

FLORIDA Citrus April Forecast

MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

April 10, 2006

ALL ORANGES NOW 153.0 MILLION BOXES

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FORECAST DATES 2005-06 SEASON

May 12, 2006 June 9, 2006
July 12, 2006

The all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is adjusted downward from 154.0 million to 153.0 million boxes. The decrease is in the Early-midseason-Navel category. The Early-midseason-Navel portion is now 75.0 million boxes and the Valencia is 78.0. If confirmed, this will be the first season that Valencia production exceeds the Early-midseason-Navel category. If this amount is harvested, it will be only 3.2 million boxes or two percent more than the revised 149.8 million boxes harvested in 2004-05, but 89 million boxes or 37 percent less than the 242.0 million in 2003-04.

EARLY-MIDSEASON-NAVEL ORANGES ADJUSTED TO 75.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of Early-midseason-Navel oranges is adjusted downward one million boxes to 75.0 million. Harvest is nearly complete with estimated utilization at 74.9 million boxes. The Row Count survey conducted on March 29-30 shows very few rows remaining to be harvested. The Navel portion of the forecast is 3.8 million boxes with harvest complete.

VALENCIA ORANGES REMAIN AT 78.0 MILLION BOXES

The Valencia orange forecast is maintained at 78.0 million boxes, 7.3 million or 10 percent more than the revised 2004-05 harvest of 70.7 million boxes. Average fruit size is the second smallest on record but fruit droppage at 14 percent is near the ten year average. Harvest has started and the Row Count survey indicates over 15 percent of the rows harvested with estimated utilization over 12 million boxes.

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

Type	Bearing Trees	Fruit per Tree	Percent Droppage	Fruit per box
	(1,000)			
ORANGES:				
Early-Mid	28,964	937	12	285
Navel	1,634	436	9	139
Valencia	37,246	612	14	238

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

FCOJ YIELD 1.61 GALLONS PER BOX

The projection for all orange FCOJ yield is increased from 1.58 to 1.61 gallons per box. The early portion is final at 1.526904 gallons and the Valencia portion is now projected at 1.70 gallons, increased from 1.66 last month. This will be the highest yield since the 1998-99 season when the all orange yield was final at 1.63 and Valencia at 1.75 gallons. Maturity test results appear on page 3.

CITRUS PRODUCTION: April 1, 2006

Forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2003-04	2004-05	Mar. 10, 2006	Apr. 10, 2006
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
EARLY, MIDSEASON, AND NAVEL ORANGES:				
Florida	126,000	79,100	76,000	75,000
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	119,550	118,550
VALENCIAS:				
Florida	116,000	^{1/} 70,700	78,000	78,000
California	11,000	^{1/} 20,500	11,000	11,000
Texas	230	270	230	230
Arizona	170	190	200	200
Total Valencias	127,400	91,660	89,430	89,430
ALL ORANGES:				
Florida	242,000	149,800	154,000	153,000
California	50,500	63,500	53,000	53,000
Texas	1,650	1,770	1,530	1,530
Arizona	470	430	450	450
Total All Oranges	294,620	215,500	208,980	207,980

^{1/} Revised



United States
Department
Of Agriculture



National
Agricultural
Statistics Service

Florida
Field Office

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Director
407/648-6013

GRAPEFRUIT RAISED TO 18.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all grapefruit for utilization (including an allocation of 700,000 boxes of gift fruit and local sales) is increased from 17.0 to 18.0 million boxes. The forecast includes 6.0 million boxes of **white** and 12.0 million boxes of **colored** grapefruit. This forecast, if realized, will be 41 percent more than harvested last season. These two hurricane-affected crops are the lowest since the 1939-40 season.

The comparison of current utilization to results of the Row Count survey is the primary consideration used in setting the April grapefruit forecast. The Row Count survey conducted March 29-30 shows 81 percent of the grapefruit rows harvested. The East Coast has a higher percentage of rows harvested than the middle of the State.

The **white** grapefruit forecast is raised from 5.0 to 6.0 million boxes. Utilization for the month of March was higher than projected, with certified boxes over 300,000 per week. The Row Count survey indicates there are enough unharvested rows remaining to attain the forecast. Estimated utilization to April 1 is 5.5 million boxes, compared to 3.0 million boxes the same time last year.

The **colored** grapefruit forecast is maintained at 12.0 million boxes. The Row Count survey fully supports the current forecast. Some of the more productive grapefruit rows have been picked, leaving less productive rows for the remainder of the season. Estimated utilization to April 1 is 11.2 million boxes, compared to 8.3 million boxes the same time last year.

CITRUS PRODUCTION: April 1, 2006 forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2003-04	2004-05	Mar. 10, 2006	Apr. 10, 2006
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
GRAPEFRUIT:				
Florida-All	40,900	12,800	17,000	18,000
White	15,900	3,400	5,000	6,000
Colored	25,000	9,400	12,000	12,000
Texas	5,700	6,600	5,100	4,800
California	5,800	5,800	6,000	6,000
Arizona	140	140	100	100
Total Grapefruit	52,540	25,340	28,200	28,900

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	700
TANGELOS: Florida	1,000	1,550	1,400	1,400

TANGERINES:				
Florida-All	6,500	4,450	5,200	5,000
Early ^{1/}	3,600	2,450	2,800	2,800
Honey	2,900	2,000	2,400	2,200
California ^{2/}	2,200	2,800	3,100	4,000
Arizona ^{2/}	690	400	500	550
Total Tangerines	9,390	7,650	8,800	9,550

^{1/} Fallglo and Sunburst varieties.

^{2/} Includes tangelos and tangors.

ROUNDED COMPONENTS USED IN THE APRIL 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 are considered final.

^{2/} Seedless variety only.

ALL TANGERINES NOW 5.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all tangerines is lowered from 5.2 to 5.0 million boxes. The forecast of the early varieties (**Fallglo and Sunburst**) is unchanged at 2.8 million boxes, and the later maturing **Honey** variety is lowered to 2.2 million boxes.

The forecast of utilization for early tangerines remains at 2.8 million boxes, including 200,000 boxes for other use. **Fallglo** harvest is complete at slightly more than 650,000 boxes, and **Sunburst** tangerine utilization is complete at 2.15 million boxes.

The **Honey** forecast of utilization is lowered by 200,000 boxes to 2.2 million. Weekly utilization was slightly less than 150,000 boxes throughout the month. Results of the Row Count survey show 66 percent of the rows harvested. Honey tangerines are primarily a fresh fruit crop and will continue to be picked into the month of May. Estimated utilization to April 1 is 1.7 million boxes, compared to 1.6 million the same time last year.

TEMPLES LOWERED TO 700,000 BOXES

The Temple forecast is lowered from 800,000 to 700,000 boxes. This crop, if attained, will surpass only last season's utilization of 650,000 boxes, the lowest harvest since the forecasting of Temples in a separate category began. Temple production peaked in 1979-80 at 6.0 million boxes and has been declining steadily. Temple harvest is virtually over for the season, with utilization to the first of the month just under 700,000 boxes, including other use. Even though the Row Count survey shows 81 percent rows harvested, weekly utilization is dropping rapidly.

TANGELOS 1.4 MILLION BOXES

Tangelos remain at 1.4 million boxes, including 200,000 boxes for other use. Tangelo utilization is complete for the season with over 60 percent of the fruit going to processing. Production has been declining since the peak of 6.4 million boxes in 1979-80. This harvest, the third consecutive season below 2.0 million boxes, is 10 percent less than last season but 40 percent more than in 2003-04.

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 (119-130)										
Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.45	2.60	8.63	9.03	3.57	3.50	46.24	43.14	3.99	3.89
Nov 1	1.93	1.99	8.84	9.14	4.61	4.64	50.37	48.20	4.45	4.41
Dec 1	1.57	1.64	9.72	9.81	6.24	6.03	53.14	50.90	5.16	4.99
Jan 1	1.40	1.41	10.43	10.71	7.50	7.64	54.01	52.39	5.63	5.61
Feb 1	1.24	1.30	10.98	11.85	8.94	9.21	54.75	53.41	6.02	6.33
Mar 1	1.12	1.19	11.91	12.50	10.70	10.60	54.84	53.22	6.53	6.66
Apr 1	0.98	1.10	12.06	13.03	12.37	11.97	54.78	53.13	6.61	6.93

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, APRIL 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	23	1.09	12.87	11.91	54.04	6.96
Other Areas	107	1.10	13.07	11.98	52.94	6.92

FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

Size frequency distributions measured during 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. Comparable sizes for 2004 and 2005 are also shown. These measurements include only 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	2004	2005	2006
<i>--- Percent ---</i>			

VALENCIA ORANGES:

64 and larger	11.0	4.7	3.0
80	30.3	22.6	13.5
100	38.5	43.1	34.8
125	16.2	23.0	31.5
163 and smaller	4.0	6.6	17.2

The chart on the right compares the relationship of the March 2006 Valencia orange fruit size measurements with those taken in March 2005. 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

