



# CITRUS FEBRUARY FORECAST MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
1222 Woodward St. · Orlando, FL 32803  
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

February 8, 2008

## ALL ORANGES NOW 166.0 MILLION BOXES

The Florida all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is lowered to 166.0 million boxes. No changes were made in the early-midseason-Navel category at 81.0 million boxes. The changes were made in the Valencia category, now at 85.0 million boxes. In the past 10 non-hurricane affected seasons, the February all orange forecast has differed from actual production by an average of 3.2 percent, with five seasons below and five above the final harvest.

A cold snap the first week of January dropped temperatures into the upper 20s and lower 30s across the citrus producing region. Some areas received minor fruit damage, but overall the effect was minimal. Slight increases in droppage have been observed in the Northern and Indian River production areas. The rest of the month was relatively warm across the citrus producing region, with average rainfall in the north, and less than average in the Central and Southern areas.

## EARLY-MIDSEASON-NAVELS 81.0 MILLION BOXES

The early-midseason-Navel forecast is continued at 81.0 million boxes, including 3.1 million boxes of Navels. Navel harvest utilization was about 50,000 boxes weekly in January. The Row Count survey, conducted January 29-30 showed some Navels still available for harvest.

**CITRUS PRODUCTION: FEBRUARY 1, 2008**  
Forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2005-06	2006-07	Jan 11, 2008	Feb 8, 2008
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
<b>EARLY, MIDSEASON, AND NAVAL ORANGES:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA<sup>1/</sup></b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>65,600</b>	<b>81,000</b>	<b>81,000</b>
California	47,000	34,000	48,000	48,000
Texas	1,400	1,600	1,400	1,400
Arizona	250	200	250	250
<b>Total Above Varieties</b>	<b>123,650</b>	<b>101,400</b>	<b>130,650</b>	<b>130,650</b>
<b>VALENCIAS:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>72,700</b>	<b>63,400</b>	<b>87,000</b>	<b>85,000</b>
California	14,000	11,000	15,000	15,000
Texas	200	380	385	385
Arizona	200	100	100	100
<b>Total Valencias</b>	<b>87,100</b>	<b>74,880</b>	<b>102,485</b>	<b>100,485</b>
<b>ALL ORANGES:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>147,700</b>	<b>129,000</b>	<b>168,000</b>	<b>166,000</b>
California	61,000	45,000	63,000	63,000
Texas	1,600	1,980	1,785	1,785
Arizona	450	300	350	350
<b>Total All Oranges</b>	<b>210,750</b>	<b>176,280</b>	<b>233,135</b>	<b>231,135</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Includes Temples beginning in 2006-07. Historic Temple production on page 2.

## FORECAST DATES — 2007-08 SEASON

March 11, 2008	June 10, 2008
April 9, 2008	July 11, 2008
May 9, 2008	

Final size and drop measurements for early-midseason fruit were completed in December. The Row Count survey showed over 55 percent of the early-midseason rows harvested. This percentage is lower than any of the previous ten seasons, indicating a later than normal crop. Harvest hit its peak levels the third and fourth weeks of January, at over six million boxes per week. Harvest should continue through mid to late March before transitioning to Valencias. Estimated utilization of early-midseason-Navels to February 1 is 54.1 million boxes, compared to actual utilization of 51.7 million boxes the same time last year.

## VALENCIAS NOW 85.0 MILLION BOXES

The Valencia forecast is lowered two million boxes to 85.0 million. The primary indicators used this month are the size and drop measurements obtained in January. Average fruit sizes are very small and are expected to be lower at harvest than the minimum of the last eight non-hurricane affected seasons. The current projected pieces of fruit to fill a 1 3/5 bushel box is 220. Droppage at 13 percent is consistent with projections made last month.

## COMPONENTS USED IN THE FEBRUARY FORECAST <sup>1/</sup>

Type	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
(1,000)				
<b>ORANGES:</b>				
Early-mid	24,473	1,052	8	264
Navel	1,284	440	10	138
Valencia	33,835	679	13	220

<sup>1/</sup> Survey data is considered final in December for Navels, January for early-midseason oranges, and April for Valencias.

## FCOJ YIELD NOW 1.62 GALLONS PER BOX

The all orange FCOJ yield projection is increased from 1.60 to 1.62 gallons per box. Last season's final yield was 1.65 gallons. The early-mid portion remains at 1.53 gallons but the late (Valencia) portion is increased from 1.68 gallons projected last month to 1.70. Last season's final yield for Valencias was 1.77 gallons per box.

## GRAPEFRUIT 24.5 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all grapefruit for certified utilization (including an allocation of 700,000 boxes of other use) is reduced from last month and is now 24.5 million boxes. The forecast is comprised of 7.5 million boxes of **white** and 17.0 million of **colored** varieties. If realized, this forecast will be 10 percent less than last season's 27.2 million boxes utilized.

The January fruit size and drop measurements used in the production expansions are final. Weather for the month of January was variable, beginning with cold temperatures early in the month and warming to above average temperatures by the end of the month. Rainfall was very sporadic in all areas. Overall, totals were above average in the upper portion of the citrus belt and below average in the lower central growing region.

The first route survey (Row Count) for grapefruit was conducted January 29-30, and with harvest at 25 percent, is considered marginally usable. Fresh shipments of grapefruit were just over half of the total amount harvested for the month.

The **white** grapefruit forecast is lowered 500,000 boxes to 7.5 million. Average fruit sizes for white grapefruit were slightly smaller than projected and are the smallest since the minimum attained in the 1990-91 season. Droppage increased substantially, and at 18 percent, is above any of the previous 10 non-hurricane seasons. Estimated utilization of white grapefruit is 2.2 million boxes compared to 2.3 million boxes

**CITRUS PRODUCTION:** February 1, 2008  
forecasts by varieties and States, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2005-06	2006-07	Jan 11, 2008	Feb 8, 2008
	--- 1,000 boxes ---			
<b>GRAPEFRUIT:</b>				
<b>Florida-All</b>	<b>19,300</b>	<b>27,200</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>24,500</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>9,300</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>7,500</b>
<b>Colored</b>	<b>12,800</b>	<b>17,900</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>
California	6,000	4,000	5,000	5,000
Texas	5,200	7,100	6,600	6,600
Arizona	100	100	150	150
Total Grapefruit	30,600	38,400	36,750	36,250
<b>LEMONS:</b>				
California	22,000	16,000	17,000	17,000
Arizona	3,800	2,500	1,500	1,500
Total Lemons	25,800	18,500	18,500	18,500
<b>TEMPLES:</b>	700	<sup>1/</sup>	<sup>1/</sup>	<sup>1/</sup>
<b>TANGELOS: Florida</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>
<b>TANGERINES:</b>				
<b>Florida-All</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>4,800</b>	<b>4,800</b>
<b>Early</b> <sup>2/</sup>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2,600</b>
<b>Honey</b>	<b>2,650</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,200</b>
California <sup>3/</sup>	3,600	2,900	5,100	5,100
Arizona <sup>3/</sup>	550	300	400	400
Total Tangerines	9,650	7,800	10,300	10,300

<sup>1/</sup> Included in early-midseason-Navel oranges.

<sup>2/</sup> Fallglo and Sunburst varieties.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes tangelos and tangors.

## COMPONENTS USED IN THE FEBRUARY FORECAST

Type	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
	(1,000)			
<b>GRAPEFRUIT:</b>				
White	1,862	557	18	99
Colored	4,155	499	12	109

<sup>1/</sup> Seedless variety only.

actual utilization the same time last season. Direct to processor harvest is increasing.

The **colored** grapefruit forecast remains at 17.0 million boxes. Average sizes were final at slightly less than projected, and droppage remained the same at 12 percent. Although there was a slight increase in fruit size from last month, it was not significant enough to alter the forecast.

## ALL TANGERINES 4.8 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all tangerines remains 4.8 million boxes. This forecast is comprised of 2.6 million boxes of the early varieties (**Fallglo and Sunburst**) and 2.2 million boxes of the later maturing **Honey** variety.

Early tangerine harvest is nearly finished and including the 200,000 boxes allocated for local and gift fruit use, totals slightly over the forecast amount. Estimated production is 650,000 boxes of **Fallglo** and 1.95 million boxes of **Sunburst**.

The **Honey** tangerine forecast is maintained at 2.2 million boxes. Size and drop surveys are complete for the season. Fruit size averaged slightly smaller than projected in October and is the smallest in over ten seasons. Droppage at 34 percent is slightly below the previous ten season average. Harvest has started with slightly over 300,000 boxes harvested to the first of February compared to almost 500,000 boxes to the same time last year.

## TANGELOS 1.3 MILLION BOXES

The tangelo forecast remains at 1.3 million boxes (including an allocation of 100,000 boxes for non-certified use), unchanged since the initial forecast in October. Weekly utilization is tapering off and has dropped below 100,000 boxes. Fresh shipments have been steady with the decline occurring in processed fruit.

The Row Count survey indicated over 82 percent of the rows harvested through January 30, leaving ample fruit available to attain the forecast. If realized, this forecast will be the fifth consecutive season below 1.6 million boxes, something which has not happened since the early 1960s. Estimated utilization to February 1 is 1.18 million boxes.

**UNADJUSTED MATURITY TESTS: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 2006-07 and 2007-08 seasons**

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08
	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Percent</i>				<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Pounds</i>	

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

**ORANGES:**

Early (25-45)

Sep 1	1.76	1.81	9.42	9.41	5.48	5.27	42.75	40.81	4.01	3.83
Oct 1	1.22	1.32	9.49	10.17	8.05	7.85	49.04	46.14	4.65	4.69
Nov 1	0.98	0.91	10.27	10.08	10.78	11.28	50.42	50.57	5.18	5.10
Dec 1	0.89	0.85	10.80	10.82	12.29	12.93	50.58	52.39	5.46	5.66
Jan 1	0.77	0.75	11.75	11.81	15.47	16.06	50.67	51.81	5.96	6.11
Feb 1	0.76	0.75	12.55	12.49	16.90	16.70	50.77	50.47	6.36	6.30

Midseason (21-34)

Sep 1	1.77	2.02	9.31	9.59	5.39	4.83	43.53	41.62	4.05	3.99
Oct 1	1.27	1.52	9.52	9.57	7.61	6.42	50.66	45.91	4.83	4.40
Nov 1	1.06	1.03	10.30	10.37	9.77	10.27	50.63	51.45	5.22	5.34
Dec 1	0.87	0.98	10.80	11.14	12.49	11.52	52.89	50.68	5.72	5.64
Jan 1	0.82	0.87	12.11	12.25	14.97	14.41	52.58	51.80	6.38	6.35
Feb 1	0.78	0.81	12.91	12.62	16.84	15.76	51.42	51.29	6.64	6.47

Late (150-149)

Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.50	2.62	8.91	9.47	3.59	3.66	45.75	43.86	4.08	4.15
Nov 1	2.02	1.95	9.82	9.27	4.94	4.82	48.78	48.85	4.79	4.53
Dec 1	1.70	1.70	9.88	10.11	5.89	6.02	51.66	52.22	5.10	5.28
Jan 1	1.40	1.36	10.88	11.14	7.85	8.27	51.81	53.58	5.63	5.97
Feb 1	1.22	1.25	11.97	11.92	9.94	9.65	54.56	54.50	6.53	6.49

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, FEBRUARY 1, 2008**

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:**

Early						
Indian River District	8	0.73	12.50	17.30	49.25	6.16
Other Areas	37	0.76	12.49	16.57	50.73	6.33
Midseason						
Indian River District	11	0.79	13.02	16.65	51.43	6.69
Other Areas	23	0.83	12.43	15.33	51.22	6.36
Late						
Indian River District	25	1.28	11.97	9.52	57.02	6.83
Other Areas	124	1.25	11.91	9.67	54.00	6.43

## FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

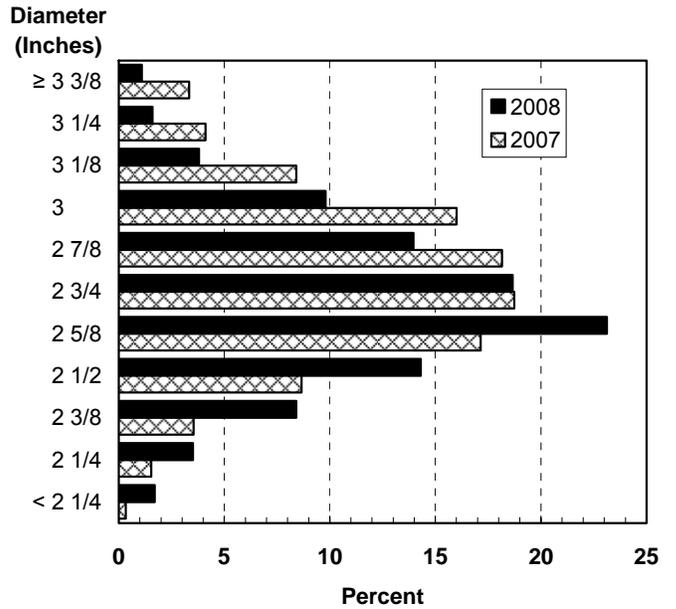
Size frequency distributions developed from the January size survey are shown in the following table. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. These frequency distributions relate to fruit from regular bloom and exclude summer bloom in all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

### FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from January measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	2006	2007	2008
--- Percent ---			
<b>VALENCIA ORANGES:</b>			
64 and larger	2.3	10.8	4.1
80	12.4	30.3	18.8
100	35.1	36.2	36.6
125	32.8	17.3	26.9
163 and smaller	17.4	5.4	13.6
<b>WHITE SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT:</b>			
32 and larger	26.7	30.0	7.6
36	25.2	24.0	18.4
40	20.8	19.3	21.0
48	11.4	11.1	21.1
56	7.0	6.3	13.5
63 and smaller	8.9	9.3	18.4
<b>COLORED SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT:</b>			
32 and larger	22.5	17.1	5.8
36	18.6	21.4	15.5
40	22.2	23.6	15.6
48	15.6	17.1	17.6
56	10.0	10.2	14.9
63 and smaller	11.1	10.6	30.6
<b>HONEY TANGERINES:</b>			
80 and larger	19.8	43.6	24.1
100	41.3	31.6	31.1
120	26.0	15.9	25.9
176	6.0	4.8	7.5
210 and smaller	6.9	4.1	11.4

The charts to the right 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:** Valencia orange size frequency by diameter from January measurements



**CHART 2:** White seedless grapefruit size frequency by diameter from January measurements

