

Florida Citrus



LEMON PRODUCTION AND VALUE March 25, 1982

Production of Florida lemons in 1981 was 1,210,000 boxes, 18 percent less than the 1980 crop. The January, 1981 freeze did not materially affect the true lemon crops which are grown in the East Coast and Lower Interior areas. However, West Coast areas of the State where the Meyers are principally grown suffered some production loss.

Value of production decreased to \$6,602,000 in 1981, down 28 percent from the previous season's record high value of \$9,176,000. Average price per box decreased to \$5.45. About 25 percent of the lemon crop (primarily trues) went into fresh channels

as compared to 35 percent of the previous year's crop. The Meyer crop is primarily used for processing.

The 1981 bearing acreage decreased slightly, mostly in the true lemon variety. The January, 1982 freeze did considerably more damage than the 1981 freeze. Some acreage has been affected but total tree loss is unknown at this time.

Because of the January 1982 freeze, production prospects for the 1982 crop are uncertain. True varieties were in bloom at the time of the freeze, and the effect on this crop may be severe. East Coast groves were hard hit by the freeze.

Florida lemons: Bearing acreage, production, season average on-tree prices and value for crop years 1967 through 1981

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	3.5	370	5.25	1.4	330	1.60	4.9	700	3.50	2,450
1979	3.9	770	8.90	1.3	480	2.50	5.2	1,250	6.45	8,063
1980	3.8	850	7.90	1.3	630	3.95	5.1	1,480	6.20	9,176
1981	3.7	870	6.70	1.3	340	2.20	5.0	1,210	5.45	6,602



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