

Florida Citrus



LEMON PRODUCTION AND VALUE

April 21, 1981

Production of Florida lemons in 1980 was 1,480,000 boxes, 18 percent more than the 1,250,000 boxes produced in 1979. Production has returned to the level of the early 1970's.

Value of production increased from \$8,063,000 in 1979 to \$9,176,000 in 1980, up almost 14 percent, to set another record. Average price per box decreased slightly from 1979 but is still high compared to previous seasons. About 35 percent of the true lemon crop went into fresh channels, which accounts in part for the higher returns. The Meyer crop is primarily used for processing.

The 1980 bearing acreage decreased slightly, mostly in the true lemon variety. As shown by the January 1980 Tree Census, there were 400 acres of nonbearing trees, nearly all true varieties. Tree loss, if any, from the January, 1981 freeze is unknown at this time.

Production prospects for 1981 harvest are excellent at this time. True varieties bloomed at the normal time, in both the East Coast and Lower Interior growing areas. Meyers in the Ruskin area appear to have escaped major damage from the mid January freeze.

Florida lemons: Bearing acreage, production, season average on-tree prices and value for crop years 1967 through 1980

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



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