

All Oranges 145.2 Million Boxes

The 2011-2012 Florida all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is increased 200,000 boxes to 145.2 million boxes. The total is comprised of 74.2 million boxes of non-Valencia oranges (early, midseason, Navel, and Temple varieties) and 71.0 million boxes of Valencia oranges. The hurricane seasons of 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 have been excluded from the usual 10-year regression analysis and from comparisons of the current season to previous seasons. For those previous 8 seasons, the May forecast has deviated from final production by an average of 1 percent with 2 seasons above and 6 below, with differences ranging from 1 percent above to 3 percent below. All references to "average", "minimum", or "maximum" refer to the previous eight non-hurricane seasons unless noted.

Non-Valencia Oranges 74.2 Million Boxes

The forecast of non-Valencia orange production is increased by 200,000 boxes to 74.2 million boxes based on utilization. This forecast is nearly 4 million boxes greater than last season's production. The route survey (Row Count) conducted May 1-2 indicated over 99 percent of the non-Valencia rows were harvested. The Navel forecast, included in the non-Valencia forecast is final at 2.65 million boxes which equals the 2010-2011 utilization.

Valencia Oranges 71.0 Million Boxes

The forecast of Valencia production is unchanged at 71.0 million boxes. Weekly utilization of Valencias peaked at over 6 million boxes the second week of April. The route survey (Row Count) conducted May 1-2 showed 75 percent of the rows have been harvested. If realized, this forecast will surpass the utilization of the past two seasons.

All Grapefruit 18.8 Million Boxes

The forecast of all grapefruit production is unchanged from the previous forecast. Of the total grapefruit forecast, 5.3 million boxes are white and 13.5 million boxes are the colored varieties. The route survey conducted May 1-2 shows 98 percent of the white rows and 94 percent of the colored rows were harvested. Grapefruit utilization recovered after the two hurricane seasons, but has been declining since 2006-2007.

All Tangerines 4.3 Million Boxes

The forecast of all tangerine production is unchanged at 4.3 million boxes, consisting of the early varieties (Fallglo and Sunburst) at 2.35 million boxes and the later maturing Honey tangerine variety at 1.95 million boxes. Both the early tangerine varieties and the Honey tangerine harvest are complete for the season. The all tangerine forecast is 8 percent below the 2010-2011 production.

Tangelos 1.15 Million Boxes

The forecast of tangelo production is unchanged from the previous forecast. The Row Count survey showed all of the rows harvested. This harvest equals the 2010-2011 utilization, and is 28 percent higher than the 2009-2010 season.

FCOJ Yield Reduced to 1.61 Gallons per Box

The projection for frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) is reduced to 1.61 gallons per box of 42° Brix concentrate for all oranges, down from 1.62 gallons per box in April. The late (Valencia) projection is 1.71 gallons per box, down from 1.72 gallons per box last month. The early-midseason component is final at 1.555402 gallons per box, as reported by the Florida Department of Citrus. Last season's final yields as reported by the Florida Department of Citrus are: all oranges, 1.586081 gallons per box; early-midseason, 1.522652; and late season (Valencia), 1.664737.

Weather

In the citrus growing areas, weather stations reported temperatures ranging from highs in the upper 80s to lower 90s. Rainfall was generally light across the citrus producing region, with the exception of one storm bringing moderate rainfall toward the end of the month. Drought conditions in the citrus region ranged from moderate on the East Coast to extreme on much of the West Coast according to the U.S. Drought Monitor as of May 1, 2012.

Maturity – Florida: May 1, 2012

On May 1-2, 2012, regular bloom fruit samples were collected from groves on established routes in Florida's five major citrus producing areas. Fruit was tested at the laboratory of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Florida Field Office on May 3, 2012. Acid level is lower and soluble solids (Brix) are higher than last season, resulting in a higher ratio. Unfinished juice per box is higher than last season, but down from last month. Solids per box are higher than last season. Acid levels and soluble solids in fruit from the Indian River District are higher than in other areas, and the ratio is lower. Both unfinished juice per box and solids per box are higher in fruit from the Indian River than in fruit from other areas.

Citrus Unadjusted Maturity Tests — Florida: 2010-2011 and 2011-2012

[Averages of regular bloom fruit from sample groves. Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to juice processing plant test results. 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]

Fruit type (number of groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2010-2011	2011-2012	2010-2011	2011-2012	2010-2011	2011-2012	2010-2011	2011-2012
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)			(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
LATE ORANGES (71-44)										
Oct 1	2.63	2.20	9.06	8.92	3.48	4.11	43.64	48.93	3.95	4.35
Nov 1	2.09	1.59	9.76	9.46	4.71	6.12	48.90	50.97	4.77	4.82
Dec 1	1.67	1.45	10.47	10.40	6.31	7.31	50.98	55.29	5.34	5.75
Jan 1	1.54	1.21	11.15	11.43	7.30	9.60	51.03	56.69	5.68	6.48
Feb 1	1.35	1.17	12.09	12.19	9.07	10.57	51.43	56.26	6.22	6.85
Mar 1	1.17	1.05	12.40	12.68	10.66	12.29	51.65	54.77	6.40	6.94
Apr 1	1.06	0.88	12.83	12.70	12.26	14.83	51.97	56.42	6.67	7.16
May 1	0.89	0.83	13.14	13.38	15.00	16.47	53.28	55.33	7.00	7.40

Citrus Maturity Test Averages, by Areas — Florida: May 1, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012

Fruit type (number of groves)	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2010-2011	2011-2012	2010-2011	2011-2012	2010-2011	2011-2012	2010-2011	2011-2012
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)			(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Late Oranges										
Indian River (14-12).....	0.99	0.94	13.92	13.87	14.10	15.19	51.54	55.38	7.18	7.67
Other Areas (57-32).....	0.87	0.79	12.95	13.19	15.23	16.95	53.70	55.31	6.96	7.29

Fruit Size Comparisons by Types to Previous Seasons

Size frequency distributions from the April 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 include fruit from regular bloom and exclude fruit from summer bloom. The charts below show the distribution of fruit sizes in 2012 compared to 2011. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of fruit measured, except for the smallest values.

Citrus Size Frequency Measurement Distributions, by Type — Florida: April Survey

Type and number of fruit per 4/5 - bushel containers	2010	2011	2012
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
VALENCIA ORANGES			
64 or less.....	8.2	5.3	5.1
80.....	24.2	19.2	23.7
100.....	38.1	35.6	42.8
125.....	21.0	25.6	22.4
163 or more.....	8.5	14.3	6.0

Fruit Size Frequency Measurements, Valencia Oranges, by Diameter – Florida: April Survey

