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**FLORIDA  
AGRICULTURE**



**CITRUS**

**MAY FORECAST**

**MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE**

May 12, 1999

**ORANGES REDUCED TO 188.0 MILLION BOXES**

The Florida all orange forecast of utilized production for the 1998-99 season is reduced 2.0 million boxes to 188.0 million in the report released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board. The reduction is in the Valencia portion. If attained, this will be 23 percent less than the record 244.0 million boxes produced last season. In the past 10 non-freeze seasons the May forecast of total oranges has differed from final recorded utilization 1.0 percent ranging from 1.8 percent above to 1.6 percent below.

**EARLY AND MIDSEASONS FINAL AT 112.0 MILLION BOXES**

The early and midseason oranges are final at 112.0 million boxes. This includes 5.0 million boxes of **Navels** and a preseason allocation for gift fruit and other usage. This is the same as the initial forecast in October. It is the smallest crop produced since the 107.3 million boxes in the 1993-94 season and 20 percent less than last season's record 140.0 million boxes. Individual fruit size was smaller than average and loss from droppage slightly higher with fruit set down 21 percent from the previous season.

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

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1996-97	1997-98	Apr 9, 1999	May 12, 1999
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:	--- 1,000 boxes ---			
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>134,200</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>112,000</b>	<b>112,000</b>
California	40,000	44,000	17,000	17,000
Texas	1,300	1,350	1,300	1,300
Arizona	400	350	550	550
<b>Total Above Varieties</b>	<b>175,900</b>	<b>185,700</b>	<b>130,850</b>	<b>130,850</b>
Valencias:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>92,000</b>	<b>104,000</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>76,000</b>
California	24,000	<sup>1/</sup> 25,000	17,000	17,000
Texas	120	175	140	170
Arizona	600	650	650	650
<b>Total Valencias</b>	<b>116,720</b>	<b>129,825</b>	<b>95,790</b>	<b>93,820</b>
All Oranges:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>226,200</b>	<b>244,000</b>	<b>190,000</b>	<b>188,000</b>
California	64,000	69,000	34,000	34,000
Texas	1,420	1,525	1,440	1,470
Arizona	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,200
<b>Total All Oranges</b>	<b>292,620</b>	<b>315,525</b>	<b>226,640</b>	<b>224,670</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Revised.

**FORECAST DATES 1998-99 SEASON**

June 11, 1999

July 12, 1999

**VALENCIAS NOW 76.0 MILLION BOXES**

The forecast of late type (Valencia) oranges is reduced 2.0 million boxes to 76.0 million. If attained, this will be 27 percent less than the record 104.0 million boxes harvested last season. Objective count measurements concluded in April continue to show fruit sizes smaller than average and loss from droppage above. Fruit set from the summer Limb Count survey on a statewide weighted average basis is 25 percent less than last season.

The monthly Row Count survey indicates over 68 percent of the rows harvested, more at this time than the last three seasons. The expansion shows slightly more than the forecasted amount. However, the quantity of fruit on trees remaining to be harvested may not equal that of those already harvested due to the dry weather through April affecting fruit condition. Although weekly harvest for processing reached almost 6.5 million boxes the last of March, it has declined since and is an estimated 5.2 million in the latest week.

**FCOJ 1.64 GALLONS PER BOX**

The all orange FCOJ yield is increased to 1.64 gallons of 42.0 degrees Brix concentrate per box from 1.63 gallons projected last month. The early and midseason yield is final at 1.584139 as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association. The Valencia yield is increased to 1.75 gallons per box from 1.72 projected last month. All projected yields are at record high levels.

The percent of oranges being utilized for FCOJ is at a record low level. This reflects the greater demand for not from concentrate products.

The dry weather that lasted through April caused this year's bloom cycle to be one of the longest in recent history. There have been several rains since the first of May in most citrus producing areas.

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**SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT REDUCED 1.0 MILLION BOXES**

The forecast of total seedless grapefruit is now 47.5 million boxes, down 1.0 million boxes. The reduction is in the white seedless variety, now 18.0 million boxes with colored varieties continued at 29.5 million boxes. The total forecast is below last season's recorded utilization of 48.9 million boxes and indicates the least total seedless utilization since the 1991-92 season. Estimated certifications through May 2, 1999, were 44.1 million boxes.

The route survey (Row Count) conducted on May 3-4, 1999, indicated over five percent of usable white seedless rows remaining. However, with the condition of fruit on some remaining rows, they will probably not yield at the same rate as rows harvested earlier. Dry weather and harvest priorities are also affecting the usability of the remainder of the crop. Utilization is declining weekly and estimated certifications through May 2, 1999, total 16.9 million boxes.

The forecast of the colored varieties is continued at 29.5 million boxes. The route survey indicated over seven percent of harvestable rows remaining. Estimated certification as of May 2, 1999, was 27.1 million boxes. The situation with the colored varieties is somewhat different than the white, as weekly use has not declined as rapidly. If realized, the forecast amount will exceed all seasons except the last two, when 31.4 and 30.6 million boxes were recorded.

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

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1996-97 <sup>1/</sup>	1997-98 <sup>2/</sup>	Apr 9, 1999	May 12, 1999
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
<b>Grapefruit:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>55,800</b>	<b>49,550</b>	<b>49,000</b>	<b>48,100</b>
<b>Seedless</b>	<b>54,900</b>	<b>48,900</b>	<b>48,500</b>	<b>47,500</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>23,500</b>	<b>18,300</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>18,000</b>
<b>Colored</b>	<b>31,400</b>	<b>30,600</b>	<b>29,500</b>	<b>29,500</b>
<b>Seedy (Other)</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>600</b>
Texas	5,300	4,800	5,400	5,600
Arizona	900	800	700	700
California	8,200	9,000	8,500	8,500
<b>Total Grapefruit</b>	<b>70,200</b>	<b>64,150</b>	<b>63,600</b>	<b>62,900</b>
<b>Lemons:</b>				
California	22,600	22,000	18,000	18,000
Arizona	2,600	2,600	3,500	3,500
<b>Total Lemons</b>	<b>25,200</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>21,500</b>	<b>21,500</b>
<b>Limes: Florida</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>(Final) 500</b>	<b>(Final) 500</b>
<b>Temples: Florida</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,520</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,800</b>
<b>Tangelos: Florida</b>	<b>3,950</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>2,550</b>	<b>2,550</b>
<b>K-Early: Florida</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Tangerines:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>4,850</b>	<b>4,950</b>
<b>Early <sup>3/</sup></b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>3,050</b>
<b>Honey</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,900</b>
California <sup>4/</sup>	2,600	2,400	1,700	1,700
Arizona <sup>4/</sup>	550	600	900	900
<b>Total Tangerines</b>	<b>9,450</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>7,450</b>	<b>7,550</b>

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

**SEEDY GRAPEFRUIT INCREASED**

The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast is raised by 100,000 boxes to 600,000 boxes. Estimated certifications through May 2, 1999, are 544,000 boxes with an estimated 30,000 during the week ending May 2. The route survey showed about five percent of all rows remaining. If realized, the forecast will still be the smallest crop of this variety. Last season 650,000 boxes were recorded. All seedy grapefruit is used 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 percent 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 NOW 1.9 MILLION BOXES**

The forecast of the later maturing Honey tangerines is 1.9 million boxes, up 100,000 boxes from last month and 300,000 boxes from the initial forecast. The lasting quality and demand for this fruit has been excellent this season. If realized, the total will still be less than the 2.0 million boxes recorded last season but more than any other season since 1979-80. As of May 2, 1999, estimated certifications were 1.82 million boxes.

**TEMPLES FINAL AT 1.8 MILLION BOXES**

The 1998-99 Temple crop is reduced 200,000 boxes to 1.8 million boxes. Recent weekly utilization has declined to almost nothing. Estimated utilization through May 2, 1999, is 1.770 (including a preseason allocation for uncertified and other use). The route survey indicated about four percent of the rows remaining. Most of these rows have usable late or "off-bloom" fruit but harvest is questionable.

**TANGELOS FINAL AT 2.55 MILLION BOXES**

The final estimate of the 1998-99 tangelo crop, at 2.55 million boxes is the smallest crop in almost 30 years, with the exception of the 2.45 million boxes in the 1995-96 season. It is 35 percent less than the past 10 season record of 3.95 million boxes in 1996-97.

**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.											
<b>ORANGES:</b>											
Late (60-52)											
Oct	1	2.18	2.51	8.86	8.71	4.13	3.56	47.55	45.33	4.22	3.95
Nov	1	1.86	2.09	9.44	9.05	5.18	4.37	50.82	50.42	4.80	4.56
Dec	1	1.51	1.64	10.23	10.01	6.90	6.19	52.69	53.07	5.40	5.31
Jan	1	1.28	1.38	11.02	10.85	8.73	7.96	54.46	54.26	6.01	5.88
Feb	1	1.14	1.30	11.86	12.08	10.57	9.42	55.31	55.04	6.56	6.65
Mar	1	1.06	1.22	12.73	12.65	12.21	10.76	54.40	53.46	6.93	6.78
Apr	1	0.99	1.07	12.91	13.38	13.26	12.62	53.74	55.38	6.94	7.42
May	1	0.85	0.90	13.51	13.80	16.07	15.42	54.78	54.45	7.41	7.52

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, May 1, 1999

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box	
<b>ORANGES:</b>							
Late		Number	Percent	Percent	Pounds	Pounds	
Indian River Dist.		11	0.99	14.48	14.84	56.60	8.20
Other Areas		41	0.88	13.61	15.58	53.87	7.33

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

Size frequency distributions from the April 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 April 20 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	12.1	9.1	5.9
80	24.9	22.9	21.9
100	33.2	35.8	38.3
125	21.2	23.8	25.1
163 and smaller	8.6	8.4	8.8

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

