



May 3, 1979

Production of Florida lemons in 1978 was 700,000 boxes, almost double the boxes harvested in 1977, but still far below the levels established before the January 1977 freeze. Volume of true lemon varieties and Meyer lemons increased from a year earlier at about the same rate.

Value of production in 1978 at \$2,450,000 was more than double the 1977 value due to increased crop size and a record price per box. About 40 percent of the true lemon crop moved into fresh channels which accounted for their

higher returns as compared to Meyer fruit which is primarily processed.

Acreage of true lemon varieties continues to decline while that of Meyers has stabilized. True lemon acreage which peaked in the early 1970's has been steadily declining and the 1977 freeze sharply accelerated the tree loss. Very little of the lost lemon acreage is being reset.

Lemon trees are in good condition and production during the summer of 1979 is expected to be up from last season.

Florida lemons: Bearing acreage, production, season average on-tree prices and value for crop years 1967 through 1978

Season	True lemons			Meyer lemons			All lemons			
	Bearing acres	Production	Price per box	Bearing acres	Production	Price per box	Bearing acres	Production	Price per box	Value of production
	1,000 acres	1,000 boxes	Dols.	1,000 acres	1,000 boxes	Dols	1,000 acres	1,000 boxes	Dols	1,000 dols.
1967	5.2	230	1.70	1.4	380	1.10	6.6	610	1.32	805
1968	5.8	430	1.60	1.6	540	1.30	7.4	970	1.42	1,377
1969	6.3	890	1.75	1.7	620	1.05	8.0	1,510	1.47	2,220
1970	6.7	750	2.05	1.7	495	1.00	8.4	1,245	1.61	2,004
1971	7.1	1,140	2.50	1.6	325	1.50	8.7	1,465	2.23	3,267
1972	6.8	1,180	3.00	1.6	670	1.40	8.4	1,850	2.47	4,570
1973	6.3	1,010	3.25	1.6	590	1.45	7.9	1,600	2.58	4,128
1974	6.0	1,150	2.50	1.6	530	.70	7.6	1,680	1.92	3,231
1975	5.4	850	3.60	1.5	450	1.45	6.9	1,300	2.85	3,697
1976	5.6	900	2.45	1.4	470	1.30	7.0	1,370	2.05	2,808
1977	3.7	200	4.55	1.4	190	1.55	5.1	390	3.05	1,190
1978 ^{1/}	3.5	370	5.25	1.4	330	1.60	4.9	700	3.50	2,450

^{1/} Preliminary.



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