



# CITRUS DECEMBER FORECAST MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

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December 11, 2007

## ALL ORANGES REMAIN 168.0 MILLION BOXES

The Florida all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is 168.0 million boxes, unchanged from the initial forecast in October. This is 30 percent more than the 129.0 million boxes produced last season and 31 percent below the record high utilization of 244.0 million (Temples not included) in the 1997-98 season. The division remains as in October, 81.0 million boxes of early-midseason-Navel (including Temples) and 87.0 million boxes of late season Valencia oranges.

Excluding the 2004-05 and 2005-06 hurricane affected seasons, the December forecast has differed from final utilization by an average of 3.6 percent. Seasonal differences range from 8.2 percent below in 1999-00 to 8.5 percent above in 2006-07. Seven of the 10 seasons have been above and three below the final utilization.

## EARLY-MIDSEASON-NAVEL REMAIN 81.0 MILLION BOXES

The early-midseason-Navel (including Temples) portion of the orange forecast remains at 81.0 million boxes. An estimated 3.1 million boxes of this amount are **Navels**, unchanged from October. Navel harvest is underway with fresh fruit packing houses packing for gift fruit and fundraiser programs for the holidays.

**CITRUS PRODUCTION:** December 1, 2007  
Forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2005-06	2006-07	Oct 12, 2007	Dec 11, 2007
--- 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	43,000	43,000
Texas	1,400	1,600	1,450	1,450
Arizona	250	200	200	200
Total Above Varieties	123,650	101,400	125,650	125,650
<b>VALENCIAS:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>72,700</b>	<b>63,400</b>	<b>87,000</b>	<b>87,000</b>
California	14,000	11,000	15,000	15,000
Texas	200	380	350	350
Arizona	200	100	100	100
Total Valencias	87,100	74,880	102,450	102,450
<b>ALL ORANGES:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>147,700</b>	<b>129,000</b>	<b>168,000</b>	<b>168,000</b>
California	61,000	45,000	58,000	58,000
Texas	1,600	1,980	1,800	1,800
Arizona	450	300	300	300
Total All Oranges	210,750	176,280	228,100	228,100

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

## FORECAST DATES — 2007-08 SEASON

January 11, 2008	May 9, 2008
February 8, 2008	June 10, 2008
March 11, 2008	July 11, 2008
April 9, 2008	

Average fruit sizes of early-midseason oranges were the smallest ever measured in the month of November and are projected to be record small at harvest for a disaster-free season. Although low in October, the droppage rate increased over the last two months but is projected to be below the previous ten season non-hurricane average at harvest. Volume harvest for processing has just started.

## VALENCIA ORANGES 87.0 MILLION BOXES

The Valencia portion of the forecast is 87.0 million boxes, also unchanged from October. Average fruit sizes are small, although not record for this time of year and excluding the 2004-05 hurricane season, are projected to be the smallest since the 1992-93 season. Droppage is below the previous 10 non-hurricane season average and is projected to be below this average at harvest.

## COMPONENTS USED IN THE DECEMBER FORECAST

Type	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
(1,000)				
<b>ORANGES:</b>				
Early-Mid	24,473	1,052	8	271
Navel	1,284	440	10	138
Valencia	33,835	679	13	219

## FCOJ YIELD 1.60 GALLONS PER BOX

The initial projection of FCOJ yield of all oranges remains at 1.60 gallons per box. The average final yield over the last 10 seasons is 1.59 gallons per box. A separate projection of early-midseason and Valencia yield will be made next month.

## GRAPEFRUIT CONTINUES 25.0 MILLION BOXES

The Florida grapefruit forecast continues at 25.0 million boxes. However, there is a shift in the allocation between white and colored varieties. The white grapefruit forecast is lowered 1.0 million boxes to 8.0 million and the colored varieties forecast is increased 1.0 million to 17.0 million. With the exception of the hurricane-reduced 2004-05 and 2005-06 seasons, this grapefruit crop is forecast to be the lowest since the 24.2 million boxes harvested in the 1949-50 season.

The rate of fruit growth of **white** grapefruit has slowed since October. Droppage has increased and the combination indicates the reduced forecast. Average fruit size is projected to be the smallest on record in the series dating back to the 1968-69 season. It is now expected to take 103 pieces of fruit to fill an 85 pound field box. Although droppage is higher than average, it is expected to match last season's near 12 percent average.

The rate of fruit growth of **colored** grapefruit continues near the projected value in October and would result in the smallest sizes on record. Although still near the projected amount, droppage has slowed and now indicates slightly below the previous 10 season average at harvest. The combination indicates the increase in the forecast.

### CITRUS PRODUCTION: December 1, 2007 forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2005-06	2006-07	Oct 12, 2007	Dec 11, 2007
	--- 1,000 boxes ---			
<b>GRAPEFRUIT:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>19,300</b>	<b>27,200</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>9,300</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>
<b>Colored</b>	<b>12,800</b>	<b>17,900</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>
California	6,000	4,000	4,500	4,500
Texas	5,200	7,100	6,800	6,800
Arizona	100	100	200	200
Total Grapefruit	30,600	38,400	36,500	36,500
<b>LEMONS:</b>				
California	22,000	16,000	16,500	16,500
Arizona	3,800	2,500	1,500	1,500
Total Lemons	25,800	18,500	18,000	18,000
Temples: <b>Florida</b>	<b>700</b>	<sup>1/</sup>	<sup>1/</sup>	<sup>1/</sup>
Tangelos: <b>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>5,100</b>	<b>4,800</b>
Early <sup>2/</sup>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2,600</b>
Honey	<b>2,650</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,200</b>
California <sup>3/</sup>	3,600	2,900	4,700	4,700
Arizona <sup>3/</sup>	550	300	400	400
Total Tangerines	9,650	7,800	10,200	9,900

<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 DECEMBER FORECAST

Type	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
(1,000)				
<b>GRAPEFRUIT:</b>				
White <sup>1/</sup>	1,862	557	12	103
Colored	4,155	499	12	110

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

Combining the white and colored indicators continues to show the 25.0 million total box forecast.

Harvest of grapefruit is less than normal at this time because of later maturity and small sizes. Utilization to the first of December is estimated at 2.5 million boxes compared to 3.4 million last season to the same time. Most of the white grapefruit is being exported and colored varieties are being shipped to domestic and export markets.

## ALL TANGERINES REDUCED TO 4.8 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all tangerines is reduced 300,000 boxes to 4.8 million. All of the reduction is in the later maturing Honey variety. The forecast of early varieties remains at 2.6 million boxes, but the Honey variety is reduced from 2.5 million boxes to 2.2 million.

The early variety forecast, consisting of **Fallglo** and **Sunburst** tangerines, is continued at 2.6 million boxes. Harvest of Fallglo is near complete with an estimated 650,000 boxes utilized. Harvest of the Sunburst variety has begun and will continue strong through the holiday period. Sunburst fruit sizes measured in November indicate the smallest on record.

The **Honey** tangerine forecast is reduced 300,000 boxes to 2.2 million. The rate of fruit growth has slowed since October and is now projected to average the smallest since the 1989-90 freeze season. Fruit droppage has increased and the combination indicates the reduction in the forecast. Start of harvest may be delayed because of lagging maturity and small sizes.

## TANGELOS REMAIN 1.3 MILLION BOXES

The tangelo forecast is continued at 1.3 million boxes. Fruit sizes remain small with droppage low. Harvest of the Orlando variety for the holidays has started. Estimated utilization to the first of the month however is only 145,000 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>	
<i>Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.</i>										
<b>ORANGES:</b>										
Early (111-115)										
Sep 1	1.71	1.76	9.44	9.45	5.61	5.50	42.68	41.07	4.02	3.88
Oct 1	1.16	1.26	9.57	10.27	8.44	8.36	48.86	45.92	4.68	4.71
Nov 1	0.92	0.88	10.33	10.21	11.42	11.91	49.83	50.87	5.15	5.19
Dec 1	0.83	0.82	10.81	10.90	13.18	13.62	52.09	51.74	5.62	5.63
Mid (50-54)										
Sep 1	1.81	2.00	9.28	9.63	5.24	4.91	42.79	41.56	3.97	4.00
Oct 1	1.29	1.50	9.52	9.63	7.52	6.57	50.09	46.23	4.77	4.45
Nov 1	1.04	1.01	10.30	10.30	10.15	10.47	50.87	50.74	5.24	5.23
Dec 1	0.88	0.97	10.85	11.23	12.49	11.77	52.49	50.30	5.69	5.64
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
<b>GRAPEFRUIT:</b>										
White Seedless (47-45)										
Sep 1	1.87	1.94	10.55	10.18	5.64	5.31	32.16	30.29	3.38	3.08
Oct 1	1.60	1.64	10.51	10.09	6.59	6.17	37.28	35.63	3.91	3.59
Nov 1	1.58	1.40	10.78	9.96	6.85	7.17	41.47	41.40	4.46	4.12
Dec 1	1.56	1.37	10.87	10.08	7.01	7.40	42.90	44.15	4.67	4.45
Colored Seedless (46-48)										
Sep 1	1.86	1.96	10.46	10.52	5.65	5.40	31.91	30.61	3.33	3.21
Oct 1	1.55	1.67	10.49	10.56	6.79	6.36	38.76	35.34	4.06	3.73
Nov 1	1.54	1.40	11.26	10.43	7.37	7.50	42.75	41.69	4.81	4.35
Dec 1	1.45	1.37	10.94	10.64	7.57	7.79	43.94	44.79	4.81	4.76

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, DECEMBER 1, 2007**

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>
<b>ORANGES:</b>						
EARLY						
Indian River	9	0.84	10.79	13.16	51.47	5.55
Other Areas	106	0.82	10.91	13.66	51.76	5.64
MIDSEASON						
Indian River	11	1.00	11.10	11.13	52.44	5.81
Other Areas	43	0.96	11.26	11.94	49.75	5.60
LATE						
Indian River	25	1.83	10.03	5.54	53.24	5.17
Other Areas	124	1.68	10.12	6.12	52.02	5.26
<b>GRAPEFRUIT:</b>						
WHITE SEEDLESS						
Indian River	35	1.39	10.11	7.31	43.88	4.44
Other Areas	10	1.31	9.96	7.68	45.12	4.49
COLORED SEEDLESS						
Indian River	38	1.39	10.62	7.69	45.01	4.78
Other Areas	10	1.31	10.69	8.20	43.94	4.69

## FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

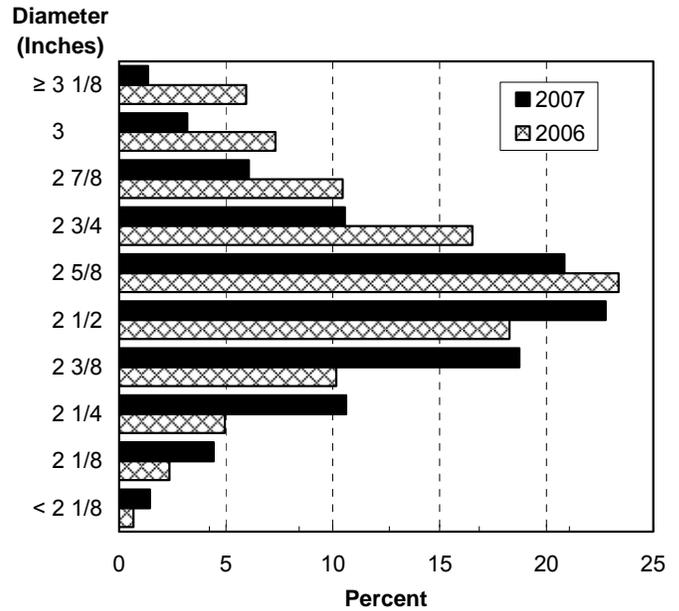
Size frequency distributions developed from the November size survey are shown in the following table. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. These frequency distributions relate to fruit from regular bloom and exclude summer bloom in all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

**FLORIDA CITRUS:** Size frequency distributions from November measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	2005	2006	2007
--- Percent ---			
<b>EARLY AND MIDSEASON ORANGES:</b>			
<b>(excluding Navels)</b>			
64 and larger	0.4	3.9	0.8
80	3.3	13.9	6.1
100	17.2	32.8	22.0
125	37.3	31.3	35.9
163 and smaller	41.8	18.1	35.2
<b>NAVEL ORANGES:</b>			
64 and larger	49.9	75.4	52.8
80	33.5	20.4	32.3
100	13.1	3.7	9.9
125	2.7	0.5	3.8
163 and smaller	0.8	0.0	1.2
<b>VALENCIA ORANGES:</b>			
64 and larger	0.6	2.7	1.1
80	6.0	16.4	7.8
100	27.8	37.1	28.7
125	39.1	29.5	35.1
163 and smaller	26.5	14.3	27.3
<b>WHITE SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT:</b>			
32 and larger	16.7	11.1	3.7
36	19.3	19.7	10.0
40	26.3	25.0	15.0
48	15.5	17.7	22.3
56	9.7	11.0	17.2
63 and smaller	12.5	15.5	31.8
<b>COLORED SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT:</b>			
32 and larger	14.1	4.3	2.7
36	14.1	12.1	7.3
40	23.3	22.5	13.7
48	17.4	21.1	21.7
56	12.9	16.1	14.3
63 and smaller	18.2	23.9	40.3
<b>SUNBURST TANGERINES:</b>			
80 and larger	9.3	10.3	7.3
100 and larger	21.5	27.8	18.6
120	25.2	27.8	32.1
176	15.3	18.1	13.4
210 and smaller	28.7	16.0	28.6
<b>HONEY TANGERINES</b>			
80 and larger	2.6	7.5	2.6
100	18.5	25.0	14.7
120	40.2	34.1	27.0
176	18.7	12.5	18.8
210 and smaller	20.0	20.9	36.9
<b>TANGELOS:</b>			
80 and larger	18.9	40.8	22.7
100	33.3	34.2	25.6
120	25.6	17.3	25.6
156 and smaller	22.2	7.7	26.1

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 eight 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

