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CITRUS

JANUARY FORECAST

MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE



**FLORIDA
 AGRICULTURE**

January 11, 2000

ALL ORANGES NOW 219.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of round oranges is increased two percent to 219.0 million boxes in the January crop report released today by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Board. This five million box increase from the December report is divided between the Early and Midseason portion, up three million boxes, and the Valencia portion, up two million. If realized, this will be 18 percent more than the 185.7 million boxes produced last season. In the past 10 non-freeze seasons, the January forecast has deviated from final utilization by an average of 2.6 percent. Seven seasons were above and three below the final recorded utilization.

Weather conditions during the fall and winter months have been ideal with cool nights and mild but not hot days. Rainfall, although less than normal, has been adequate in most areas. Irrigation has been used where needed to maintain good tree condition.

EARLY-MIDSEASONS 127.0 MILLION BOXES

The Early-Midseason varieties forecast is increased three million to 127.0 million boxes. Objective surveys conducted during December show fruit sizes have continued to increase and are now larger than anticipated in October. Although higher in areas affected by Hurricane Irene, fruit droppage in the important early-mid areas in the central portion of the state is at record low levels.

Citrus production, January 1, 2000
 forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1997-98	1998-99	Dec 10, 1999	Jan 11, 2000
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:	- - - 1,000 boxes - - -			
FLORIDA	140,000	112,000	124,000	127,000
California	44,000	21,000	40,000	40,000
Texas	1,350	1,250	1,300	1,300
Arizona	350	550	400	600
Total Above Varieties	185,700	134,800	165,700	168,900
Valencias:				
FLORIDA	104,000	73,700	90,000	92,000
California	25,000	17,000	27,000	27,000
Texas	175	180	300	300
Arizona	650	600	500	450
Total Valencias	129,825	91,480	117,800	119,750
All Oranges:				
FLORIDA	244,000	185,700	214,000	219,000
California	69,000	38,000	67,000	67,000
Texas	1,525	1,430	1,600	1,600
Arizona	1,000	1,150	900	1,050
Total All Oranges	315,525	226,280	283,500	288,650

FORECAST DATES 1999-00 SEASON

February 11, 2000	May 12, 2000
March 10, 2000	June 9, 2000
April 11, 2000	July 12, 2000

The first route survey measuring rows harvested versus estimated utilization to the same date shows the lowest percent rows harvested to January 1 in over nine years. All surveys and objective measurements indicate this increase in the forecast.

Estimated utilization through January 2 is almost 43 million boxes with weekly harvest increasing to over seven million per week. Estimated Navel utilization to January 2 is almost four million boxes.

The **Navel** portion of the Early-Mid forecast is also increased from 5.4 million boxes to 5.6 million. The Row Count survey shows about 60 percent of rows harvested, the lowest in three seasons.

VALENCIAS 92.0 MILLION BOXES

The late type (Valencia) orange forecast is increased two million to 92.0 million boxes. This is the second increase since the initial forecast in October. Fruit sizes are above average but near the October projection. Fruit loss from droppage, however, is at the lowest percent measured in December in the history of the survey - 40 years. If this rate of droppage continues to harvest, it will be a new record low. This low droppage rate is the reason for the increase in the forecast.

FCOJ NOW 1.57 GALLONS PER BOX

The all orange FCOJ yield projection is decreased from 1.60 gallons per box to 1.57 gallons of 42.0 degrees brix concentrate. The Early and Midseason portion is projected at 1.50 gallons per box and Valencias at 1.68. The final all orange yield for last season was 1.63 as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association. Last season's Early and Midseason yield was 1.58 and the Valencia portion was 1.75. All yields for last season were record high.

Maturity levels of all varieties have been lower than last season and volume harvest for processing was slow starting. Although not excessive, later bloom fruit is contributing to this lower yield projection. Results of the January 1 tests are on page 3.

SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT MAINTAINED

The total seedless grapefruit forecast is held at 45.5 million boxes. This forecast was established in November 1999, reflecting estimated losses from Hurricane Irene. The forecast is 1.0 million boxes less than recorded last season and the smallest indication since 41.2 million boxes utilized in the 1991-92 season. Both varietal forecasts are maintained. White seedless is 18.5 million boxes and the colored varieties total 27.0 million boxes.

The December surveys on fruit size and droppage loss continue to be within the projected ranges for this time in the season. Average fruit size continues to be below the nine season mean for this period. This is as projected, considering the amount of later than normal blooms that were observed during the summer count period. The loss from droppage followed a seasonal normal slope from late November to late December. However, because of additional post-hurricane loss, droppage is still above the nine season mean. There were no indications in the monthly surveys that would cause adjustment of the forecast.

Estimated certifications through January 2, 2000, as shown in Citrus Administrative Committee Bulletin 13, showed total seedless grapefruit at 9.4 million boxes, as compared with the same date last season at 10.6 million boxes. The white seedless usage is close to last season to date, at 2.2 million boxes, compared with 2.3 million boxes. However, the colored varieties are lagging by almost 1.2 million boxes.

Citrus production, January 1, 2000
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1997-98 ^{1/}	1998-99	Dec 10, 1999	Jan 11, 2000
- - - 1,000 boxes - - -				
Grapefruit:				
FLORIDA-All	49,550	47,050	46,000	46,000
Seedless	48,900	46,500	45,500	45,500
White	18,300	17,800	18,500	18,500
Colored	30,600	28,700	27,000	27,000
Seedy (Other)	650	550	500	500
Texas	4,800	6,100	5,500	5,500
Arizona	800	750	650	800
California	8,000	7,500	8,000	8,000
Total Grapefruit	63,150	61,400	60,150	60,300
Lemons:				
California	21,000	16,200	20,500	21,000
Arizona	2,600	3,450	3,900	3,100
Total Lemons	23,600	19,650	24,400	24,100
Limes: Florida	440	500	600	600
Temples: Florida	2,250	1,800	2,100	2,100
Tangelos: Florida	2,850	2,550	2,600	2,800
K-Early: Florida	40	80	90	90
Tangerines:				
FLORIDA-All	5,200	4,950	6,400	6,600
Early ^{2/}	3,200	3,050	4,200	4,200
Honey	2,000	1,900	2,200	2,400
California ^{3/}	2,400	1,500	2,300	2,300
Arizona ^{3/}	600	950	700	1,100
Total Tangerines	8,200	7,400	9,400	10,000

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

SEEDY GRAPEFRUIT CONTINUED

The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast is held at 500,000 boxes. This amount would be a record low use. Last season 550,000 boxes were recorded. This variety is only recorded as processed use and is dependent on load tickets at the plants. December surveys continued to show fruit size above the seasonal average and loss from droppage below. Harvest of this variety has just begun.

ALL TANGERINES NOW 6.6 MILLION BOXES

The total tangerine forecast is increased 0.2 million boxes. There is no change in the early portion at 4.2 million boxes. The increase is in the late (**Honey**) portion to 2.4 million boxes.

The early tangerines are in volume harvest. The **Robinson** and **Fallglo** varieties are complete, while **Dancy** harvest has just started. The major early variety, **Sunburst**, is well underway but with considerable volume yet to go.

The **Honey** tangerine variety has just started to be harvested. This variety has a wide range of seasonal fruit loss from droppage. From the summer count period to harvest it has varied from 20 to 60 percent, averaging about 45 percent. This season to date, the loss rate has been the lowest on record. Even though the average fruit size is also close to the smallest on record, the combination indicated an increase in the forecast. There is a heavy fruit set on most trees this year but also considerable later than regular bloom.

TEMPLES HELD AT 2.1 MILLION BOXES

The Temple forecast is continued at 2.1 million boxes. The crop appears to be lagging in maturity. The December surveys continue to show loss from droppage to be below the mean, however, the average fruit size continues to be well below the seasonal average. Harvest has just started.

TANGELOS NOW 2.8 MILLION BOXES

The tangelo forecast is increased 0.2 million boxes to 2.8 million boxes. The route survey (Row Count) conducted on December 27-28, 1999, indicated that less than one-third of the rows had been harvested. There are some rows of **Orlando** tangelos that are used as pollinators in other hybrids. It is assumed that the remaining crops will be harvested.

K-EARLY CITRUS UNCHANGED

The K-Early Citrus Fruit harvest is nearing completion with an estimated 90,000 boxes used this season.

Unadjusted Maturity Tests: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 1998-99 and 1999-00 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00
	Percent		Percent				Pounds		Pounds	

Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.

ORANGES:

Early (68-79)

Sep 1	1.76	1.77	9.51	9.33	5.54	5.39	42.41	41.24	4.03	3.84
Oct 1	1.17	1.24	9.29	9.32	8.03	7.64	47.84	46.31	4.44	4.31
Nov 1	0.93	0.96	10.04	9.70	11.02	10.31	50.85	50.24	5.10	4.87
Dec 1	0.74	0.83	11.07	10.81	15.14	13.27	51.92	50.86	5.75	5.49
Jan 1	0.68	0.77	11.63	11.51	17.18	14.96	51.68	50.11	6.01	5.76

Mid (47-43)

Sep 1	1.96	2.01	9.43	9.11	4.92	4.59	42.52	39.06	4.01	3.56
Oct 1	1.30	1.43	9.16	9.06	7.19	6.44	48.38	46.61	4.43	4.23
Nov 1	1.06	1.10	10.01	9.48	9.57	8.73	52.91	51.14	5.29	4.85
Dec 1	0.84	0.93	11.19	10.89	13.57	11.87	53.91	51.92	6.04	5.66
Jan 1	0.78	0.89	12.28	12.02	15.99	13.65	53.17	51.38	6.53	6.17

Late (150-150)

Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.44	2.51	8.65	8.55	3.60	3.45	45.68	43.36	5.95	3.71
Nov 1	2.02	2.06	8.98	8.72	4.51	4.30	50.66	47.53	4.55	4.15
Dec 1	1.58	1.70	9.91	9.81	6.34	5.85	53.31	51.38	5.28	5.04
Jan 1	1.33	1.47	10.79	10.81	8.18	7.43	54.20	52.51	5.85	5.68

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, January 1, 2000

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.	8	0.78	11.90	15.26	48.21	5.75
Other Areas	71	0.77	11.46	14.92	50.32	5.76
Midseason						
Indian River Dist.	11	0.91	12.34	13.69	52.25	6.45
Other Areas	32	0.89	11.92	13.64	51.08	6.08
Late						
Indian River Dist.	25	1.52	11.28	7.55	54.84	6.18
Other Areas	125	1.46	10.72	7.41	52.05	5.58

FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

Size frequency distributions are from the December size survey conducted in sample groves during the period of December 6 through 23, 1999. The distributions are by percent from fruit within the size range of each 4/5 bushel container. These percents relate only to fruit from spring bloom and exclude summer bloom fruit in all seasons.

Florida Citrus: Size frequency distributions
from December measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1997	1998	1999
--- Percent ---			
Early and midseason oranges:			
(excluding Navels)			
64 and larger	3.7	1.9	3.4
80	15.1	11.7	17.2
100	34.7	36.9	38.3
125	32.5	35.2	29.9
163 and smaller	14.0	14.3	11.2
Valencia oranges:			
64 and larger	5.7	3.7	7.0
80	21.0	19.5	25.3
100	40.6	39.7	37.0
125	25.4	28.1	22.2
163 and smaller	7.3	9.0	8.5
White seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	25.0	15.1	13.8
36	22.1	20.8	18.4
40	21.4	21.6	21.2
48	14.0	18.6	18.5
56	7.5	9.7	10.4
63 and smaller	10.0	14.2	17.7
Colored seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	15.1	6.6	7.6
36	20.7	16.6	13.5
40	23.3	22.9	20.8
48	20.1	24.4	21.2
56	9.9	13.7	13.8
63 and smaller	10.9	15.8	23.1
Templets:			
80 and larger	40.2	24.4	32.8
100	39.9	46.0	32.4
120	14.7	23.7	23.4
156 and smaller	5.2	5.9	11.4
Honey tangerines:			
150 and larger	90.0	90.4	79.9
176	5.7	5.9	9.9
210	2.9	2.5	6.5
246	1.3	1.1	2.4
294 and smaller	0.1	0.1	1.3

CHART 1: Early and midseason oranges (excluding Navels) size frequency by diameter from December measurements.

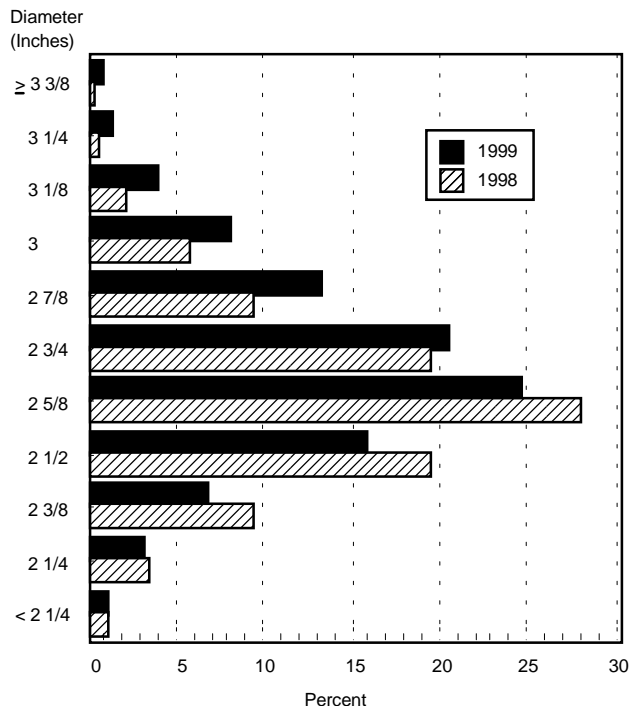
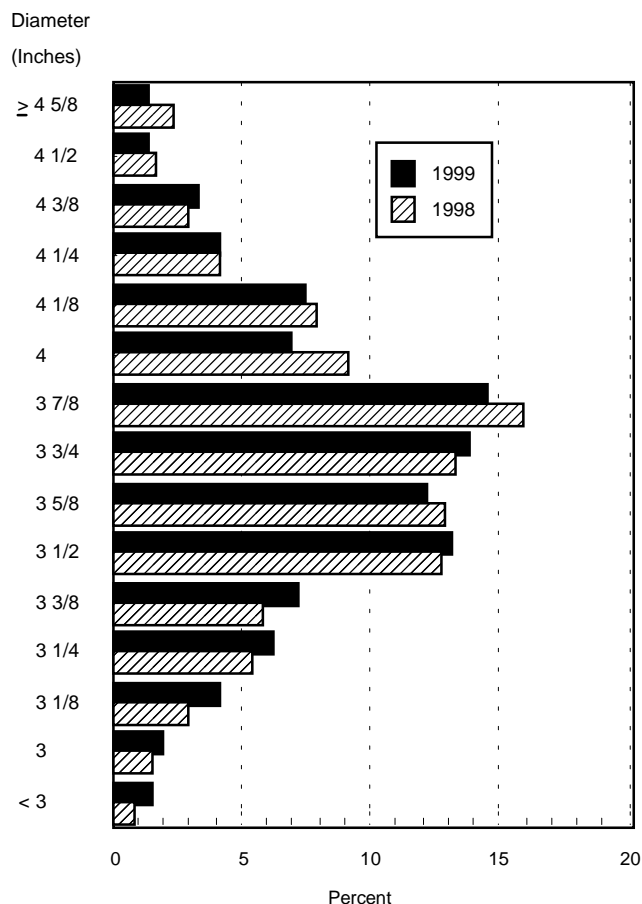


CHART 2: White seedless grapefruit size frequency by diameter from December measurements.



The charts to the right describe the relationships of the fruit size measurements with those taken in the previous year. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range, except for the smallest values.