



Florida Agricultural Statistics Service
 1222 Woodward Street
 Orlando, Florida 32803
 407 / 648-6013

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl>

CITRUS

MARCH FORECAST

MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE



FLORIDA AGRICULTURE

March 10, 2000

ALL ORANGES RAISED TO 226.0 MILLION BOXES

The 1999-00 Florida all orange forecast, released today by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Board, is increased to 226 million boxes. The seven million box increase is entirely in the early and midseason varieties and represents a three percent increase in all oranges. If realized, this crop would be the third largest on record. In the past 10 non-freeze seasons, the March forecast has differed from the final utilization by an average of 1.5 percent.

Results of the Row Count survey conducted February 28 and 29 show over 50 percent of the rows harvested but this is lower than the percentage recorded in any of the previous nine seasons. The indication from estimated utilization and the percent harvested supports the forecast change.

EARLY-MIDSEASONS INCREASED TO 134.0 MILLION BOXES

An increase of six percent raises the forecast of early-midseason oranges to 134 million boxes. This forecast is 20 percent greater than last season's production.

Maturity is lagging and the rows remaining for harvest are the highest in the current series. The Row Count survey indicated that 88 percent of the rows were harvested as of February 28 and 29. In the previous nine seasons, the number of harvested rows has ranged from 92-99 percent at this same time. These factors combined with reported certifications necessitated the forecast increase.

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

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1997-98	1998-99	Feb 11, 2000	Mar 10, 2000
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:	- - - 1,000 boxes - - -			
FLORIDA	140,000	112,000	127,000	134,000
California	44,000	21,000	40,000	40,000
Texas	1,350	1,250	1,300	1,400
Arizona	350	550	600	600
Total Above Varieties	185,700	134,800	168,900	176,000
Valencias:				
FLORIDA	104,000	73,700	92,000	92,000
California	25,000	17,000	27,000	27,000
Texas	175	180	300	300
Arizona	650	600	450	450
Total Valencias	129,825	91,480	119,750	119,750
All Oranges:				
FLORIDA	244,000	185,700	219,000	226,000
California	69,000	38,000	67,000	67,000
Texas	1,525	1,430	1,600	1,700
Arizona	1,000	1,150	1,050	1,050
Total All Oranges	315,525	226,280	288,650	295,750

FORECAST DATES 1999-00 SEASON

April 11, 2000	June 9, 2000
May 12, 2000	July 12, 2000

Weekly harvest of the **Navel** oranges has declined rapidly and the projection of this portion of the early-midseason crop is reduced to 5.4 million boxes. It will require complete harvest of all remaining rows to make this forecast.

VALENCIAS HELD AT 92.0 MILLION BOXES

The late type (Valencia) crop forecast at 92.0 million boxes is unchanged from last month. Objective surveys indicate that droppage remains well below average while the size is above average. However, the growth rate has leveled off as the fruit approaches maturity. Regressions using actual measurements and projected values support the current forecast.

Valencia harvest has begun slowly and certifications total less than one million boxes through March 5. Row Count will become a better indicator in future months as the percentage of rows harvested increases.

FCOJ REMAINS AT 1.54 GALLONS PER BOX

The projected all orange FCOJ yield is held at 1.54 gallons of 42.0 degrees Brix concentrate per box. The early and midseason portion is projected to yield 1.48 gallons per box while the late type (Valencia) oranges are forecast at 1.64 gallons per box.

As of February 26, the Florida Citrus Processors Association reported the season to date yield for the early and midseason oranges at 1.455687 gallons per box. Report number 22 also states that 71.4 million boxes of fruit have been utilized for FCOJ. Out of the 115.2 million boxes that have been processed through the last of February, only 62 percent has gone into FCOJ.

The Valencia maturity test averages on page three of this report show that the pounds solids per box are behind last year at the same time. The pounds of unfinished juice per box for all Valencias tested this year are considerably behind last year's fruit which set an all time record FCOJ season average yield at 1.74806 gallons per box.

SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT HELD AT 45.5 MILLION BOXES

The total seedless grapefruit forecast is continued at 45.5 million boxes. The white seedless is maintained at 18.5 million boxes and the colored varieties at 27.0 million boxes.

This forecast was originally made in November 1999, reflecting estimated losses from Hurricane Irene. The February surveys of fruit size and loss of unpicked samples continues to reflect the basic level of this forecast. The average fruit size of whites continued to increase slightly but the colored showed a slight decrease. Both varieties are below the nine season average and last season. The adjusted loss from droppage is slightly below average for whites and slightly above on the colored.

The route survey (Row Count) conducted on February 28-29 indicated that only 32 percent of the white and 48 percent of the colored rows had been clean picked, as compared with 47 percent for white and 59 percent for colored last season. However, observations and reports have indicated that because of later maturity of the entire crop and the amount of "non-regular" fruit, spot picking has been more prevalent than in recent seasons. Also it has been reported that processed fruit loads are requiring more pieces of fruit to make 85 pound equivalent box units than anticipated. The indications of the Row Count survey were not considered to be as reliable at this time as in the past because of the above stated reasons.

Report No. 22 by the Citrus Administrative Committee, through March 5, showed that 7.8 million boxes of white and 16.9 million boxes of colored were estimated to have been certified. This compares with 10.1 million boxes of whites and 18.7 million boxes of colored to the same time last season.

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

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1997-98 ^{1/}	1998-99	Feb 11, 2000	Mar 10, 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	800	800
California	8,000	7,500	8,000	8,000
Total Grapefruit	63,150	61,400	60,300	60,300
Lemons:				
California	21,000	16,200	21,000	21,000
Arizona	2,600	3,450	3,100	3,100
Total Lemons	23,600	19,650	24,100	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	2,500
K-Early: Florida	40	80	100	110
Tangerines:				
FLORIDA-All	5,200	4,950	6,600	6,800
Early ^{2/}	3,200	3,050	4,200	4,400
Honey	2,000	1,900	2,400	2,400
California ^{3/}	2,400	1,500	2,300	2,300
Arizona ^{3/}	600	950	1,100	1,100
Total Tangerines	8,200	7,400	10,000	10,200

^{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 REMAIN 500,000 BOXES

The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast is maintained at 500,000 boxes. The late February survey showed average fruit sizes continuing to increase and they are now at the nine season average. The monthly loss from droppage was five percent. However, total accumulated loss is still well below the nine season average. This variety is only recorded as processed use and is dependent on load tickets at the plant. Only 75,000 boxes were estimated to have been processed as of February 29, as compared with 265,000 boxes last season to that date. Only 550,000 boxes were finally recorded last season. Final recording of this crop has been less than 1.0 million boxes for the past three seasons.

ALL TANGERINES NOW AT 6.8 MILLION BOXES

The total tangerine forecast is increased 0.2 million boxes to 6.8 million boxes. The increase is only in the early portion now at 4.4 million boxes. The late portion (**Honey**) at 2.4 million boxes is continued.

The early tangerine varieties harvest of **Robinson**, **Fallglo** and **Dancy** is complete. The **Sunburst** variety has continued weekly movement, with almost 44 percent of the prorated certifications going into processed channels.

The **Honey** tangerine harvest is increasing weekly, with an estimated utilization of 1.0 million boxes through March 5. Fruit size as of late February is at the nine season average and although droppage increased nine percent, it still is the least amount in the series. The Row Count survey supported the forecast level. If realized this forecast amount would be the largest Honey tangerine crop since the 2.8 million boxes in the 1979-80 season.

TEMPLES HELD AT 2.1 MILLION BOXES

The 2.1 million box Temple forecast is continued. Average fruit size increased slightly during the past month but is still less than the nine season mean. However, loss from droppage is still near the minimum. The crop is lagging in maturity. The Row Count survey indicated the lowest percent utilization in the series. Last season only 1.8 million boxes were utilized.

TANGELOS REDUCED 100,000 BOXES

The tangelo forecast is now 2.5 million boxes, down 0.1 million boxes from last month. The Row Count survey indicated about 13 percent of the rows remaining. It will require complete harvest to make this forecast.

K-EARLY CITRUS 110,000 BOXES

The K-Early Citrus Fruit at 110,000 boxes is considered to be a final estimate for the 1999-2000 crop. This is more than each of the preceding two seasons, but less than in 1996-97.

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	
ORANGES:										
Late (144-150)										
Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.										
Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.45	2.51	8.66	8.55	3.60	3.45	45.65	43.36	3.95	3.71
Nov 1	2.02	2.06	8.98	8.72	4.50	4.30	50.58	47.53	4.54	4.15
Dec 1	1.59	1.70	9.91	9.81	6.33	5.85	53.31	51.38	5.28	5.04
Jan 1	1.33	1.47	10.79	10.81	8.16	7.43	54.17	52.51	5.85	5.68
Feb 1	1.24	1.34	11.91	11.68	9.67	8.83	55.32	52.67	6.59	6.15
Mar 1	1.15	1.20	12.65	12.51	11.25	10.48	55.21	52.66	7.00	6.60

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, March 1, 2000

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	Number	Percent	Percent		Pounds	Pounds
ORANGES:						
Late						
Indian River Dist.	25	1.27	13.12	10.50	54.41	7.14
Other Areas	125	1.19	12.39	10.48	52.32	6.49

FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

Size frequency distributions from the February 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 February 14 through 25, 2000. Comparable sizes for 1998 and 1999 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 February 2000 Valencia orange fruit size measurements with those taken in February 1999. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range except for the smallest value.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from February measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1998	1999	2000
--- Percent ---			
Valencia oranges:			
64 and larger	8.0	6.9	10.0
80	24.3	25.0	27.2
100	39.4	38.6	36.3
125	22.2	22.6	19.9
163 and smaller	6.1	6.9	6.6
White seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	32.0	24.3	25.1
36	26.8	23.7	20.1
40	16.7	19.0	19.0
48	11.3	16.1	16.5
56	5.9	7.6	7.6
63 and smaller	7.3	9.3	11.7
Colored seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	19.7	14.3	12.2
36	24.8	20.1	16.8
40	22.9	20.7	21.0
48	16.5	19.9	20.4
56	7.9	11.1	13.2
63 and smaller	8.2	13.9	16.4

CHART: Valencia orange size frequency by diameter from February measurements.

