



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

CITRUS MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND
FREEZE DAMAGE REPORT



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Samples for the mid-February orange maturity tests were collected February 11-12, 2009 and tested February 13, 2009 at the laboratory of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Florida Field Office. Of the 204 sample groves used in the January 27-28, 2009 survey, 28 have been harvested. The comparisons in the table below are from fruit from the remaining groves only. When a sample grove is harvested, its historical data is not used in these comparisons.

Test results show an increase in acid percent for early and midseason oranges from the February 1, 2009 survey, but show a decrease for late oranges. Solids to acid ratio is higher for early and late oranges. Unfinished juice per box decreased for early oranges, but increased for midseason and late oranges. Solids per box is higher on all varieties. There will be no FCOJ projections made from these mid-month maturity tests. The next FCOJ forecast will be included in the March 11, 2009 forecast and available at 8:30 a.m.

UNADJUSTED MATURITY TESTS: Averages of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 2008-09 season

Fruit type and test date (No.groves)	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	<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 (14)

Sep 1	1.46	9.26	6.41	45.53	4.22
Oct 1	1.13	9.79	8.74	47.96	4.69
Nov 1	0.83	9.97	12.09	53.81	5.35
Dec 1	0.83	11.18	13.70	52.68	5.89
Jan 1	0.79	12.01	15.49	51.96	6.24
Feb 1	0.78	12.35	16.13	51.21	6.31
Feb 15	0.81	12.89	16.38	49.41	6.36

Midseason (16)

Sep 1	1.69	8.94	5.32	44.96	4.03
Oct 1	1.32	9.53	7.35	50.06	4.77
Nov 1	0.91	10.21	11.29	54.00	5.51
Dec 1	0.90	11.21	12.72	53.80	6.03
Jan 1	0.88	12.04	13.93	54.30	6.55
Feb 1	0.91	12.65	14.11	51.54	6.51
Feb 15	0.92	12.57	13.84	52.25	6.57

Late (146)

Oct 1	2.49	8.86	3.61	47.30	4.19
Nov 1	1.87	9.30	5.05	51.84	4.82
Dec 1	1.62	10.20	6.39	54.03	5.51
Jan 1	1.39	11.15	8.11	55.71	6.21
Feb 1	1.34	11.77	8.85	55.49	6.53
Feb 15	1.30	12.07	9.37	56.53	6.82

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.

This report presents the results of the special orange survey conducted on February 11-12, 2009 to assess fruit and leaf damage caused by the subfreezing temperatures that occurred on January 21-22, 2009 and again on February 5-6, 2009. Personnel from the Florida Agricultural Statistics Service checked fruit and trees in identical sample groves across the State's production areas. Using the Federal-State Inspection Service standards, fruit was cut and scored for damage at depths of ¼-inch, ½-inch, and at the center, recording the point of greatest severity of damage.

The tables below show the comparisons in the severity of damage between successive survey periods. In all instances, the large majority of samples observed fell into the "no damage apparent" category. In freeze damaged groves, it is assumed that fruit remaining on trees will increasingly dry out, and observable damage will progress toward the center of the fruit.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Condition of fruit on trees by variety and survey dates, 2009

Fruit type and survey date (No. groves)	No damage apparent		Damage at ¼-inch cut		Damage at ½-inch cut		Damage at center cut			
							Minor		Major	
	Jan 27-28	Feb 11-12	Jan 27-28	Feb 11-12	Jan 27-28	Feb 11-12	Jan 27-28	Feb 11-12	Jan 27-28	Feb 11-12
<i>Percent</i>										
ORANGES:										
Early (31-14)	86.7	77.7	10.9	11.6	1.2	7.1	0.4	3.6	0.8	--
Midseason (26-16)	84.6	85.2	8.2	5.5	3.8	2.3	3.4	7.0	--	--
Late (147-146)	97.8	94.4	1.7	4.5	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.3	--	0.1

FLORIDA CITRUS: Condition of fruit on trees by production areas and survey dates, 2009

Fruit type and production area (No. groves)	No damage apparent		Damage at ¼-inch cut		Damage at ½-inch cut		Damage at center cut			
							Minor		Major	
	Jan 27-28	Feb 11-12	Jan 27-28	Feb 11-12	Jan 27-28	Feb 11-12	Jan 27-28	Feb 11-12	Jan 27-28	Feb 11-12
<i>Percent</i>										
Late Oranges (147-146)										
Indian River	100.0	96.4	--	3.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Northern	82.5	80.0	17.5	10.0	--	5.0	--	2.5	--	2.5
Central	97.2	96.5	1.9	2.6	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.3	--	--
Western	97.1	90.4	2.3	8.5	0.3	1.1	0.3	--	--	--
Southern	99.7	96.0	--	3.1	0.3	0.3	--	0.6	--	--
Total	97.8	94.4	1.7	4.5	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.3	--	0.1

FLORIDA CITRUS: Condition of trees by production areas and survey dates, 2009

Fruit type and production area (No. groves)	No leaf damage apparent		Leaf damage				Serious leaf damage	
			Minor		Major			
	Jan 27-28	Feb 11-12	Jan 27-28	Feb 11-12	Jan 27-28	Feb 11-12	Jan 27-28	Feb 11-12
<i>Percent</i>								
Late Oranges (147-146)								
Indian River	87.0	85.7	9.3	7.2	3.7	7.1	--	--
Northern	90.0	95.0	10.0	5.0	--	--	--	--
Central	86.3	94.2	13.7	5.8	--	--	--	--
Western	84.9	92.7	15.1	5.1	--	2.2	--	--
Southern	98.7	82.5	1.3	15.6	--	1.9	--	--
Total	89.3	89.0	10.0	8.6	0.7	2.4	--	--