

GRAPEFRUIT 24.5 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all Florida grapefruit is maintained at 24.5 million boxes including a total of 700,000 boxes for non-certified gift fruit and local sales. The components are unchanged with white grapefruit forecast at 7.5 million boxes and the colored varieties at 17.0 million boxes. If realized, this forecast will be 10 percent less than last season's utilization and 40 percent less than 2003-04, the last season prior to the two affected by hurricanes. An estimated total of 20.0 million boxes have been utilized to April 1.

The comparison of current utilization to results of the Row Count (route survey) conducted March 26-27 is the primary consideration used in setting the forecast this month. Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the rows visited in the survey have been harvested. Highest harvest percentages were noted in the Southern and Western areas but together they only represent five percent of the total. Over 85 percent of the survey rows are located in the Indian River District where 73 percent have been harvested.

At 7.5 million boxes, the **white** grapefruit forecast is 19 percent less than the utilization last season and less than half of the total 15.9 million box harvest of 2003-04 prior to the hurricane seasons. Almost 69 percent of the white grapefruit had been harvested prior to the route survey. Estimated utilization to the first of the month has surpassed 6.0 million boxes.

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

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2005-06	2006-07	Mar 11, 2008	Apr 9, 2008
	- - - 1,000 boxes - - -			
GRAPEFRUIT:				
Florida-All	19,300	27,200	24,500	24,500
White	6,500	9,300	7,500	7,500
Colored	12,800	17,900	17,000	17,000
California	6,000	5,500	5,000	5,000
Texas	5,200	7,100	6,600	6,400
Arizona	100	100	150	150
Total Grapefruit	30,600	39,900	36,250	36,050
LEMONS:				
California	22,000	18,500	17,000	17,000
Arizona	3,800	2,500	1,500	1,500
Total Lemons	25,800	21,000	18,500	18,500
TEMPLES:				
	700	^{1/}	^{1/}	^{1/}
TANGELOS: Florida				
	1,400	1,250	1,500	1,500
TANGERINES:				
Florida-All	5,500	4,600	4,800	4,800
Early ^{2/}	2,850	2,400	2,600	2,600
Honey	2,650	2,200	2,200	2,200
California ^{3/}	3,600	3,500	5,100	5,100
Arizona ^{3/}	550	300	400	400
Total Tangerines	9,650	8,400	10,300	10,300

^{1/} Included in early-midseason-Navel oranges.

^{2/} Fallglo and Sunburst varieties.

^{3/} Includes tangelos and tangors.

COMPONENTS USED IN THE APRIL FORECAST ^{1/}

Type	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
	(1,000)			
GRAPEFRUIT:				
White ^{2/}	1,862	557	18	99
Colored	4,155	499	12	109

^{1/} January data is considered final.

^{2/} Seedless variety only.

Colored grapefruit harvest is running ahead of white with 77 percent of the rows already picked. An estimated 14.0 million boxes have been utilized this season to April 1. The forecast of 17.0 million boxes is five percent below last season's production and slightly more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the harvest in 2003-04.

With the timely rainfall of the last several months, trees in well cared for groves are reported in excellent condition. Growers, caretakers, and field personnel report a moderate to heavy bloom on grapefruit.

ALL TANGERINES 4.8 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all tangerines is unchanged at 4.8 million boxes. The early tangerines are final at 2.6 million boxes and the honey tangerines remain at 2.2 million boxes.

Harvest of the early varieties (Fallglo and Sunburst) is final at 2.6 million boxes, including an allocation of 200,000 boxes for non-certified use. **Fallglo** comprised 650,000 boxes of the category, up three percent from 630,000 boxes last season. **Sunburst** accounted for $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total at 1.95 million boxes and is up 10 percent from 1.77 million boxes recorded in 2006-07.

The forecast of the later maturing **Honey** variety is held at 2.2 million boxes, unchanged since December. Traditionally, March is the heaviest month of fresh shipments. Although fresh numbers are lagging behind last season, the processed usage is estimated to be ahead. Harvest progressed rapidly through March and results of the route survey show 56 percent of the rows visited have been harvested. At this point, Row Count becomes a creditable indicator. The regression value is similar to last season's at this same time, supporting the current forecast.

TANGELOS 1.5 MILLION BOXES

The tangelo forecast is continued at 1.5 million boxes, including an allocation for non-certified use. During March, weekly utilizations have trickled in with nearly all fruit being processed. This forecast is 20 percent more than last season's harvest and seven percent more than in 2005-06.

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:

Late (125-139)											
Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.52	2.62	8.92	9.46	3.56	3.65	45.33	43.85	4.04	4.15	
Nov 1	2.06	1.97	9.83	9.27	4.84	4.78	48.94	48.84	4.81	4.53	
Dec 1	1.72	1.71	9.89	10.09	5.83	5.98	51.77	52.20	5.12	5.27	
Jan 1	1.43	1.37	10.90	11.14	7.74	8.21	51.81	53.60	5.64	5.97	
Feb 1	1.22	1.25	11.99	11.92	9.89	9.63	54.60	54.50	6.55	6.49	
Mar 1	1.13	1.14	12.61	12.55	11.25	11.16	54.76	54.70	6.91	6.87	
Apr 1	1.09	1.02	13.27	12.92	12.37	12.84	54.14	55.14	7.18	7.12	

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, 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:

Late						
Indian River District	24	1.08	13.46	12.61	56.24	7.56
Other Areas	115	1.01	12.81	12.89	54.91	7.03

FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

Size frequency distributions developed from the March 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.

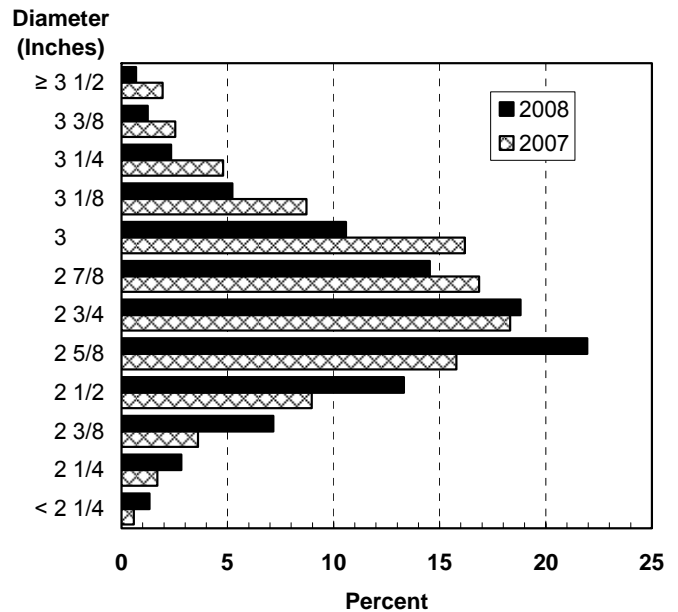
FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from March measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	2006	2007	2008
	--- Percent ---		

VALENCIA ORANGES:

64 and larger	3.0	12.7	6.2
80	13.5	29.6	20.7
100	34.8	34.5	36.8
125	31.5	17.3	25.0
163 and smaller	17.2	5.9	11.3

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



The chart to the right describes the relationship 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.