



CITRUS APRIL FORECAST

MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

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ALL ORANGES NOW 157.6 MILLION BOXES

The Florida all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is decreased 400,000 boxes to 157.6 million. If attained, this forecast will be 7% less than harvested in the 2007-08 season. The decrease is in the early-midseason-Navel portion (including Temples) which is now 84.6 million boxes. The Valencia portion remains at 73.0 million boxes. In the past eight seasons not affected by hurricanes, the April forecast has differed from final production by an average of 1.3% with four of the seasons above and four below final production.

EARLY-MIDSEASON-NAVELS NOW 84.6 MILLION BOXES

The early-midseason-Navel category (including Temples) is adjusted to 84.6 million boxes. The Navel portion is final at 3.0 million boxes. The primary indicator, the Row Count survey, conducted March 30 showed over 98% of the rows harvested. Weekly harvest declined sharply the last two weeks of March indicating harvest is near completion. The total early-midseason-Navel forecast is 1.3% more than the 83.5 million boxes produced in the 2007-08 season. The final estimate of production includes 1.0 million boxes of gift fruit and non-

FORECAST DATES — 2008-09 SEASON	
May 12, 2009	June 10, 2009
July 10, 2009	

certified production, consisting of 500,000 boxes each of Navel and other early-midseason oranges (with Temples).

VALENCIAS CONTINUED AT 73.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of the late type (Valencia) category remains at 73.0 million boxes. Objective count measurements of fruit size and droppage are final in the March survey. The droppage rate, at 15%, is slightly above the average of the eight most recent non-hurricane seasons. Other than last season and the hurricane impacted 2005-06 season, average fruit size at 220 fruit per box is the smallest since 1992-93.

The monthly Row Count survey conducted March 30 showed 19% of the Valencia rows were picked. Harvest is increasing rapidly with an estimated 4.6 million boxes picked the last week of March.

CITRUS PRODUCTION: APRIL 1, 2009
Forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2006-07	2007-08	Mar 11, 2009	Apr 9, 2009
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
EARLY, MIDSEASON, AND NAVAL ORANGES:				
FLORIDA ^{1/}	65,600	83,500	85,000	84,600
California	34,500	45,000	34,500	38,000
Texas	1,600	1,500	1,450	1,550
Arizona	200	230	150	150
Total Above Varieties	101,900	130,230	121,100	124,300
VALENCIAS:				
FLORIDA	63,400	86,700	73,000	73,000
California	11,500	17,000	15,000	15,000
Texas	380	234	200	150
Arizona	100	150	100	150
Total Valencias	75,380	104,084	88,300	88,300
ALL ORANGES:				
FLORIDA	129,000	170,200	158,000	157,600
California	46,000	62,000	49,500	53,000
Texas	1,980	1,734	1,650	1,700
Arizona	300	380	250	300
Total All Oranges	177,280	234,314	209,400	212,600

^{1/} Includes Temples

COMPONENTS USED IN THE APRIL FORECAST^{1/}

Type	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
	(1,000)			
ORANGES:				
Early-mid	24,596	1,079	11	257
Navel	1,231	469	11	139
Valencia	34,151	574	15	220

^{1/} Survey data is considered final in December for Navels, January for early-midseason oranges, and April for Valencias.

FCOJ YIELD 1.64 GALLONS PER BOX

The all orange projection of yield for FCOJ is continued at 1.64 gallons per box. Last season's final yield was a record at 1.67274 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion is final at 1.597195 gallons per box, the highest yield on record for this variety. The projection of the Valencia portion remains at 1.70 gallons per box.

GRAPEFRUIT 23.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all Florida grapefruit is maintained at 23.0 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 7.0 million boxes and the colored varieties at 16.0 million boxes. If realized, this forecast will be 14% less than last season's utilization of 26.6 million boxes. An estimated total of 18.5 million boxes have been utilized to April 1.

The comparison of current utilization to results of the Row Count (route survey) conducted March 30 is the primary consideration used in setting the forecast this month. Of the rows visited in the survey, 81% had been harvested. Highest weighted harvest percentages were noted in the Northern and Western areas, representing only 2% of the total rows. The majority of the survey rows are located in the Indian River District, where over 75% had been harvested.

With the lack of rainfall over the past several months, growers and caretakers have been irrigating regularly to keep the trees and fruit in good condition. Field personnel report a uniform bloom and a fully expanded flush on grapefruit. Caretakers are fertilizing and conducting best management practices to assist the trees in preparation for next season's fruit set.

At 7.0 million boxes, the **white** grapefruit forecast is 2.0 million boxes less than the total utilization of last season. Survey data from Row Count showed 67% of the white grapefruit harvested, the least since the 2001-02 season. Estimated utilization to the first of the month is

CITRUS PRODUCTION: April 1, 2009 forecasts by varieties and States, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2006-07	2007-08	Mar 11, 2009	Apr 9, 2009
	--- 1,000 boxes ---			
GRAPEFRUIT:				
Florida-All	27,200	26,600	23,000	23,000
White	9,300	9,000	7,000	7,000
Colored	17,900	17,600	16,000	16,000
California	5,500	5,200	4,500	4,400
Texas	7,100	6,100	5,700	6,200
Arizona	100	100	150	150
Total Grapefruit	39,900	38,000	33,350	33,750
LEMONS:				
California	18,500	14,800	19,000	19,000
Arizona	2,500	1,500	2,500	2,500
Total Lemons	21,000	16,300	21,500	21,500
TANGELOS: Florida	1,250	1,500	1,200	1,200
TANGERINES:				
Florida-All	4,600	5,500	4,000	4,000
Early ^{1/}	2,400	2,600	2,600	2,600
Honey	2,200	2,900	1,400	1,400
California ^{2/}	3,500	6,700	7,000	6,700
Arizona ^{2/}	300	400	250	250
Total Tangerines	8,400	12,600	11,250	10,950

^{1/} Fallglo and Sunburst varieties.

^{2/} 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/}	1,688	401	9	85
Colored	4,035	425	12	97

^{1/} January survey data is considered final.

^{2/} Seedless variety only.

4.6 million boxes, with 70% of the white grapefruit going to the processing plants.

The forecast of **colored** grapefruit is unchanged at 16.0 million boxes. Colored grapefruit are of excellent quality this year and in high demand. The Row Count survey showed 87% of the colored grapefruit harvested. An estimated 13.9 million boxes have been utilized this season to April 1, with a majority going to the fresh market.

ALL TANGERINES 4.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all tangerines is unchanged at 4.0 million boxes. The early tangerines remain at 2.6 million boxes and the Honey tangerines continue at 1.4 million boxes.

Harvest of the early varieties (Fallglo and Sunburst) is 2.6 million boxes, including an allocation of 200,000 boxes for non-certified use, with **Sunburst** accounting for 3/4 of the total.

The forecast of the later maturing **Honey** variety is held at 1.4 million boxes. The Row Count survey conducted March 30 supports the current forecast. Typically, harvest of Honey tangerines comes to an end toward the final weeks of May. However, due to the acceleration in picking during late January and early February, many of the Honeys are harvested. Approximately, 86% of the rows visited during the last survey were picked. Honey tangerines are grown for the fresh fruit market and its harvest season is now close to complete.

TANGELOS 1.2 MILLION BOXES

The tangelo forecast is continued at 1.2 million boxes, including an allocation for non-certified use. This forecast is 20% less than last season's 1.5 million boxes, and is the same as the second lowest total, harvested in the 1965-66 season. Tangelos are relatively done for the season. During March, weekly utilizations dropped to an average of 4,000 boxes, all of which were processed.

UNADJUSTED MATURITY TESTS: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 2007-08 and 2008-09 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09
	<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 (139-124)											
Oct 1	2.62	2.49	9.46	8.87	3.65	3.61	43.85	47.41	4.15	4.21	
Nov 1	1.97	1.89	9.27	9.32	4.78	5.01	48.84	51.76	4.53	4.82	
Dec 1	1.71	1.63	10.09	10.19	5.98	6.33	52.20	54.07	5.27	5.51	
Jan 1	1.37	1.39	11.14	11.13	8.21	8.11	53.60	55.74	5.97	6.20	
Feb 1	1.25	1.35	11.92	11.78	9.63	8.84	54.50	55.37	6.49	6.52	
Feb 15	NA	1.30	NA	12.08	NA	9.36	NA	56.57	NA	6.83	
Mar 1	1.14	1.24	12.55	12.60	11.16	10.28	54.70	55.09	6.87	6.94	
Apr 1	1.02	1.10	12.92	12.83	12.84	11.73	55.14	54.12	7.12	6.94	

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, 2009

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	22	1.15	13.00	11.37	53.91	7.01
Other Areas	102	1.09	12.79	11.81	54.16	6.93

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.

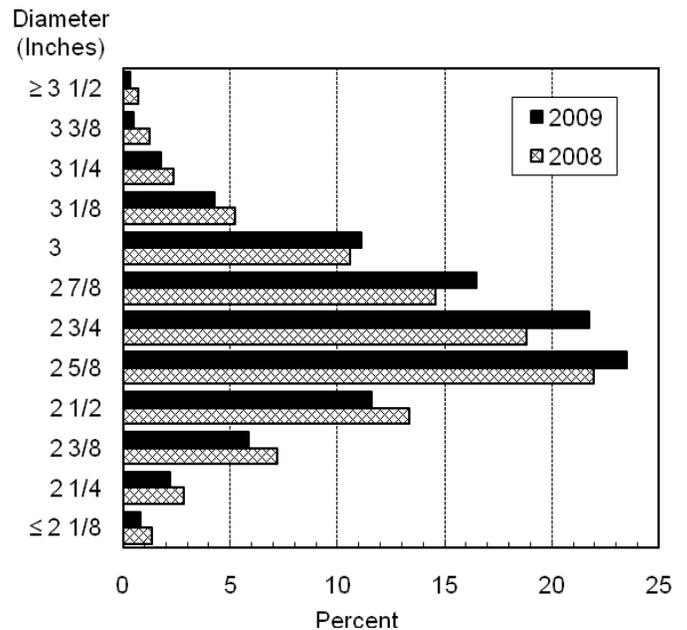
FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from March measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	2007	2008	2009
	--- Percent ---		

VALENCIA ORANGES:

64 and larger	12.7	6.2	3.9
80	29.6	20.7	21.5
100	34.5	36.8	41.7
125	17.3	25.0	24.1
163 and smaller	5.9	11.3	8.8

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.