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CITRUS

DECEMBER FORECAST MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE



December 11, 2001

ALL ORANGES 231.0 MILLION BOXES

The December forecast of Florida oranges (excluding Temples) for the 2001-02 season remains at 231.0 million boxes, the amount initially forecast in October. Weather conditions this fall have been dry with temperatures above average, affecting fruit development. Objective indications are down slightly but remain supportive of this forecast.

Components of this forecast, released by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board, are early-midseason-Navel oranges at 131.0 million boxes and Valencia oranges at 100.0 million boxes. In the past 10 non-freeze seasons, the December forecast has deviated from actual production by an average of 2.9 percent with four seasons above and six below the actual production.

EARLY-MIDSEASONS UNCHANGED AT 131.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of early-midseason-Navel oranges remains at the 131.0 million boxes established in October. If realized, this crop will be two percent greater than the previous season's but six percent less than the 1997-98 record crop of 140.0 million boxes.

Fruit sizes were close to the 10 season mean at the beginning of the season but current surveys show the growth rate has slipped away from the mean and the

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

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1999-00	2000-01	Nov 9, 2001	Dec 11, 2001
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:				
FLORIDA	134,000	128,000	131,000	131,000
California	40,000	36,000	32,000	32,000
Texas	1,460	2,000	2,000	2,000
Arizona	600	480	400	400
Total Above Varieties	176,060	166,480	165,400	165,400
Valencias:				
FLORIDA	99,000	95,300	100,000	100,000
California	24,000	23,000	22,000	22,000
Texas	200	235	200	200
Arizona	500	420	350	350
Total Valencias	123,700	118,955	122,550	122,550
All Oranges:				
FLORIDA	233,000	223,300	231,000	231,000
California	64,000	59,000	54,000	54,000
Texas	1,660	2,235	2,200	2,200
Arizona	1,100	900	750	750
Total All Oranges	299,760	285,435	287,950	287,950

FORECAST DATES 2001-02 SEASON

January 11, 2002	February 8, 2002
March 8, 2002	April 10, 2002
May 10, 2002	June 12, 2002
July 11, 2002	

projection of fruit size is now slightly less than in October. Loss from droppage remains near average and the projection of final droppage is unchanged.

The **Navel** forecast is unchanged at 5.6 million boxes. Harvest is well underway and certifications through December 2 total over 1.8 million boxes. Fruit grew steadily, nearly attaining the projected below average size. Droppage is near the minimum level of the past 10 seasons.

VALENCIAS REMAIN 100.0 MILLION BOXES

Harvest will not begin until later in the season but objective indications continue to support the current forecast level of 100.0 million boxes. If realized, this crop will be larger than the previous three and only four percent less than the record 104.0 million boxes in 1997-98.

Although fruit sizes were slightly above average early in the season, the growth rate is tapering off and the projection of final size has fallen to slightly below the 10 season average. While fruit loss from droppage is greater than in the past two seasons, it remains below average.

FCOJ HELD AT 1.55 GALLONS

The all orange FCOJ yield projection is unchanged at 1.55 gallons per box of 42.0 degrees Brix concentrate. The final all orange yield for the 2000-01 season as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association was 1.580179. The final yield for the 1999-00 season was 1.547702 and for 1998-99 was 1.63381. A separate projection for fruit going into the early-midseason category and for Valencias will be made in the January crop report.

All projections of yield assume processing relationships this year remain somewhat constant with the past several seasons.

GRAPEFRUIT NOW AT 47.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all varieties of grapefruit for certified utilization is 47.0 million boxes (including a pre-season allocation of 1.5 million boxes for gift fruit and other use). The 1.0 million box reduction is in the all white category, now at 19.0 million boxes. Full utilization of the available white grapefruit crop is anticipated. There is no change in the 28.0 million box colored varieties forecast of expected utilization, however, surveys to measure and project fruit size and droppage now indicate a total available crop of 29.0 million boxes instead of 31.0 million earlier in the season. Instead of 3.0 million boxes of expected economic abandonment, indications now show only 1.0 million. In 1999 the Citrus Crop Estimates Advisory Committee requested that, in any season when economic abandonment is anticipated, an estimate of total available crop also be reported.

The contributing factors in the reductions are the predominately dry conditions during the past two months and continued above average temperatures. The two survey periods to determine average fruit size and growth rates clearly indicate the reductions of the projected average fruit size to harvest date. The **white** grapefruit growth rate during the past two months was 32 percent less (in spherical cu. in.) than the mean of the preceding 10 seasons. Growth rate for the **colored** grapefruit was 35 percent less using the same relationship. Fruit loss from droppage surveys did not show above average loss of the **white**. However, for the **colored** there was only one season in the past 10 that had more loss to date and only four in the past 20 seasons.

White grapefruit certifications through December 2, 2001, are estimated to be 991,000 boxes as compared with 962,000 boxes last season and 1,283,000 boxes in 1999-00. Colored certifications stand at 3,901,000 boxes this season as compared with 3,826,000 boxes last year and 4,508,000 boxes in 1999-00.

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

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1999-00	2000-01	Nov 9,2001	Dec 11,2001
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Grapefruit:				
FLORIDA-All	53,400	46,000	48,000	47,000
White ^{1/}	21,500	18,700	20,000	19,000
Colored	31,900	^{2/} 27,300	28,000	28,000
Texas	5,930	7,200	7,800	7,800
Arizona	450	250	200	200
California	7,200	6,500	6,000	6,000
Total Grapefruit	66,980	59,950	62,000	61,000
Lemons:				
California	19,000	22,700	23,000	23,000
Arizona	3,100	3,600	3,100	3,100
Total Lemons	22,100	26,300	26,100	26,100
Limes: Florida	600	250	200	150
Temples: Florida	1,950	1,250	1,400	1,400
Tangelos: Florida	2,200	2,100	2,300	2,300
K-Early: Florida	110	40	50	30
Tangerines:				
FLORIDA-All	7,000	5,600	7,000	6,400
Early ^{3/}	4,350	3,550	4,800	4,300
Honey	2,650	2,050	2,200	2,100
California ^{4/}	2,500	2,100	2,500	2,500
Arizona ^{4/}	850	650	600	600
Total Tangerines	10,350	8,350	10,100	9,500

^{1/} Includes seedy. ^{2/} Excludes two million boxes of economic abandonment. ^{3/} Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy. ^{4/} Includes tangelos.

ALL TANGERINES NOW 6.4 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all varieties of tangerines is now 6.4 million boxes, down from 7.0 million boxes in October. Weather factors during the past two months have not been beneficial to crop condition. The current forecast is still 14 percent above last season's 5.6 million and is the second largest total crop of recorded tangerines.

The **Early** tangerine category forecast is 4.3 million boxes, down 0.5 million boxes, and is comprised of **Sunburst**, **Fallglo**, **Robinson**, and **Dancy** varieties in order of contribution. **Honey**, the later maturing variety, is reduced from October by 0.1 million boxes to 2.1 million boxes.

Sunburst, the major variety of early tangerines, contributes 80 percent to the early total. The final indication of average fruit size declined from a size at the 10 season mean in September to next to the smallest in November. Loss from droppage, also at mean level in September, was over two percent more than the projection at that time. The combination of these factors indicates a decrease in total expectations. The estimate still is more than the final harvest last season.

Fallglo, the only other variety of volume in the early category is usually over by December 1. The final allocation of certifications will probably be greater than last season. However, the fruit size decreased and loss factors increased during October from the original projections, again because of weather conditions. **Robinson** and **Dancy** constitute less than five percent of the total early category.

The **Honey** tangerines forecast at 2.1 million boxes is only slightly more than was recorded last season. Average fruit size in November continued to be the largest in the 10 season series. However, loss from droppage accelerated with the continued above average temperatures. Fruit droppage is a major factor in forecasting this crop. Loss in the 10 season series, as of late January, ranges from 21 percent to 55 percent. As of late November, almost 26 percent of fruit on the sample branches had been lost.

TEMPLES REMAIN AT 1.4 MILLION BOXES

The Temple forecast is maintained at 1.4 million boxes. The monthly surveys continue to indicate projected levels. The very small average size fruit has followed the growth curve and droppage remains slightly above the mean.

TANGELOS HELD AT 2.3 MILLION BOXES

The monthly surveys continue to support the 2.3 million box forecast level. Fruit size and loss are above average as projected earlier.

K-EARLY CITRUS NOW 30,000 BOXES

The estimate for K-Early Citrus Fruit is reduced from 50,000 to 30,000 boxes. Only 19,000 boxes are estimated to have been used as of December 1. If realized, this will be the smallest crop of record.

LIMES 240,000 BUSHEL

The 2001-02 lime crop, first forecast in April 2001, is decreased from 320,000 bushels (200,000 boxes) to 240,000 bushels (150,000 boxes). More trees have been lost to citrus canker since last spring. Fresh shipments to date are 180,000 bushels with four months remaining in the harvest season.

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
	Percent		Percent				Pounds		Pounds	

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

ORANGES:

Early (101-85)

Sep 1	1.66	1.41	9.79	9.64	6.01	6.99	42.62	43.44	4.17	4.19
Oct 1	1.12	1.00	9.84	9.80	8.96	10.05	49.00	48.59	4.82	4.76
Nov 1	0.97	0.82	10.72	10.51	11.30	13.05	51.16	51.84	5.47	5.45
Dec 1	0.89	NA	11.45	NA	13.14	NA	51.08	NA	5.85	NA

Midseason (51-48)

Sep 1	1.79	1.60	9.32	9.33	5.26	5.94	44.43	42.90	4.14	4.00
Oct 1	1.23	1.18	9.48	9.50	7.84	8.24	49.99	49.79	4.73	4.73
Nov 1	1.06	0.96	10.44	10.44	10.12	11.09	53.53	53.39	5.59	5.57
Dec 1	0.95	NA	11.37	NA	12.17	NA	53.29	NA	6.06	NA

Late (150-150)

Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.45	2.19	8.80	8.87	3.65	4.11	46.50	47.72	4.09	4.23
Nov 1	2.00	1.76	9.46	9.20	4.80	5.31	50.80	52.00	4.81	4.79
Dec 1	1.74	NA	10.37	NA	6.03	NA	52.17	NA	5.41	NA

GRAPEFRUIT:

White Seedless (46-47)

Sep 1	1.83	1.67	10.15	9.82	5.47	5.91	32.70	33.86	3.32	3.33
Oct 1	1.58	1.46	10.22	9.73	6.52	6.70	36.84	38.80	3.76	3.78
Nov 1	1.50	1.33	10.38	9.81	6.98	7.43	40.56	42.31	4.20	4.16
Dec 1	1.47	1.26	10.78	9.96	7.36	7.93	41.79	44.48	4.50	4.43

Colored Seedless (44-44)

Sep 1	1.76	1.65	10.37	10.05	5.91	6.12	33.37	34.62	3.46	3.48
Oct 1	1.51	1.43	10.44	10.08	6.96	7.06	37.15	40.15	3.87	4.05
Nov 1	1.43	1.26	10.68	10.16	7.53	8.10	40.53	43.93	4.33	4.47
Dec 1	1.39	1.21	10.88	10.37	7.87	8.59	43.32	44.85	4.71	4.66

Maturity test averages by areas, December 1, 2001

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.
Other Areas

Midseason

Indian River Dist.
Other Areas

Late

Indian River Dist.
Other Areas

*** NOTICE ***

Maturity test results for oranges are not available

this month because of a malfunction of the testing equipment.

GRAPEFRUIT:

White Seedless

Indian River Dist. 34 1.26 9.89 7.88 44.27 4.37
Other Areas 13 1.26 10.13 8.07 45.02 4.57

Colored Seedless

Indian River Dist. 37 1.21 10.49 8.70 45.46 4.77
Other Areas 7 1.24 9.77 8.00 41.59 4.09

FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

Size frequency distributions are from the November size survey conducted in sample groves during the period of November 5 through 30, 2001. The distributions are by percent from fruit within the size range of each 4/5 bushel container. These percents relate only to fruit from spring bloom and exclude summer bloom fruit in all seasons.

Florida Citrus: Size frequency distributions from November measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1999	2000	2001
--- Percent ---			
Early and midseason oranges: (excluding Navels)			
64 and larger	2.3	0.5	2.2
80	13.0	5.0	7.9
100	36.9	24.2	29.8
125	32.4	39.1	35.9
163 and smaller	15.4	31.2	24.2
Navel oranges:			
64 and larger	72.2	56.7	58.1
80	19.8	28.9	29.2
100	6.5	12.1	10.0
125	1.4	2.1	2.2
163 and smaller	0.1	0.2	0.5
White seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	11.7	9.5	7.3
36	17.3	15.9	14.9
40	19.9	21.6	20.4
48	18.3	21.8	21.8
56	11.5	12.2	13.5
63 and smaller	21.3	19.0	22.1
Colored seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	5.0	4.7	3.9
36	11.3	11.0	11.9
40	19.9	20.0	17.5
48	21.2	21.9	22.4
56	14.3	16.5	15.5
63 and smaller	28.3	25.9	28.8
Sunburst tangerines:			
150 and larger	71.7	72.4	63.1
176	13.9	16.2	15.2
210	9.2	8.8	9.8
246	4.2	2.4	6.7
294 and smaller	1.0	0.2	5.2
Honey tangerines:			
150 and larger	63.4	74.9	77.8
176	15.8	11.8	9.1
210	11.1	9.1	7.9
246	6.3	3.4	3.9
294 and smaller	3.4	0.8	1.3
Templets:			
80 and larger	14.9	12.3	8.8
100	33.7	37.4	38.9
120	29.3	38.0	35.8
156 and smaller	22.1	12.3	16.5
Tangelos:			
80 and larger	40.4	22.4	41.5
100	31.3	38.3	31.8
120	18.4	28.2	16.7
156 and smaller	9.9	11.1	10.0

The charts below describe the relationships of the fruit size measurements with those taken in the previous year. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range, except for the smallest values.

CHART 1: Early and midseason oranges (excluding Navels) size frequency by diameter from November measurements.

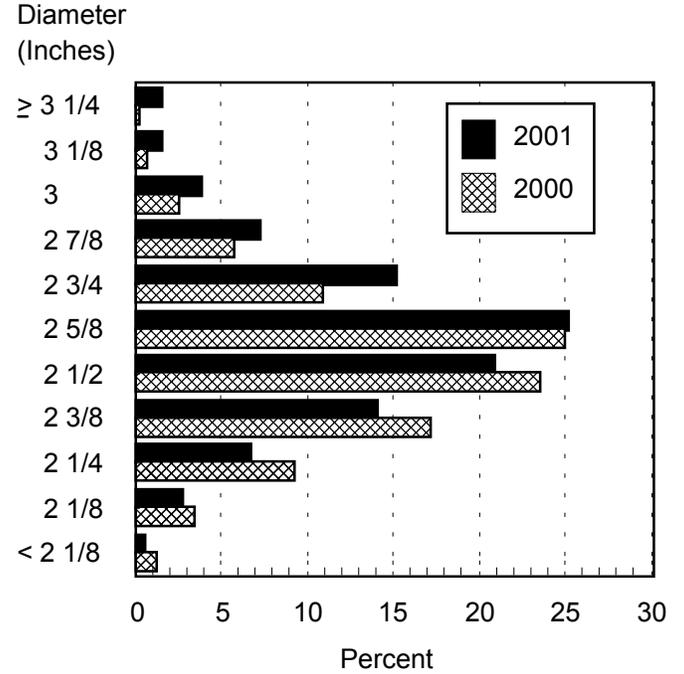


CHART 2: White seedless grapefruit size frequency by diameter from November measurements.

