



May 19, 1977

Production of Florida lemons in 1976 was 1,370,000 boxes, up slightly from the 1,300,000 harvested in 1975. This level of production is lower than other recent years as the result of reduced commercial acreage of bearing age.

Total value of production for the 1976 crop was \$2,261,000--down sharply from previous years. Decreased volume moving into fresh channels and poor demand for processed products account for the lower value. The principal fruits shipped for fresh use are the true or

Villa Franca varieties, but some Meyers are packed as well.

The mid-January freeze did considerable damage to the State's lemon trees and very substantially reduced prospects for 1977 crop production. True lemon varieties were especially hard hit.

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 1976

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 <u>1/</u>	5.6	900	1.95	1.4	470	1.10	7.0	1,370	1.65	2,261

1/ Preliminary.

This public document was promulgated at a cost of 4 cents per copy to the State of Florida. It is published to inform citrus growers and others of trends in Florida citrus production.

FLORIDA CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORTING SERVICE
1222 Woodward Street, Orlando, Florida 32803

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