

FLORIDA CROPS

LEMON PRODUCTION
June 18, 1973

Final utilization indicates Florida's 1972 lemon crop was a record high 1,700,000 boxes. Return of Meyer's to near normal production following severe freeze damage in 1971 accounts for most of the gain over the previous crop year. The Villa-Franca varieties have shown the greatest overall gain during the 1967-72 period, increasing by 5 fold. Most of these trees were set in the mid-1960's. Average age of trees that produced the 1972 true lemon crop was just 8 years, in contrast to approximately 12 years for the Meyer variety. True lemon production should continue to increase over the next few years as young trees increase in bear-

ing surface.

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

A record on-tree price was also registered in 1972. The \$2.57 for a 1 3/5 bushel box, or 90 pound equivalent, was up 12 percent from the price received in the 1971 season. Greatest gains were recorded in the Villa-Franca's which have been shipped fresh in increasing volume the last several years. Increased value of by-products helped account for some of the price rise.

Florida Lemons: Bearing Acreage, Production and Season Average on Tree Prices for Crop Years 1967 through 1972

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	806
1968	5.8	430	1.60	1.6	540	1.30	7.4	970	1.42	1,375
1969	6.3	890	1.75	1.7	620	1.05	8.0	1,510	1.47	2,219
1970	6.7	750	2.05	1.7	450	1.00	8.4	1,200	1.66	1,994
1971	7.1	1,140	2.50	1.6	240	1.50	8.7	1,380	2.30	3,178
1972	6.8	1,180	3.00	1.6	520	1.40	8.4	1,700	2.57	4,369

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FLORIDA CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORTING SERVICE

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