

FLORIDA Citrus March Forecast

MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

March 10, 2006

ALL ORANGES NOW 154.0 MILLION BOXES

The all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is 154.0 million boxes, down 4.0 million boxes from February. All the survey indications, as well as utilization, support this change. The decrease is entirely within the early-midseason-Navel varieties now at 76.0 million boxes while the Valencia component remains at 78.0. If these forecasts are realized, this will be the first season when Valencia production exceeds that of the early-midseason-Navel portion. If attained, this crop will be 2.9 percent more than harvested in the hurricane affected 2004-05 season but 36.4 percent less than in 2003-04. In the past 10 non-hurricane seasons, the March forecast has differed from actual production by an average of 1.7 percent with three seasons higher and seven lower.

FORECAST DATES 2005-06 SEASON

April 10, 2006	May 12, 2006
June 9, 2006	July 12, 2006

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EARLY-MIDSEASON-NAVEL ORANGES REDUCED TO 76.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast for the early-midseason-Navel oranges is lowered five percent based upon estimated certifications of utilization combined with the projection of fruit remaining to be processed. The Navel portion of this forecast is raised to 3.8 million boxes.

VALENCIA ORANGES REMAIN AT 78.0 MILLION BOXES

Valencia oranges are forecast at 78.0 million boxes, unchanged since January. The rate of growth has slowed and the projected average size is lowered. This size would be smaller than all fruit measurements in the series except for the freeze season of 1976-77. It is estimated to take an additional five pieces of fruit to fill a 90-pound equivalent box. Offsetting the smaller expected fruit size is a lower droppage, now projected to be only slightly above the average rate of the 10 seasons used in the regression.

ROUNDED COMPONENTS USED IN THE MARCH FORECAST ^{1/}

Type	Bearing Trees (1,000)	Fruit per Tree	Percent Droppage	Fruit per box
ORANGES:				
Early-Mid	28,964	937	12	285
Navel	1,634	436	9	139
Valencia	37,246	612	15	236

FCOJ YIELD 1.58 GALLONS PER BOX

The projection of FCOJ yield for all oranges remains at 1.58 gallons per box. Last season's final yield was 1.58 gallons per box. Projections for the components are unchanged with the early-midseason portion at 1.52 gallons per box and the Valencia portion at 1.66. Maturity test results appear on page 3.

^{1/} November survey data is considered final for Navels, December for early-mids, and March for Valencias.

CITRUS PRODUCTION: March 1, 2006

Forecasts by varieties and States, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2003-04	2004-05	Feb. 9, 2006	Mar. 10, 2006

--- 1,000 boxes ---

EARLY, MIDSEASON, AND NAVEL ORANGES:

Florida	126,000	79,100	80,000	76,000
California	39,500	43,000	42,000	42,000
Texas	1,420	1,500	1,300	1,300
Arizona	300	240	250	250
Total Above Varieties	167,220	123,840	123,550	119,550

VALENCIAS:

Florida	116,000	70,500	78,000	78,000
California	11,000	18,000	12,000	11,000
Texas	230	270	230	230
Arizona	170	190	200	200
Total Valencias	127,400	88,960	90,430	89,430

ALL ORANGES:

Florida	242,000	149,600	158,000	154,000
California	50,500	61,000	54,000	53,000
Texas	1,650	1,770	1,530	1,530
Arizona	470	430	450	450
Total All Oranges	294,620	212,800	213,980	208,980



United States
Department
Of Agriculture



National
Agricultural
Statistics Service

Florida
Field Office

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GRAPEFRUIT INCREASED TO 17.0 MILLION BOXES

The Florida forecast of grapefruit for utilization (including an allocation of 700,000 boxes of gift fruit and local sales) is changed to 17.0 million boxes. Making up the forecast are 5.0 million boxes of white and 12.0 million boxes of colored grapefruit. If realized, this forecast will be 33 percent more than harvested last season, otherwise the lowest since the 1939-40 season.

Fruit size and drop measurements, as well as utilization compared to the row count survey were both considerations used in setting the March forecast. The row count survey conducted on March 1-2 showed 58 percent total grapefruit rows harvested. The percentage of rows harvested on the East Coast was higher than the percentage harvested in the middle of the state.

The **white** grapefruit forecast is raised to 5.0 million boxes. Only 55 percent of the white rows evaluated on the row count survey were harvested. Final drop in January at 12 percent for white grapefruit is higher than any of the 10 years prior to last season. February drop and size data support an upward adjustment in the white grapefruit forecast. Estimated utilization to March 1 is 3.7 million boxes, compared to 2.4 million boxes the same time last year.

The **colored** grapefruit forecast is maintained at 12.0 million boxes. The row count survey showed 60 percent of the colored rows harvested. Some of the more productive grapefruit rows have been picked, leaving less productive rows for the remaining of the season. Estimated utilization to March 1 is 7.9 million boxes, compared to 6.6 million boxes the same time last year.

CITRUS PRODUCTION: March 1, 2006 forecasts by varieties and States, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2003-04	2004-05	Feb. 9, 2006	Mar. 10, 2006
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
GRAPEFRUIT:				
Florida-All	40,900	12,800	16,000	17,000
White	15,900	3,400	4,000	5,000
Colored	25,000	9,400	12,000	12,000
Texas	5,700	6,600	5,100	5,100
California	5,800	5,800	6,000	6,000
Arizona	140	140	100	100
Total Grapefruit	52,540	25,340	27,200	28,200
LEMONS:				
California	18,000	19,000	19,000	19,000
Arizona	3,000	2,400	3,800	3,800
Total Lemons	21,000	21,400	22,800	22,800
TEMPLES: Florida	1,400	650	800	800
TANGELOS: Florida	1,000	1,550	1,200	1,400
TANGERINES:				
Florida-All	6,500	4,450	5,200	5,200
Early ^{1/}	3,600	2,450	2,800	2,800
Honey ^{2/}	2,900	2,000	2,400	2,400
California ^{2/}	2,200	2,800	3,100	3,100
Arizona ^{2/}	690	400	500	500
Total Tangerines	9,390	7,650	8,800	8,800

^{1/} Fallglo and Sunburst varieties.

^{2/} Includes tangelos and tangors.

ROUNDED COMPONENTS USED IN THE MARCH FORECAST^{1/}

Type	Bearing Trees	Fruit per Tree	Percent Droppage	Fruit per box
(1,000)				
GRAPEFRUIT:				
White ^{2/}	2,216	212	12	86
Colored	4,230	252	11	92

^{1/} January survey data is considered final

^{2/} Seedless variety only.

ALL TANGERINES 5.2 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all tangerines is 5.2 million boxes. Forecast for the early varieties (**Fallglo and Sunburst**) is unchanged at 2.8 million boxes and the later maturing **Honey** variety stays at 2.4 million boxes.

The forecast of utilization for early tangerines is 2.8 million boxes, unchanged since January. **Fallglo** tangerine harvest is complete at slightly more than 650,000 boxes and **Sunburst** tangerine utilization is complete at 2.15 million boxes, including 100,000 boxes for other use. Last year's total utilization for early tangerines was 2.45 million boxes.

The **Honey** tangerine forecast stays at 2.4 million boxes. The February size and drop survey confirms January's final small fruit sizes and extremely low drop rates. The row count survey on March 1-2 showed 46 percent rows harvested, which is consistent with utilization at 1.0 million boxes to that point in time.

TEMPLES AT 800,000 BOXES

The Temple forecast remains unchanged at 800,000 boxes. If attained, this will be the second smallest amount since forecasting Temples in a separate category. Last season's utilization of 650,000 boxes is the only season on record with a lesser amount. Temple size and drop rates were final last month, and showed smaller than average sizes and higher than average drop rates. The row count survey showed 40 percent rows harvested, with estimated utilization at 270,000 boxes.

TANGELOS RAISED TO 1.4 MILLION BOXES

Tangelos are now at 1.4 million boxes, 200,000 more than last month, but the same as the October forecast. If realized, other than the 2003-04 season of 1.0 million boxes, this will be the smallest crop since the 1965-66 season's utilization of 1.2 million boxes. A large percentage of Tangelos are being harvested for processing. Higher juice prices indicate a more complete harvest than in previous recent years.

UNADJUSTED MATURITY TESTS: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 2004-05 and 2005-06 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06
	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Percent</i>				<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Pounds</i>	
Late (144-146)										
Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.43	2.60	8.63	9.03	3.59	3.51	46.52	43.14	4.02	3.89
Nov 1	1.92	1.98	8.84	9.15	4.65	4.67	50.28	48.16	4.45	4.41
Dec 1	1.56	1.63	9.72	9.83	6.30	6.08	53.23	51.04	5.18	5.02
Jan 1	1.39	1.41	10.46	10.72	7.57	7.69	54.00	52.49	5.64	5.63
Feb 1	1.23	1.29	10.99	11.85	9.01	9.27	55.05	53.41	6.06	6.33
Mar 1	1.11	1.19	11.93	12.51	10.85	10.63	54.97	53.30	6.56	6.67

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

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, MARCH 1, 2006

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
ORANGES:						
Late						
Indian River District	25	1.16	12.40	10.83	52.72	6.55
Other Areas	121	1.20	12.54	10.59	53.42	6.70

FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

Size frequency distributions developed from the February size survey are shown in the following table. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. These frequency distributions relate to fruit from regular bloom and exclude summer bloom in all years.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from February measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	2004	2005	2006
--- Percent ---			
VALENCIA ORANGES:			
64 and larger	11.2	3.7	2.5
80	29.8	19.7	12.9
100	38.4	43.7	35.4
125	16.8	25.3	31.9
163 and smaller	3.8	7.6	17.3
WHITE SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT:			
32 and larger	26.7	29.3	30.2
36	21.0	23.9	24.9
40	20.3	16.9	20.3
48	13.2	13.5	10.1
56	7.1	6.4	5.8
63 and smaller	11.7	10.0	8.7
COLORED SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT:			
32 and larger	12.1	18.1	19.8
36	20.2	23.4	17.6
40	25.3	20.9	24.5
48	17.1	17.6	16.4
56	10.3	9.3	10.9
63 and smaller	15.0	10.7	10.8
HONEY TANGERINES:			
80 and larger	40.5	18.0	24.5
100	32.1	32.8	38.7
120	17.9	31.4	23.1
176	4.0	10.0	5.5
210 and smaller	5.5	7.8	8.2
TEMPLES:			
80 and larger	38.3	30.0	29.0
100	30.4	46.0	35.0
120	18.8	21.0	23.0
156 and smaller	12.5	3.0	13.0

The chart below describes the relationship of the February 2006 Valencia orange fruit size measurements with those taken in February 2005. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range, except for the smallest values.

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

