



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



March 8, 2002

#### ALL ORANGES CONTINUED AT 228.0 MILLION BOXES

The all orange forecast for the 2001-02 season released today by the Agricultural Statistics Board of the USDA is continued at 228.0 million boxes. The early-midseason portion remains at 128.0 million and the Valencia portion at 100.0 million boxes. If realized, this will be only two percent more than was harvested in the previous season and the third largest crop produced in Florida. In the previous ten seasons, the March forecast has differed from the final recorded utilization by an average of 1.4 percent with three seasons above the actual production and seven below.

Although average temperatures for the entire month of February were slightly above normal levels, the last two weeks of the month saw unseasonably low temperatures in many central and south Florida groves. Some areas set record low readings for the last days of February. Because of the windy conditions, only slight amounts of frost were reported, with none reported in the trees. There was no loss of any of this season's fruit.

With temperatures reported in the mid 20's in some northern groves, some feathery new growth was lost, but trees typically regrow these damaged leaves and buds. Rainfall preceding the cold fronts was very beneficial for trees that are flushed with new growth and bloom buds.

Citrus production, March 1, 2002  
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1999-00	2000-01	Feb 8, 2002	Mar 8, 2002
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>134,000</b>	<b>128,000</b>	<b>128,000</b>	<b>128,000</b>
California	40,000	36,000	32,000	32,000
Texas	1,460	2,000	1,700	1,700
Arizona	600	480	350	350
<b>Total Above Varieties</b>	<b>176,060</b>	<b>166,480</b>	<b>162,050</b>	<b>162,050</b>
Valencias:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>99,000</b>	<b>95,300</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>
California	24,000	23,000	22,000	22,000
Texas	200	235	200	200
Arizona	500	420	350	350
<b>Total Valencias</b>	<b>123,700</b>	<b>118,955</b>	<b>122,550</b>	<b>122,550</b>
All Oranges:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>233,000</b>	<b>223,300</b>	<b>228,000</b>	<b>228,000</b>
California	64,000	59,000	54,000	54,000
Texas	1,660	2,235	1,900	1,900
Arizona	1,100	900	700	700
<b>Total All Oranges</b>	<b>299,760</b>	<b>285,435</b>	<b>284,600</b>	<b>284,600</b>

#### FORECAST DATES 2001-02 SEASON

April 10, 2002	May 10, 2002
June 12, 2002	July 11, 2002

#### EARLY-MIDSEASONS 128.0 MILLION BOXES

The early-midseason forecast remains at 128.0 million boxes, down only three million from the initial forecast in October. This includes 5.6 million boxes of **Navels**, unchanged since October. Estimated utilization of all early-mids to the first of March is 125.0 million boxes. The Row Count survey conducted the last two days of the month show 95 percent of the rows harvested. Weekly harvest is decreasing as processing plants switch to grapefruit and Valencia oranges.

#### VALENCIAS REMAIN 100.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of Valencias is unchanged from last month and the initial October forecast at 100.0 million boxes. Surveys conducted in February confirm fruit sizing and droppage rates to be near those projected in previous months.

There was no loss of fruit to the cold weather in February and the rainfall associated with the cold fronts was beneficial for both fruit and trees. The Row Count survey showed harvest just beginning, with only three percent of the rows harvested.

#### FCOJ CONTINUED AT 1.58 GALLONS

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 concentrate. If realized, this will be the same as last season's final yield and above the 1999-00 season. It is, however, below the record 1998-99 season average of 1.63 gallons per box.

The early and midseason portion is continued at 1.52 gallons. Report #21 from the Florida Citrus Processors Association shows the yield to date is 1.522223 with probably only one more week remaining in the early-mid portion. The Valencia or late type orange average is projected to yield 1.68 gallons per box, unchanged from last month.

The Maturity Test Results on page three show the Valencias are currently at 6.78 pounds solids per box.

## GRAPEFRUIT STAYS AT 47.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all varieties of grapefruit for recorded utilization stays at 47.0 million boxes (including a preseason allocation of 1.5 million boxes of gift fruit and other use). The forecast continues to be divided into 19.0 million boxes of total **white** grapefruit and 28.0 million boxes of **colored** grapefruit. If the forecast amount is harvested, it will be two percent more than recorded last season, 12 percent below the 53.4 million boxes in 1999-00, and at the level of the 1998-99 crop. The largest recorded crop of all varieties of grapefruit was 55.8 million boxes in 1996-97 which excluded 6.0 million boxes of estimated economic abandonment.

The February surveys of fruit size and loss from droppage on the remaining crops show that the relationships to a 10 season series for both fruit types continue to be close to earlier indications. Fruit sizes are at the smallest recorded in the series and loss from droppage is now slightly below the mean value. These surveys will be conducted during March for the final time this season, as varying seasonal harvest patterns make further evaluations inconclusive.

A route survey (Row Count) was conducted on February 27-28, 2002. This survey measures the percent of fronting rows harvested of all regular bloom fruit versus the recorded utilization through the last day of the survey. As of March 1 this survey is not considered the major forecast indicator because of varying harvest patterns. However, a 10 season series regression does show basic relationships between the levels of the two categories. Row harvest is about five percent ahead of last season on **white** and about two percent ahead on **colored**. Estimated utilization through the survey period is slightly above last season for both categories.

Citrus production, March 1, 2002  
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1999-00	2000-01	Feb 8, 2002	Mar 8, 2002
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
<b>Grapefruit:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>53,400</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>47,000</b>	<b>47,000</b>
<b>White</b> <sup>1/</sup>	<b>21,500</b>	<b>18,700</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>19,000</b>
<b>Colored</b>	<b>31,900</b>	<sup>2/</sup> <b>27,300</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>28,000</b>
Texas	5,930	7,200	7,300	7,300
Arizona	450	250	200	200
California	7,200	6,500	6,200	6,200
<b>Total Grapefruit</b>	<b>66,980</b>	<b>59,950</b>	<b>60,700</b>	<b>60,700</b>
<b>Lemons:</b>				
California	19,000	22,700	22,000	22,000
Arizona	3,100	3,600	3,100	3,100
<b>Total Lemons</b>	<b>22,100</b>	<b>26,300</b>	<b>25,100</b>	<b>25,100</b>
<b>Limes: Florida</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Temples: Florida</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Tangelos: Florida</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,200</b>
<b>K-Early: Florida</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Tangerines:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>6,400</b>
<b>Early</b> <sup>3/</sup>	<b>4,350</b>	<b>3,550</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>4,300</b>
<b>Honey</b>	<b>2,650</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,100</b>
California <sup>4/</sup>	2,500	2,100	2,300	2,300
Arizona <sup>4/</sup>	850	650	650	650
<b>Total Tangerines</b>	<b>10,350</b>	<b>8,350</b>	<b>9,350</b>	<b>9,350</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Includes seedy. <sup>2/</sup> Excludes two million boxes of economic abandonment. <sup>3/</sup> Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy. <sup>4/</sup> Includes tangelos.

Estimated utilization through March 3, 2002, for **white** is at the 6.8 million box level - the same as last season but behind the 8.4 million boxes of two seasons ago. **Colored** at 15.2 million boxes compares with 15.0 million boxes last season.

## ALL TANGERINES 6.4 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all varieties of tangerines is maintained at 6.4 million boxes. This forecast is a 14 percent increase over last season's 5.6 million boxes. If realized, it will be nine percent less than the record high crop used in 1999-00.

The **Early** tangerine category is estimated to be 4.3 million boxes. This category consists of **Robinson**, **Fallglo**, **Sunburst** and **Dancy**. Harvest of all of these varieties is almost over, with only a few boxes of **Sunburst** and **Dancy** still being certified. The fresh certifications are designated by variety and full million box equivalents are as follows: **Sunburst** - 2.000, **Fallglo** - 0.511, **Robinson** - 0.062, and **Dancy** - 0.003. Processed **Early** tangerines at 1.5 million boxes are not certified by variety.

**Honey** tangerines, the only later maturing variety, is still forecast at 2.1 million boxes. The latest Row Count survey shows over 60 percent of all the rows harvested. The March survey, the final for the season, shows fruit sizes above average and loss from droppage well below the loss that usually occurs at this period. Utilization through March 3, 2002, is more advanced than the last two seasons to the same date. If the forecast is attained, it will be only slightly above the 2.050 million boxes recorded last season but 21 percent less than the record large crop of 2.650 million boxes in 1999-00.

## TEMPLES RAISED TO 1.5 MILLION BOXES

The **Temple** forecast is increased 0.1 million boxes to 1.5 million boxes. Results of the March fruit size survey continue to show average size to be the smallest in the 10 season series and loss from droppage below average. The Row Count survey percent harvested and the movement to that date are the indicators that support the upward move. Harvested rows total more than last season and the estimated utilization through March 3, 2002, is over 0.2 million boxes more than last season. Only 1.250 million boxes were recorded last season, the least amount in the historic series. In the past 10 seasons, an average of almost 70 percent of **Temples** have been used in processed form.

## TANGELOS DOWN TO 2.2 MILLION BOXES

The tangelo forecast is reduced 0.1 million boxes to 2.2 million boxes. The downward adjustment is based on the estimated utilization to date and the declining weekly use. If realized, the forecast would still be 0.1 million boxes more than recorded last season and the same as the 1999-00 crop. Estimated use through March 3, 2002, including 0.2 million boxes of allocated gift fruit and other use, is 2.0 million boxes. The latest Row Count survey shows about 30 percent of the rows remaining. However, some of these rows are used as pollinator for tangerines. The majority of all rows remaining are in the Central producing area.

**Unadjusted Maturity Tests:** Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 2000-01 and 2001-02 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	2000-01	2001-02	2000-01	2001-02	2000-01	2001-02	2000-01	2001-02	2000-01	2001-02
ORANGES: Late (149-144)	Percent		Percent		Ratio		Pounds		Pounds	
	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	2.44	2.20	8.79	8.86	3.65	4.10	46.56	47.72	4.09	4.23
Nov 1	2.00	1.76	9.46	9.20	4.80	5.29	50.77	51.91	4.81	4.78
Dec 1	1.74	<sup>1/</sup>	10.36	<sup>1/</sup>	6.03	<sup>1/</sup>	52.14	<sup>1/</sup>	5.40	<sup>1/</sup>
Jan 1	1.51	1.26	11.10	10.96	7.46	8.87	54.26	55.42	6.02	6.08
Feb 1	1.40	1.12	11.86	11.70	8.57	10.59	53.59	55.51	6.36	6.50
Mar 1	1.21	1.06	12.51	12.33	10.50	11.84	53.85	54.91	6.74	6.78

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.

<sup>1/</sup> December 1, 2001 data not available due to testing equipment malfunction.

Maturity test averages by areas, March 1, 2002

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	1.05	12.54	12.11	54.02	6.81
Other Areas	119	1.06	12.29	11.79	55.09	6.77

**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 18 through 26, 2002. Comparable sizes for 2000 and 2001 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 2002 Valencia orange fruit size measurements with those taken in February 2001. 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	2000	2001	2002
--- Percent ---			
Valencia oranges:			
64 and larger	10.0	3.4	6.9
80	27.2	18.4	23.7
100	36.3	40.3	37.8
125	19.9	29.5	23.0
163 and smaller	6.6	8.4	8.6
White Seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	25.1	20.3	16.2
36	20.1	21.4	18.7
40	19.0	22.0	21.9
48	16.5	17.5	20.5
56	7.6	8.9	10.9
63 and smaller	11.7	9.9	11.8
Colored seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	12.2	7.8	7.9
36	16.8	14.8	14.9
40	21.0	24.9	21.5
48	20.4	22.7	21.7
56	13.2	12.8	13.3
63 and smaller	16.4	17.0	20.7

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

