

#### United States Department of Agriculture **National Agricultural Statistics Service**

# CITRUS APRIL FORECAST MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE



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#### ALL ORANGES NOW 168.5 MILLION BOXES

The Florida all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is increased 1.5 million boxes to 168.5 million boxes. The increase is in the early-midseason-Navel portion (including Temples) which is now 83.5 million boxes. The Valencia portion remains forecast at 85.0 million boxes. If attained, this forecast will be 31 percent more than harvested in the 2006-07 season. In the past 10 seasons not affected by hurricanes, the April forecast has differed from final production by an average of 1.5 percent. Five of the seasons were above and five below the final production. All orange varieties experienced a heavy bloom from mid to late March and trees are reported in excellent condition.

#### EARLY-MIDSEASON-NAVELS NOW 83.5 MILLION BOXES

The early-midseason-Navel category (including Temples) is final at 83.5 million boxes. The Navel portion is final at 3.0 million boxes. This total category is almost 18 million boxes, or 27 percent, more than the 65.6 million boxes produced in the 2006-07 season. Weekly harvest has declined sharply indicating harvest is near completion. The final estimate of production includes 1.0 million boxes of gift fruit and non-certified

CITRUS PRODUCTION: APRIL 1, 2008 Forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

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Crop and State	Produ	ction	Fore	cast				
Crop and State	2005-06	2006-07	Mar 11, 2008	Apr 9, 2008				
		1,0	000 boxes					
EARLY, MIDSEASON, AND NAVEL ORANGES:								
FLORIDA <sup>1/</sup>	75,000	65,600	82,000	83,500				
California	47,000	34,500	48,000	49,500				
Texas	1,400	1,600	1,400	1,400				
Arizona	250	200	250	250				
Total Above Varieties	123,650	101,900	131,650	134,650				
VALENCIAS:				_				
FLORIDA	72,700	63,400	85,000	85,000				
California	14,000	11,500	16,000	16,000				
Texas	200	380	385	388				
Arizona	200	100	100	100				
Total Valencias	87,100	75,380	101,485	101,488				
ALL ORANGES:								
FLORIDA	147,700	129,000	167,000	168,500				
California	61,000	46,000	64,000	65,500				
Texas	1,600	1,980	1,785	1,788				
Arizona	450	300	350	350				
Total All Oranges	210,750	177,280	233,135	236,138				

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1/</sup> Includes Temples beginning in 2006-07. Historic Temple production on page 2.

### FORECAST DATES — 2007-08 SEASON

May 9, 2008 June 10, 2008 July 11, 2008

production, consisting of 500,000 boxes each of Navels and other early-midseasons (with Temples).

#### VALENCIAS REMAIN 85.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of the late type (Valencia) category remains 85.0 million boxes. Objective count measurements of fruit size and droppage since August are complete. The droppage rate, at 15 percent, is slightly above the average for the previous eight nonhurricane seasons and above the 13 percent initially projected in October. Fruit size, at 221 fruit per box, is slightly smaller than projected in October and the smallest average size in any non-hurricane impacted season since 1992-93.

The monthly Row Count survey conducted March 26-27 indicated only 12 percent of the Valencia rows harvested. Harvest has increased rapidly to over 6.0 million boxes in the last reported week.

#### COMPONENTS USED IN THE APRIL FORECAST 1/

	OOMI ONENTO OSED IN THE ATRIET OREGAST									
	Туре	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box					
		(1,000)								
(	ORANGES:	•	•							
Е	arly-mid	24,473	1,052	8	264					
Ν	lavel	1,284	440	10	138					
V	'alencia	33.835	679	15	221					

<sup>1/</sup> Survey data is considered final in December for Navels, January for early-midseason oranges, and April for Valencias.

#### FCOJ YIELD 1.63 GALLONS PER BOX

The all orange projection of yield for FCOJ is continued at 1.63 gallons per box. Last season's final yield was 1.65 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion is final at 1.553351 gallons as indicated on revised report number 24 from the Florida Department of Citrus. This is very close to the 2006-07 final of 1.555467 gallons per box. The projection of the Valencia portion remains at 1.73 gallons per box. Last season's final yield was 1.77 gallons per box.

#### **GRAPEFRUIT 24.5 MILLION BOXES**

The forecast of all Florida grapefruit is maintained at 24.5 million boxes including a total of 700,000 boxes for non-certified gift fruit and local sales. The components are unchanged with white grapefruit forecast at 7.5 million boxes and the colored varieties at 17.0 million boxes. If realized, this forecast will be 10 percent less than last season's utilization and 40 percent less than 2003-04, the last season prior to the two affected by hurricanes. An estimated total of 20.0 million boxes have been utilized to April 1.

The comparison of current utilization to results of the Row Count (route survey) conducted March 26-27 is the primary consideration used in setting the forecast this month. Nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the rows visited in the survey have been harvested. Highest harvest percentages were noted in the Southern and Western areas but together they only represent five percent of the total. Over 85 percent of the survey rows are located in the Indian River District where 73 percent have been harvested.

At 7.5 million boxes, the **white** grapefruit forecast is 19 percent less than the utilization last season and less than half of the total 15.9 million box harvest of 2003-04 prior to the hurricane seasons. Almost 69 percent of the white grapefruit had been harvested prior to the route survey. Estimated utilization to the first of the month has surpassed 6.0 million boxes.

**CITRUS PRODUCTION**: April 1, 2008 forecasts by varieties and States, with comparisons

Crop and State	Produ	ıction	Fore	cast				
Orop and Glate	2005-06	2006-07	Mar 11, 2008	Apr 9, 2008				
	1,000 boxes							
GRAPEFRUIT:								
Florida-All	19,300	27,200	24,500	24,500				
White	6,500	9,300	7,500	7,500				
Colored	12,800	17,900	17,000	17,000				
California	6,000	5,500	5,000	5,000				
Texas	5,200	7,100	6,600	6,400				
Arizona	100	100	150	150				
Total Grapefruit	30,600	39,900	36,250	36,050				
LEMONS:								
California	22,000	18,500	17,000	17,000				
Arizona	3,800	2,500	1,500	1,500				
Total Lemons	25,800	21,000	18,500	18,500				
TEMPLES:	700	1/	1/	1/				
TANGELOS: Florida	1,400	1,250	1,500	1,500				
TANGERINES:								
Florida-All	5,500	4,600	4,800	4,800				
Early <sup>2/</sup>	2,850	2,400	2,600	2,600				
Honey	2,650	2,200	2,200	2,200				
California 3/	3,600	3,500	5,100	5,100				
Arizona 3/	550	300	400	400				
Total Tangerines	9,650	8,400	10,300	10,300				

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1/</sup> Included in early-midseason-Navel oranges.

#### COMPONENTS USED IN THE APRIL FORECAST 1/

Туре	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
	(1,000)			
GRAPEFRUI	т:			
White 2/	1,862	557	18	99
Colored	4,155	499	12	109

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1/</sup> January data is considered final.

**Colored** grapefruit harvest is running ahead of white with 77 percent of the rows already picked. An estimated 14.0 million boxes have been utilized this season to April 1. The forecast of 17.0 million boxes is five percent below last season's production and slightly more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the harvest in 2003-04.

With the timely rainfall of the last several months, trees in well cared for groves are reported in excellent condition. Growers, caretakers, and field personnel report a moderate to heavy bloom on grapefruit.

#### **ALL TANGERINES 4.8 MILLION BOXES**

The forecast of all tangerines is unchanged at 4.8 million boxes. The early tangerines are final at 2.6 million boxes and the honey tangerines remain at 2.2 million boxes.

Harvest of the early varieties (Fallglo and Sunburst) is final at 2.6 million boxes, including an allocation of 200,000 boxes for non-certified use. **Fallglo** comprised 650,000 boxes of the category, up three percent from 630,000 boxes last season. **Sunburst** accounted for <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of the total at 1.95 million boxes and is up 10 percent from 1.77 million boxes recorded in 2006-07.

The forecast of the later maturing **Honey** variety is held at 2.2 million boxes, unchanged since December. Traditionally, March is the heaviest month of fresh shipments. Although fresh numbers are lagging behind last season, the processed usage is estimated to be ahead. Harvest progressed rapidly through March and results of the route survey show 56 percent of the rows visited have been harvested. At this point, Row Count becomes a creditable indicator. The regression value is similar to last season's at this same time, supporting the current forecast.

#### **TANGELOS 1.5 MILLION BOXES**

The tangelo forecast is continued at 1.5 million boxes, including an allocation for non-certified use. During March, weekly utilizations have trickled in with nearly all fruit being processed. This forecast is 20 percent more than last season's harvest and seven percent more than in 2005-06.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2/</sup> Fallglo and Sunburst varieties.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3/</sup> Includes tangelos and tangors.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2/</sup> Seedless variety only.

## **UNADJUSTED MATURITY TESTS**: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 2006-07 and 2007-08 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Ad	Solids (Brix) Ratio		I Ratio		I Ratio I				lids box
	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08
	Percent		Percent				Pou	ınds	Pou	ınds

Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.

#### ORANGES:

Late (125-139)										
Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.52	2.62	8.92	9.46	3.56	3.65	45.33	43.85	4.04	4.15
Nov 1	2.06	1.97	9.83	9.27	4.84	4.78	48.94	48.84	4.81	4.53
Dec 1	1.72	1.71	9.89	10.09	5.83	5.98	51.77	52.20	5.12	5.27
Jan 1	1.43	1.37	10.90	11.14	7.74	8.21	51.81	53.60	5.64	5.97
Feb 1	1.22	1.25	11.99	11.92	9.89	9.63	54.60	54.50	6.55	6.49
Mar 1	1.13	1.14	12.61	12.55	11.25	11.16	54.76	54.70	6.91	6.87
Apr 1	1.09	1.02	13.27	12.92	12.37	12.84	54.14	55.14	7.18	7.12

NOTICE: All samples were run through an FMC 091 machine using mechanical pressure only. This machine utilizes a .040 short strainer and standard 5/8-inch orifice tube. The beam settings are also identical to past tests and no restrictors are used.

#### MATURITY TEST AVERAGES BY AREAS, APRIL 1, 2008

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	Number	Percent	Percent		Pounds	Pounds
ORANGES:						
Late						
Indian River District	24	1.08	13.46	12.61	56.24	7.56
Other Areas	115	1.01	12.81	12.89	54.91	7.03

#### FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

Size frequency distributions developed from the March size survey are shown in the following table. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. These frequency distributions relate to fruit from regular bloom and exclude summer bloom in all years.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from March measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	2006	2007	2008		
	Percent				
VALENCIA ORANGES:					
64 and larger	3.0	12.7	6.2		
80	13.5	29.6	20.7		
100	34.8	34.5	36.8		
125	31.5	17.3	25.0		
163 and smaller	17.2	5.9	11.3		

The chart to the right describes the relationship of the fruit size measurements with those taken in the previous year. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range, except for the smallest values.

CHART 1: Valencia orange size frequency by diameter from March measurements

