



CITRUS

MATURITY TEST RESULTS

September 12, 2000

These maturity tests are the first of the 2000-2001 season. Samples representing all five areas of the Florida citrus belt were picked September 5-6 and fruit tests were conducted September 7-8. Sample groves and trees remain relatively constant from one season to the next. Virtually all fruit for these tests are of regular bloom. Approximately three-fourths of the seedless grapefruit sample groves are located in the Indian River District while most of the orange samples are from the other four areas.

In spite of the very dry winter and spring, this year's bloom occurred in the normal time period with petal drop and fruit set occurring around the last of March through the first part of April. Growers in all areas used irrigation to keep their trees in good condition during the drought that lasted through May. The rains

started arriving the first part of June and continued through most of the summer.

These maturity tests show acid levels for grapefruit to be nearly the same as last year but lower for oranges. However, Brix levels and ratios are higher for early and midseason oranges and colored grapefruit. The pounds solids for all types of fruit tested are higher than last year at the first of September.

The summer rains helped this year's fruit gain higher juice levels than last year's later bloom crop. Growers and caretakers have also irrigated extensively during the past three months to maintain good tree condition.

The next Maturity Test Results will be published with the October 12, 2000, citrus forecast. That release will be at 8:30 a.m.

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:										
Early (120-120)										
Sep 1	1.73	1.63	9.35	9.78	5.53	6.11	41.09	42.44	3.83	4.14
Midseason (55-55)										
Sep 1	1.99	1.77	9.13	9.32	4.69	5.35	39.47	44.22	3.60	4.13
SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT:										
White (50-50)										
Sep 1	1.83	1.82	10.24	10.14	5.61	5.58	29.15	32.47	2.97	3.29
Colored (50-50)										
Sep 1	1.75	1.76	10.07	10.36	5.79	5.91	29.02	33.45	2.92	3.47

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, 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.	11	1.65	10.16	6.20	43.22	4.38
Other Areas	109	1.63	9.74	6.10	42.36	4.12
Midseason						
Indian River Dist.	11	1.75	9.43	5.45	43.59	4.11
Other Areas	44	1.77	9.30	5.33	44.38	4.13
GRAPEFRUIT:						
White Seedless						
Indian River Dist.	35	1.86	10.36	5.58	32.30	3.35
Other Areas	15	1.73	9.64	5.58	32.87	3.17
Colored Seedless						
Indian River Dist.	39	1.78	10.49	5.93	33.65	3.53
Other Areas	11	1.70	9.89	5.82	32.75	3.24