

Florida Citrus



LEMON PRODUCTION

June 4, 1975

Production of Florida lemons in 1974 was 1,680,000 boxes, up 5 percent from the previous crop. The Villa-Franca varieties had a substantial increase in volume, but harvest of the Meyer variety was below the 1973 crop. There are reports that some Meyer fruit may not have been clean harvested.

On-tree prices in 1974 were down sharply from those reported in 1973. Value of production was off also, even though total boxes climbed slightly. Increased supply of lemons worldwide affected the Florida market. Part

of the true lemon crop is marketed through fresh channels, which contributes to the higher box price. True lemons also yield more acid and oils for byproducts than does the Meyer variety.

The bearing acreage of lemons has continued to decline since the peak in the 1971 season. Much of the new non-bearing 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 1974

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 <u>1/</u>	1,010	3.25	1.6 <u>1/</u>	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

1/ Revised

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