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# CITRUS

## APRIL FORECAST

### MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

### LIME UTILIZATION AND 2000-01 FORECAST

## FLORIDA AGRICULTURE



April 11, 2000

### ALL ORANGES NOW AT 228.0 MILLION BOXES

The 1999-00 Florida all round orange forecast, released today by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Board, is increased to 228.0 million boxes. The two million box increase is completely in the late type (Valencia) portion and represents a one percent increase in total oranges. If realized, this would be the second largest utilization on record. In the past 10 non-freeze seasons, the April forecast has differed from the final recorded utilization by an average of 1.3 percent.

### EARLY AND MIDSEASONS FINAL AT 134.0 MILLION BOXES

The total early and midseason estimate of utilization for the 1999-00 season is held at 134.0 million boxes. This estimate is 20 percent greater than last season's use but four percent less than the record crop in 1997-98.

The route (Row Count) survey, conducted on March 29-30, 2000, indicated that 98 percent of the rows were clean harvested. The continued decreasing weekly utilization also shows that harvest of this season's crop is almost finished.

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

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1997-98	1998-99	Mar 10, 2000	Apr 11, 2000
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:	- - - 1,000 boxes - - -			
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>112,000</b>	<b>134,000</b>	<b>134,000</b>
California	44,000	21,000	40,000	40,000
Texas	1,350	1,250	1,400	1,500
Arizona	350	550	600	550
Total Above Varieties	185,700	134,800	176,000	176,050
Valencias:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>104,000</b>	<sup>1/</sup> <b>74,000</b>	<b>92,000</b>	<b>94,000</b>
California	25,000	<sup>1/</sup> 15,000	27,000	27,000
Texas	175	180	300	300
Arizona	650	600	450	350
Total Valencias	129,825	89,780	119,750	121,650
All Oranges:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>244,000</b>	<b>186,000</b>	<b>226,000</b>	<b>228,000</b>
California	69,000	36,000	67,000	67,000
Texas	1,525	1,430	1,700	1,800
Arizona	1,000	1,150	1,050	900
Total All Oranges	315,525	224,580	295,750	297,700

<sup>1/</sup> Revised.

### FORECAST DATES 1999-00 SEASON

May 12, 2000

June 9, 2000

July 12, 2000

The **Navel** portion, within the total early and midseason oranges, is maintained at 5.4 million boxes. Last season only 5.0 million boxes were recorded but 6.3 and 6.4 million boxes were estimated for the preceding two seasons.

### VALENCIAS UP 2.0 MILLION BOXES

The late type (Valencia) forecast is raised to 94.0 million boxes. This 2.0 million box increase is primarily the result of the abnormally small loss from fruit droppage. The March survey indicated that this loss was the second lowest in over 30 non-freeze seasons and only slightly above the lowest that occurred in the 1995-96 season.

Average fruit size, as represented by volume, is larger than last season and slightly larger than the mean of the past nine seasons. Weight per fruit, from the maturity tests, is also well above average.

### FCOJ 1.54 GALLONS PER BOX

The estimated yield for all oranges going into FCOJ is unchanged from last month at 1.54 gallons per box of 42.0 degrees Brix concentrate. In report No. 24 by the Florida Citrus Processors Association, the early and mid portion of the crop was final at 1.475739 gallons per box. The projected yield for late season oranges remains the same as last month at 1.64 gallons.

Report No. 26 from the Association shows 87.8 million boxes have been utilized for all oranges, yielding 1.482293 gallons per box. Report No. 2 for Valencias show they are yielding an average of 1.589840 gallons per box.

### 2000-01 LIMES 400,000 BUSHELS

The 2000-01 lime crop is forecast at 400,000 bushels (250,000 88lb. boxes). The just completed 1999-2000 season total estimate of utilization is 960,000 bushels (600,000 boxes). See page 4 for more details.

## SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT HELD AT 45.5 MILLION BOXES

The total seedless grapefruit forecast is held at 45.5 million boxes. White seedless is continued at 18.5 million boxes and the colored varieties remain at 27.0 million. These are the same as forecasts made in November 1999 following a special survey to determine loss from Hurricane Irene.

The March surveys to measure fruit sizing and droppage confirm the level of the forecasts. Both types continue to show sizes smaller than last season and the nine season average. Average droppage adjusted for storm loss is slightly below average for whites and slightly above for colored varieties.

The route survey (Row Count) conducted on March 29 and 30 indicates the heavy harvest in March. Maturity of fruit is lagging as it has all season. The survey shows 60 percent of the white seedless rows harvested as compared to over 75 percent last season and 75 percent of the colored rows which is about the same as last season. Spot picking for sizes and early bloom fruit has been more prevalent this season. It is also reported that processed fruit loads are requiring more pieces of fruit to make an 85 pound box than in other seasons. Picking of white and colored seedless for processing is increasing as plants have now finished early-midseason oranges.

Report number 26 from the Citrus Administrative Committee, with utilization through April 2, shows fresh shipments behind the last two seasons with weekly movement beginning to decline. Weekly processing movement is increasing as more fruit is going directly to the processors. Demand is strong for juice fruit this season and complete utilization of grapefruit is expected.

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

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1997-98 <sup>1/</sup>	1998-99	Mar 10, 2000	Apr 11, 2000
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Grapefruit:				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>49,550</b>	<b>47,050</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>46,000</b>
<b>Seedless</b>	<b>48,900</b>	<b>46,500</b>	<b>45,500</b>	<b>45,500</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>18,300</b>	<b>17,800</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>18,500</b>
<b>Colored</b>	<b>30,600</b>	<b>28,700</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>27,000</b>
<b>Seedy (Other)</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
Texas	4,800	6,100	5,500	5,500
Arizona	800	750	800	850
California	8,000	7,500	8,000	8,000
<b>Total Grapefruit</b>	<b>63,150</b>	<b>61,400</b>	<b>60,300</b>	<b>60,350</b>
Lemons:				
California	21,000	16,200	21,000	20,000
Arizona	2,600	3,450	3,100	3,100
<b>Total Lemons</b>	<b>23,600</b>	<b>19,650</b>	<b>24,100</b>	<b>23,100</b>
<b>Limes: Florida</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>(Final) 600</b>
<b>Temples: Florida</b>	<b>2,250</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,100</b>
<b>Tangelos: Florida</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>2,550</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,200</b>
<b>K-Early: Florida</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>
Tangerines:				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>4,950</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>6,800</b>
<b>Early <sup>2/</sup></b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>4,400</b>
<b>Honey</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,400</b>
<b>California <sup>3/</sup></b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,100</b>
<b>Arizona <sup>3/</sup></b>	<b>600</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>900</b>
<b>Total Tangerines</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>10,200</b>	<b>9,800</b>

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

<sup>3/</sup> Includes tangelos.

## SEEDY GRAPEFRUIT REMAIN 500,000 BOXES

The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast remains at 500,000 boxes. The April Row Count survey indicates almost 60 percent of the rows harvested. Most of this variety is located in the interior and West Coast areas of the State and all of it goes into processing channels. Weekly utilization has increased and harvest will progress rapidly.

Total utilization through April 2 is estimated at 372,000 boxes. Only 550,000 boxes were recorded last season. Final recording of the crop has been less than 1.0 million boxes for the past three seasons.

## ALL TANGERINES 6.8 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all tangerines is continued at 6.8 million boxes with 4.4 million boxes apportioned to the early tangerines (**Robinson, Fallglo, Dancy** and **Sunburst** varieties) and 2.4 million boxes of **Honey** tangerines. Harvest is over for the early varieties except Sunburst which continues to be used for processing.

Weekly certifications of Honey tangerines have been steady with the majority of the fruit certified for fresh use. Approximately two-thirds of the rows along the routes used for Row Count were harvested following the survey March 29-30. These results in conjunction with utilization of 1.7 million boxes through March 30 support the current forecast. If realized, this crop would be 26 percent larger than last season and surpassed only by the record 2.8 million boxes recorded in 1979-80.

## TEMPLES REMAIN 2.1 MILLION BOXES

The Temple forecast of 2.1 million boxes is carried forward and remains unchanged from the initial forecast in October 1999. A crop this size would be the third smallest since the record high of 6.0 million boxes in 1979-80 but almost 17 percent larger than the previous season's 1.8 million boxes and 50 percent greater than the freeze affected season of 1989-90. With estimated certifications over 1.7 million boxes and over 80 percent of the rows harvested, the Row Count survey confirms the current forecast.

## TANGELOS CUT TO 2.2 MILLION BOXES

Although the April Row Count survey indicated a small number of rows remaining for harvest, it appears that harvest of this variety is complete. The reduction of 300,000 boxes aligns the forecast with current utilization with an allocation for non-certified fruit. This crop, almost 14 percent smaller than last season and 23 percent smaller than 1997-98, is less than one-third the size of the record 6.4 million boxes recorded in 1979-80.

## K-EARLY CITRUS 110,000 BOXES

The K-Early harvest is complete at 110,000 boxes, about 25 percent below the average of the past ten seasons but higher than the smallest crops which occurred the past two seasons when production fell below 100,000 boxes. Most of this crop was processed. The production high of 600,000 boxes was recorded for three consecutive seasons beginning in 1978-79.

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 (108-141)										
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	2.48	2.51	8.68	8.55	3.56	3.46	45.60	43.33	3.96	3.70
Nov 1	2.04	2.07	8.99	8.73	4.46	4.29	50.62	47.49	4.55	4.15
Dec 1	1.62	1.70	9.92	9.81	6.21	5.85	53.16	51.42	5.27	5.05
Jan 1	1.35	1.47	10.78	10.80	8.06	7.41	54.37	52.47	5.86	5.67
Feb 1	1.26	1.34	11.94	11.68	9.55	8.81	55.20	52.70	6.59	6.15
Mar 1	1.16	1.21	12.64	12.51	11.09	10.44	54.90	52.68	6.95	6.60
Apr 1	1.05	1.03	13.26	12.89	12.72	12.62	55.18	52.04	7.32	6.71

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, 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.	23	1.05	13.41	12.87	53.12	7.12
Other Areas	118	1.03	12.79	12.57	51.83	6.63

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

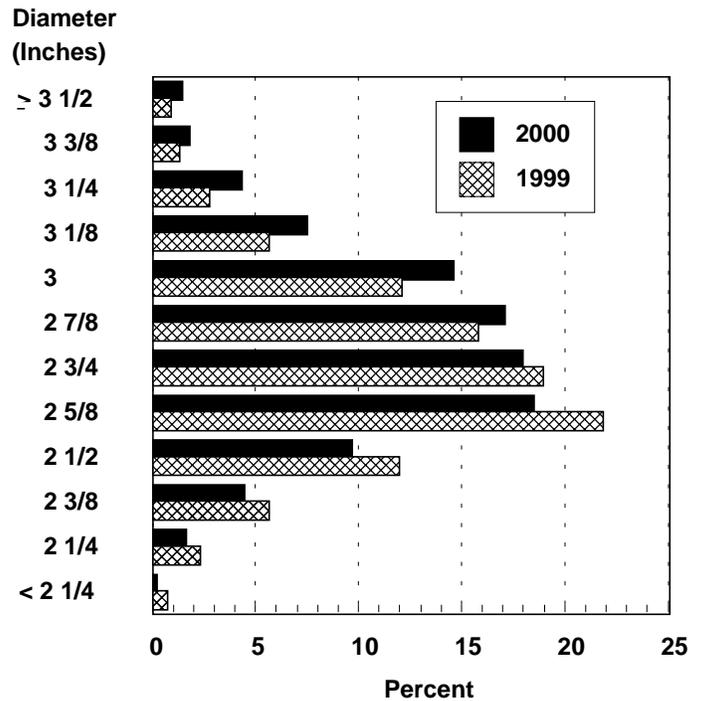
Size frequency distributions from the March size survey are shown in the table below. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. Fruit sizes were measured on trees in sample groves during the period March 20 through 28, 2000. Comparable sizes for 1998 and 1999 are also shown. These measurements are of fruit from spring bloom and exclude summer bloom in all seasons.

**FLORIDA CITRUS:** Size frequency distributions from March measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1998	1999	2000
--- Percent ---			
Valencia oranges:			
64 and larger	8.9	6.8	10.8
80	23.3	24.1	27.5
100	39.1	36.5	35.5
125	22.3	23.9	19.3
163 and smaller	6.4	8.7	6.9

The chart to the right compares the relationship of the March 2000 Valencia orange fruit size measurements with those taken in March 1999. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range except for the smallest value.

**CHART:** Valencia orange size frequency by diameter from March measurements.



**2000-01 LIMES FORECAST AT 400,000 BUSHEL**

Florida's 2000-01 lime crop, which began harvest April 1, is forecast at 400,000 bushels (250,000 88-pound boxes). If attained, this will be almost 60 percent less than last season's utilization of 960,000 bushels (600,000 boxes).

Hurricane Andrew reduced the size of the 1992-93 season crop and production reached a low of only 320,000 bushels in the following season. Trees planted after the storm have been producing good crops of limes and production has rebounded with successive increases.

The primary reason for the reduction in this season's forecast of utilization is the destruction of about half of the trees in Dade County. By April, the Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, reported that 1,144 acres of trees were destroyed because

of the presence of or exposure to *Xanthomonas* (citrus canker). An additional 327 acres had been identified as positive for *Xanthomonas* and are slated for destruction. The total of 1,471 acres is about half of the estimated 2,900 total acres in Dade County.

A complete census of lime trees has not been conducted since 1996 when the State total acreage was 3,168 acres. Trees and acres in counties other than Dade are not expected to produce commercial quantities of fruit.

Remaining trees in Dade County experienced a good bloom and volume harvest is expected by June. The realization of this forecast of 400,000 bushels is dependant on not losing any more trees to canker. Subsequent surveys for the disease are being planned and may affect the total crop output.

**FLORIDA LIMES:** Utilization in bushels, 1990-91 through 1999-00 season, and total forecast for 2000-01 season

Season	Fresh use			Sold for processing	Total production
	Certified shipments	Local sales	Total fresh		
Bushels					
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
1999-00	774,200	25,800	800,000	160,000	960,000
FORECAST					
2000-01	--	--	--	--	400,000