



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

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

CITRUS

APRIL FORECAST

MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

LIME UTILIZATION AND 2001-02 FORECAST

FLORIDA
AGRICULTURE



April 10, 2001

ALL ORANGES AT 224.0 MILLION BOXES

The 2000-01 Florida all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is increased by 1.0 million boxes to 224.0 million boxes. The addition is entirely in the early and midseason portion, now final at 128.0 million boxes. The late type (Valencia) oranges remain at 96.0 million boxes. If realized, the total crop will be four percent below last season's 233.0 million boxes and the fourth largest recorded. The record high utilization was 244.0 million boxes in 1997-98.

Most of March was very dry and windy. However, two rainy days produced thunderstorms and rainfall accumulations for the month that exceeded any month since late last summer. More rain is still needed. This year's bloom cycle was virtually complete by the end of the month. Only a few older tree groves and seedling oranges are still blooming.

EARLY & MIDSEASONS FINAL AT 128.0 MILLION BOXES

The final estimate for early and midseason oranges (including Navels at 5.1 million boxes) is 128.0 million boxes, up 1.0 million boxes from the previous forecast set in December 2000 and continued through March.

Citrus production, April 1, 2001
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1998-99	1999-00	Mar 8, 2001	Apr 10, 2001
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:	--- 1,000 boxes ---			
FLORIDA	112,000	134,000	127,000	128,000
California	21,000	40,000	34,000	34,000
Texas	1,250	1,540	1,900	2,000
Arizona	550	600	500	450
Total Above Varieties	134,800	176,140	163,400	164,450
Valencias:				
FLORIDA	74,000	99,000	96,000	96,000
California	15,000	^{1/} 24,000	25,000	23,000
Texas	180	200	200	210
Arizona	600	500	550	550
Total Valencias	89,780	123,700	121,750	119,760
All Oranges:				
FLORIDA	186,000	233,000	223,000	224,000
California	36,000	64,000	59,000	57,000
Texas	1,430	1,740	2,100	2,210
Arizona	1,150	1,100	1,050	1,000
Total All Oranges	224,580	299,840	285,150	284,210

^{1/} Revised.

FORECAST DATES 2000-01 SEASON

May 10, 2001

June 12, 2001

July 11, 2001

The initial October forecast of 135 million boxes was decreased in December on the basis of the fruit not sizing. The October forecast assumed that fruit sizes would be near average. The final estimate is 5.2 percent less than the initial October 2000 forecast.

VALENCIAS REMAIN 96.0 MILLION BOXES

The late type (Valencia) forecast is continued at 96.0 million boxes. The growth rate during March in the sample groves increased more than during the past two months, which was almost flat. The percent loss from droppage also increased more than during the past two months. The surveys continue to show levels that are below average for both factors.

The route survey conducted on March 28-29, indicated that 15 percent of the Valencia rows had been harvested. This is slightly more than last season but well below the average for the past 10 seasons. At this harvest level (15 percent) the route survey is not considered to be a primary estimator, as atypical fruit are often picked at the start of harvest.

FCOJ 1.58 GALLONS PER BOX

The projected yield for all oranges going into FCOJ is unchanged from last month at 1.58 gallons per box of 42.0 degrees Brix. The early and midseason portion is final at 1.540728 gallons per box as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association on report number 23. The late type Valencia orange yield projection is unchanged from last month at 1.65 gallons. The Maturity Tests Results on page 3 of this report show the pounds solids per box for Valencias at 6.96, just about average for the first of April.

2001-02 LIMES 320,000 BUSHEL

The 2001-02 lime crop is forecast at 320,000 bushels (200,000 88 lb. boxes). The just completed 2000-01 season total estimate of utilization is 400,000 bushels (250,000 boxes). See page 4 for more details.

TOTAL GRAPEFRUIT UNCHANGED AT 49.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all Florida grapefruit is maintained at the level of 49.0 million boxes established in February. Varietal breakdowns are white grapefruit at 20.0 million boxes, unchanged since the initial forecast in October, and colored grapefruit at 29.0 million boxes. The April forecast has deviated from final production by 4.2 million boxes in the past 10 seasons with five seasons above and five seasons below. The record crop of 55.8 million boxes occurred in 1996-97 and last season's production totaled 53.4 million boxes. If realized, this crop will be 12 percent below the record and eight percent less than last season.

Additional objective surveys performed in March, two months after what is considered the final month for direct expansion, show increased droppage for both white and colored grapefruit. The average fruit volume of white grapefruit remaining increased more than that of colored grapefruit.

According to the route survey, harvest of colored grapefruit remains ahead of white. With over half of the crops picked, this indicator has strengthened.

Certifications of all grapefruit to April 1 are lagging behind the previous season at 32.3 million boxes compared to 36.4 million boxes in 1999-00. White grapefruit certifications total 11.6 million boxes versus 14.0 million boxes last season. Colored certifications to the same date are 20.7 million boxes while 22.5 million were recorded in 1999-00.

Citrus production, April 1, 2001
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1998-99	1999-00	Mar 8, 2001	Apr 10, 2001
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Grapefruit:				
FLORIDA-All	47,050	53,400	49,000	49,000
White ^{1/}	18,350	21,500	20,000	20,000
Colored	28,700	31,900	29,000	29,000
Texas	6,100	5,930	6,500	6,700
Arizona	750	^{2/} 450	600	650
California	7,300	7,000	7,200	7,200
Total Grapefruit	61,200	66,780	63,300	63,550
Lemons:				
California	16,200	19,600	21,000	22,000
Arizona	3,450	3,100	3,400	3,200
Total Lemons	19,650	22,700	24,400	25,200
Limes: Florida	500	600	250	(Final) 250
Temples: Florida	1,800	1,950	1,700	1,400
Tangelos: Florida	2,550	2,200	2,100	2,100
K-Early: Florida	80	110	40	40
Tangerines:				
FLORIDA-All	4,950	7,000	5,600	5,600
Early ^{3/}	3,050	4,350	3,500	3,500
Honey	1,900	2,650	2,100	2,100
California ^{4/}	1,500	2,300	2,200	2,600
Arizona ^{4/}	950	850	800	650
Total Tangerines	7,400	10,150	8,600	8,850

^{1/} Includes seedy. ^{2/} Revised. ^{3/} Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy. ^{4/} Includes tangelos.

TANGERINES REMAIN 5.6 MILLION BOXES

Early Tangerines Final at 3.5 Million Boxes Honey Tangerines Held at 2.1 Million Boxes

The early tangerine (**Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy**) harvest is final at 3.5 million boxes. Sunburst is the predominant variety accounting for three-fourths of the total while production from the two older varieties (Robinson and Dancy) totals about five percent.

Honey tangerines continue at 2.1 million boxes. Harvest has been steady but behind the rate of the past two seasons with weekly certifications averaging over 100,000 boxes recently. Results of the route survey show two-thirds of the crop harvested and support the current forecast. Some groves were affected by the cold weather in January and may not be harvestable.

In the seasons since the freeze affected 1989-90 season, crop size has increased steadily and averaged close to 1.7 million boxes. Although this forecast is 21 percent below last season's production, it is 26 percent above the ten season average.

TEMPLES REDUCED TO 1.4 MILLION BOXES

Production of Temples has averaged nearly 2.3 million boxes over the past 10 non-freeze seasons. This forecast, reduced 300,000 boxes, would fall 38 percent below that average and equal the 1.4 million boxes recorded in the 1989-90 freeze season. The largest crop of 6.0 million boxes was recorded in 1979-80.

Although the route survey shows nearly 30 percent of the rows remaining for harvest, many of these are considered unharvestable due to the high rate of droppage following the January cold spell. Weekly certifications are decreasing rapidly.

TANGELOS REMAIN AT 2.1 MILLION BOXES

The tangelo forecast is continued at 2.1 million boxes, unchanged from the initial forecast in October. Tangelo production peaked at 6.4 million boxes in 1979-80 and has declined slowly over the last 20 seasons. In 1996-97 the crop was 3.95 million boxes and it has decreased in each consecutive season.

K-EARLY CITRUS FINAL AT 40,000 BOXES

Utilization of K-Early Citrus Fruit has fallen to the record low level of 40,000 boxes recorded in 1997-98. Production has vacillated in the past decade without ever attaining the level prior to the freeze plagued 1980s. The high of 600,000 boxes was recorded in three consecutive seasons beginning with 1978-79.

Unadjusted Maturity Tests: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 1999-00 and 2000-01 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01
	Percent		Percent				Pounds		Pounds	

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

ORANGES:

Late (141 -135)

Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.51	2.46	8.55	8.80	3.46	3.63	43.33	46.55	3.70	4.09	
Nov 1	2.07	2.02	8.73	9.47	4.29	4.77	47.49	50.76	4.15	4.81	
Dec 1	1.70	1.75	9.81	10.36	5.85	6.01	51.42	52.10	5.05	5.40	
Jan 1	1.47	1.52	10.80	11.08	7.41	7.43	52.47	54.26	5.67	6.02	
Feb 1	1.34	1.41	11.68	11.85	8.81	8.51	52.70	53.62	6.15	6.36	
Mar 1	1.21	1.21	12.51	12.50	10.44	10.45	52.68	53.80	6.60	6.73	
Apr 1	1.03	1.06	12.89	12.69	12.62	12.13	52.04	54.82	6.71	6.96	

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, 2001

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.	22	1.09	13.09	12.18	56.06	7.35
Other Areas	113	1.05	12.61	12.12	54.58	6.88

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 19 through 27, 2001. Comparable sizes for 1999 and 2000 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	1999	2000	2001
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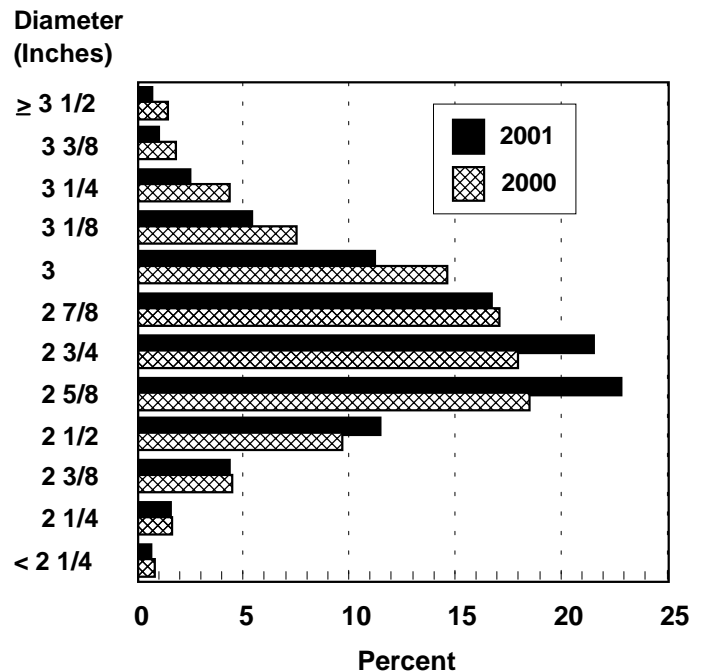
--- Percent ---

Valencia oranges:

64 and larger	6.8	10.8	6.2
80	24.1	27.5	22.8
100	36.5	35.5	40.5
125	23.9	19.3	23.9
163 and smaller	8.7	6.9	6.6

The chart to the right compares the relationship of the March 2001 Valencia orange fruit size measurements with those taken in March 2000. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range except for the smallest value.

CHART 1: Valencia orange size frequency by diameter from March measurements.



2001-02 LIMES FORECAST AT 320,000 BUSHELS

Florida's 2001-02 lime crop, which began harvest April 1, is forecast at 320,000 bushels (200,000 88-pound boxes). If attained, this will be 25 percent less than last season's utilization of 400,000 bushels (250,000 boxes).

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

Production reached 960,000 bushels in the 1999-00 season, but fell to 400,000 in 2000-01 because of the loss of about half of the bearing trees

to *Xanthomonas* (citrus canker). A census of trees in Dade County in October 2000 showed about 1,150 acres (180,300 trees) remaining.

Based on reports of acres lost since last season, bearing acres for the 2001-02 season is estimated at 850 acres. Only about 20 acres of commercial limes are outside of Dade County.

The realization of this forecast of 320,000 bushels is dependent on not losing any more trees to canker. Ongoing surveys and control for the disease may affect total crop output.

FLORIDA LIMES: Utilization in bushels, 1991-92 through 2000-01 season, and total forecast for 2001-02 season

Season	Fresh use			Sold for processing	Total production
	Certified shipments	Local sales	Total fresh		
	Bushels				
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
2000-01	344,000	8,000	352,000	48,000	400,000
FORECAST					
2001-02	--	--	--	--	320,000