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FLORIDA  
 AGRICULTURE

CITRUS

MATURITY TEST RESULTS

September 11, 1998

These maturity tests are the first of the 1998-99 season. The fruit was picked September 1-2 and tested September 3-4. All five areas of Florida's citrus belt were sampled and only regular bloom fruit was selected for testing.

These maturity tests show considerably higher acids, lower juice, and lower pounds solids than last year at the same time. Most of these lagging maturity factors are attributed to the abnormal weather during the late winter and spring.

Adverse wet weather conditions during the winter along with very dry and extremely hot temperatures in the spring caused varying amounts of stress on some of Florida's citrus trees. Those groves that have been well cared for continued in good condition; however, there are many acres of citrus that have received minimum care and show light green foliage, dying twigs, and fruit set of varying quantities and sizes. There was near normal weather during July and August.

There are a few fresh fruit packing houses open and running limited quantities of colored and white grapefruit. Several field representatives from fresh fruit packing houses are running their own tests in the field to determine when they can start packing early fruit types.

The next Maturity Test results will be published with the October 9, 1998, citrus forecast. That release will be at 8:30 am.

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:										
Early (120-120)										
Sep 1	1.31	1.72	9.36	9.52	7.29	5.68	45.13	42.14	4.22	4.01
Mids (55-55)										
Sep 1	1.56	1.94	9.12	9.41	6.00	4.96	45.19	42.51	4.12	4.00
GRAPEFRUIT:										
Seedless										
White (50-50)										
Sep 1	1.60	1.80	9.56	10.08	6.00	5.62	34.56	30.83	3.31	3.10
Colored (50-50)										
Sep 1	1.54	1.78	9.63	9.94	6.27	5.60	35.08	31.75	3.38	3.15

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, 1998

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	1.68	9.77	5.96	42.41	4.14
Other Areas	109	1.72	9.50	5.65	42.12	4.00
Midseason						
Indian River Dist.	11	1.93	9.59	5.02	43.13	4.14
Other Areas	44	1.95	9.37	4.94	42.36	3.97
GRAPEFRUIT:						
White Seedless						
Indian River Dist.	35	1.85	10.17	5.49	30.21	3.07
Other Areas	15	1.69	9.87	5.90	32.27	3.18
Colored Seedless						
Indian River Dist.	38	1.82	10.07	5.54	30.86	3.11
Other areas	12	1.65	9.53	5.79	34.56	3.30