



May 21, 1976

Production of Florida lemons in 1975 was 1,300,000 boxes, down 23 percent from the 1,680,000 harvested in 1974. Reduction in the crop size resulted in a much lower volume going to processors. All of the true lemon varieties were harvested; however, this is the second consecutive season that some of the Meyer crop was unharvested because of low demand for processed fruit.

Total value of production was virtually unchanged, at \$3,232,000. Increased volume of Villa-Franca varieties moving into fresh channels at a higher price accounts for the increased

value of the true lemon crop. True lemons have a higher per box price at processing plants as well, due to higher yields and better quality oils and acid.

The bearing acreage of lemons has continued to decline since the peak in the 1971 season. Much of the new nonbearing acreage is from reset trees in older groves.

The lemon season in Florida begins with bloom in early spring and is completed with harvest in the summer and fall of the same calendar year.

Florida lemons: Bearing acreage, production and season average on-tree prices for crop years 1967 through 1975

Season	True lemons			Meyer lemons			All lemons			
	Bearing acres	Production boxes	Price per box Dols.	Bearing acres	Production boxes	Price per box Dols.	Bearing acres	Production boxes	Price per box Dols.	Value of production dols.
	1,000 acres	1,000 boxes		1,000 acres	1,000 boxes		1,000 acres	1,000 boxes		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 1/	5.9	850	3.35	1.4	450	.90	7.3	1,300	2.50	3,232

1/ Preliminary.

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