
Valencias:				
FLORIDA	92,000	104,000	78,000	78,000
California	24,000	^{1/2} 25,000	19,000	17,000
Texas	120	175	140	140
Arizona	600	650	550	650
Total Valencias	116,720	129,825	97,690	95,790
All Oranges:				
FLORIDA	226,200	244,000	192,000	190,000
California	64,000	69,000	38,000	34,000
Texas	1,420	1,525	1,440	1,440
Arizona	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,200
Total All Oranges	292,620	315,525	232,440	226,640

^{1/2} Revised.

FORECAST DATES 1998-99 SEASON

May 12, 1999 June 11, 1999
 July 12, 1999

however, the atypical mix of trees harvested and those remaining contributed to the over expansion.

The Navel portion of the crop is final at 5.0 million boxes. This is the fifth largest amount recorded.

VALENCIAS STAY AT 78.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of Valencia oranges remains at 78.0 million boxes. As of mid-March, the objective fruit size and loss surveys continued to indicate that fruit sizes are smaller than average and loss from droppage above average. This combination lowered indications slightly but with weekly harvest accelerating rapidly and a shortened harvest season, future loss may be less than average.

The Row Count survey confirmed the advanced harvest with the percent of rows picked greater than six of the past eight seasons. Analysis of this indicator confirms the forecast level, the smallest crop since 1993-94 and 25 percent below last season's record.

FCOJ INCREASED TO 1.63 GALLONS PER BOX

The all orange FCOJ yield is increased from 1.62 to 1.63 gallons per box of 42 degrees Brix concentrate. If achieved, this will be an all orange record high yield. The early and mid portion is final at 1.584139 as reported by the Citrus Processors Association on report No. 22. The late type Valencia orange yield projection is increased to 1.72 gallons per box from 1.68 last month. This is also a record high projection.

The Maturity Test Results on page 3 show pounds solids for Valencia orange as of April 1 at 7.32. This is a record level for these tests for this time of year.

1999-2000 LIMES 960,000 BUSHELS

The 1999-2000 lime crop is forecast at 960,000 bushels (600,000 88-lb. boxes). The just completed 1998-99 season total estimate of utilization is 800,000 bushels (500,000 boxes). See page 4 for more details.

SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT REMA 48.5 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of total seedless grapefruit is continued at 48.5 million boxes and nearly equals last season's production of 48.9 million boxes. Components of this forecast are white seedless at 19.0 million and the colored seedless varieties at 29.5 million boxes. The Row Count (route survey) indicator has strengthened at this point in the season with three-fourths of the rows harvested. March was a major harvesting month with 70 percent of the fruit being processed. Utilization to the first of April was 39.0 million boxes.

The route survey continues to support the forecast of white seedless at 19.0 million boxes. Estimated utilization at 15.0 million boxes remains ahead of utilization to the same date last season. If realized, this crop would be four percent larger than the 18.3 million boxes in 1997-98 but 19 percent smaller than 1996-97's 23.5 million boxes.

The forecast of the colored seedless varieties is held at 29.5 million boxes. Earlier in the season, the estimated utilization had been lagging but heavy activity in March has pushed it slightly ahead of last season. The route survey shows over 20 percent of the rows remaining for harvest and supports the current forecast.

These forecasts are based on objective fruit count and measurement surveys in relation to the harvest patterns and utilization of the past seven

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

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1996-97 ^{1/}	1997-98 ^{2/}	Mar 11, 1999	Apr 9, 1999
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Grapefruit:				
FLORIDA-All	55,800	49,550	49,000	49,000
Seedless	54,900	48,900	48,500	48,500
White	23,500	18,300	19,000	19,000
Colored	31,400	30,600	29,500	29,500
Seedy (Other)	900	650	500	500
Texas	5,300	4,800	5,400	5,400
Arizona	900	800	700	700
California	8,200	9,000	8,000	8,500
Total Grapefruit	70,200	64,150	63,100	63,600
Lemons:				
California	22,600	22,000	18,000	18,000
Arizona	2,600	2,600	3,200	3,500
Total Lemons	25,200	24,600	21,200	21,500
Limes: Florida	320	440	450	(Final) 500
Temples: Florida	2,400	2,520	2,000	2,000
Tangelos: Florida	3,950	2,850	2,600	2,550
K-Early: Florida	150	40	80	80
Tangerines:				
FLORIDA-All	6,300	5,200	4,650	4,850
Early ^{3/}	4,500	3,200	3,050	3,050
Honey	1,800	2,000	1,600	1,800
California ^{4/}	2,600	2,400	1,600	1,700
Arizona ^{4/}	550	600	700	900
Total Tangerines	9,450	8,200	6,950	7,450

^{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.

seas. All citrus forecasts project certified utilization and include a pre-season allocation of less than two percent for unrecorded usage. Certifications include only fruit actually shipped in fresh pack or recorded at a processing plant.

SEEDY GRAPEFRUIT UNCHANGED

The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast remains 500,000 boxes. With nearly 80 percent of the rows harvested, the route survey indicator strongly supports the forecast. As of April 1, estimated utilization is 423,000 boxes. All seedy grapefruit is certified in processed form and records are dependent on load tickets.

EARLY TANGERINES FINAL

Harvest is complete for those varieties (Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy) comprising the early tangerine category. With the Sunburst variety contributing nearly 70 of the total, the estimate is final at 3.05 million boxes. Fallglo accounted for over 20 percent of the early category. Production of the older Robinson and Dancy varieties each fell below five percent of the total this season.

HONEY TANGERINES INCREASED

Forecasted crop size of the later maturing Honey tangerines is raised 200,000 boxes and now is 1.8 million boxes. Results of the route survey conducted March 31-April 1 indicate that 75 percent of the rows have been picked. The regression of the survey indicator based on estimated certifications and percent harvested (with an allowance for other use) supports this change.

TEMPLES REMAIN AT 2.0 MILLION BOXES

Harvesting of Temples was heavier in March and estimated utilization totaled 1.8 million boxes as of April 1. With some rows remaining for harvest, the route survey strongly supports the forecast of 2.0 million boxes, unchanged since the initial forecast in October.

TANGELOS ADJUSTED AND FINAL

The tangelo forecast is lowered 50 thousand boxes and is final at 2.55 million boxes. This reduction results from the estimated utilization to April 1 being just slightly over 2.5 million boxes and the route survey showing very few rows remaining for harvest. For the past eight seasons, crop size has averaged 15 percent larger with only the 1995-96 crop smaller than the current crop.

K-EARLY CITRUS FINAL

The estimate for K-Early Citrus Fruit is 80,000 boxes, twice the number recorded last season, making this crop the second smallest on record.

Unadjusted maturity tests: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample 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:										
Late (109-108)										
Oct 1	2.15	2.48	8.87	8.68	4.20	3.56	47.73	45.60	4.24	3.96
Nov 1	1.85	2.04	9.44	8.99	5.20	4.46	50.68	50.62	4.79	4.55
Dec 1	1.49	1.62	10.22	9.92	7.01	6.21	52.95	53.16	5.42	5.27
Jan 1	1.27	1.35	11.03	10.78	8.80	8.06	53.90	54.37	5.95	5.86
Feb 1	1.13	1.26	11.84	11.94	10.60	9.55	55.00	55.20	6.51	6.59
Mar 1	1.06	1.16	12.64	12.64	12.12	11.09	54.15	54.90	6.85	6.95
Apr 1	0.99	1.05	12.86	13.26	13.24	12.72	53.86	55.18	6.94	7.32

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, April 1, 1999

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
ORANGES:	Number	Percent	Percent		Pounds	Pounds
Late						
Indian River Dist.	21	1.14	13.93	12.37	58.00	8.07
Other Areas	87	1.03	13.09	12.80	54.49	7.14

FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

Size frequency distributions from the March 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 March 16 through 30, 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.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from March measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1997	1998	1999
--- Percent ---			
Valencia oranges:			
64 and larger	8.6	8.9	6.8
80	24.3	23.3	24.1
100	36.5	39.1	36.5
125	22.3	22.3	23.9
163 and smaller	8.3	6.4	8.7

The chart to the right compares the relationship of the March 1999 Valencia orange fruit size measurements with those taken in March 1998. 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 March measurements.

