



# CITRUS MARCH FORECAST

## MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

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### ALL ORANGES 158.0 MILLION BOXES

The Florida all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board remains at 158.0 million boxes. Changes were made in both the early-midseason-Navel oranges (including Temples) and the later variety Valencia oranges. If realized, this crop will be 7% less than final production last season. In the most recent eight seasons not affected by hurricanes, the March forecast has differed from actual production by an average of 2.2 percent, with three forecasts higher and five lower.

### EARLY-MIDSEASON-NAVELS 85.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of the early-midseason-Navel oranges (including Temples) is raised 2 million boxes to 85.0 million. The **Navel** portion of the crop is 3.0 million boxes. Objective size and drop surveys have concluded for these early varieties. Although utilization dropped off the last week of February, there is still usable fruit to be harvested. The primary indicator, the route survey (Row Count) conducted February 25-26, showed 93% of the rows harvested. Estimated utilization to the first of the month is 80.6 million boxes compared to final utilization of 78.1 million boxes the same time last season.

**CITRUS PRODUCTION: MARCH 1, 2009**  
Forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2006-07	2007-08	Feb 10, 2009	Mar 11, 2009
	1,000 boxes			
<b>EARLY, MIDSEASON, AND NAVAL ORANGES:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA<sup>1/</sup></b>	<b>65,600</b>	<b>83,500</b>	<b>83,000</b>	<b>85,000</b>
California	34,000	48,500	34,500	34,500
Texas	1,600	1,500	1,450	1,450
Arizona	200	230	150	150
<b>Total Above Varieties</b>	<b>101,900</b>	<b>133,730</b>	<b>119,100</b>	<b>121,100</b>
<b>VALENCIAS:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>63,400</b>	<b>86,700</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>73,000</b>
California	11,500	16,000	12,000	15,000
Texas	380	234	200	200
Arizona	100	150	100	100
<b>Total Valencias</b>	<b>75,380</b>	<b>103,084</b>	<b>87,300</b>	<b>88,300</b>
<b>ALL ORANGES:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>129,000</b>	<b>170,200</b>	<b>158,000</b>	<b>158,000</b>
California	46,000	64,500	46,500	49,500
Texas	1,980	1,734	1,650	1,650
Arizona	300	380	250	250
<b>Total All Oranges</b>	<b>177,280</b>	<b>236,814</b>	<b>206,400</b>	<b>209,400</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Includes Temples.

### FORECAST DATES — 2008-09 SEASON

April 9, 2009	June 10, 2009
May 12, 2009	July 10, 2009

### VALENCIAS 73.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of Valencias is reduced to 73.0 million boxes, down 2 million from last month. Weather over the past two months has had a significant impact on remaining oranges. Two freezes, one in late January and one in early February, caused some damage to unharvested fruit. Since then, citrus areas have not had any appreciable precipitation and are experiencing drought conditions. Fruit size is being influenced by the lack of water and in some cases, February size measurements are smaller than those recorded in January. The increase in the measured drop rate in the February Size and Drop survey was greater than any of the previous 10 seasons for the same month. It is now projected that droppage at harvest will be 15%, slightly above average.

### COMPONENTS USED IN THE MARCH FORECAST <sup>1/</sup>

Type	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
	(1,000)			
<b>ORANGES:</b>				
Early-mid	24,596	1,079	11	257
Navel	1,231	469	11	139
Valencia	34,151	574	15	217

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

### FCOJ YIELD 1.64 GALLONS PER BOX

The all orange projection of yield for FCOJ is raised to 1.64 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, slightly higher than last season's projected FCOJ at the same time. This change results from the increased yield of the Valencia portion to 1.70 gallons per box, up from 1.65 last month and an increase in the early-midseason portion, raised to 1.60 gallons per box.

Harvest of the early and midseason varieties is slowing and processing should be completed by the end of the month. Limited quantities of Valencias have begun to arrive at processing plants.

## GRAPEFRUIT 23.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of Florida grapefruit remains at 23.0 million boxes, including an allocation of 700,000 boxes for non-certified gift fruit and local sales. Of the total forecast, 7.0 million boxes are white and 16.0 million boxes are the colored varieties. If realized, this forecast will be 14% less than last season's 26.6 million boxes. In the past 10 non-hurricane seasons, the March forecast has differed from actual production by an average of 3.8 percent, with seven of the forecasts above and three below the final production.

Estimated utilization to March 1 is 13.9 million boxes of all grapefruit, slightly behind the 14.6 million boxes harvested last season to the same date. Results of the Row Count conducted February 25-26 show 60% of the total rows harvested.

Although January data are considered final, an additional monthly Size and Drop survey was conducted in February. Very little growth occurred in **white** grapefruit and the current size is running slightly above the average of the past eight seasons used in the regressions. Droppage is close to the minimum of the most recent eight non-hurricane seasons. The route survey indicated that 42% of the rows have been harvested. Estimated utilization to March 1 is 3.2 million boxes.

Components for the **colored** varieties were tracked for an additional month. Average fruit sizes for both January and February closely follow the mean of the past eight non-hurricane seasons. The final drop continued to follow the average pattern of the past eight non-hurricane seasons.

### CITRUS PRODUCTION: March 1, 2009 forecasts by varieties and States, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2006-07	2007-08	Feb 10, 2009	Mar 11, 2009
	1,000 boxes			
<b>GRAPEFRUIT:</b>				
Florida-All	27,200	26,600	23,000	23,000
White	9,300	9,000	7,000	7,000
Colored	17,900	17,600	16,000	16,000
California	5,500	5,700	4,500	4,500
Texas	7,100	6,100	5,700	5,700
Arizona	100	100	150	150
Total Grapefruit	39,900	38,500	33,350	33,350
<b>LEMONS:</b>				
California	18,500	17,000	19,000	19,000
Arizona	2,500	1,500	2,500	2,500
Total Lemons	21,000	18,500	21,500	21,500
<b>TANGELOS: Florida</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,200</b>
<b>TANGERINES:</b>				
Florida-All	4,600	5,500	4,600	4,000
Early <sup>1/</sup>	2,400	2,600	2,600	2,600
Honey	2,200	2,900	2,000	1,400
California <sup>2/</sup>	3,500	5,700	7,000	7,000
Arizona <sup>2/</sup>	300	400	250	250
Total Tangerines	8,400	11,600	11,850	11,250

<sup>1/</sup> Fallglo and Sunburst varieties.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes tangelos and tangors.

## COMPONENTS USED IN THE MARCH FORECAST <sup>1/</sup>

Type	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
	(1,000)			
<b>GRAPEFRUIT:</b>				
White <sup>2/</sup>	1,688	401	9	85
Colored	4,035	425	12	97

<sup>1/</sup> January data is considered final.

<sup>2/</sup> Seedless variety only.

Estimated utilization, which last month had been behind last season, is now 400,000 boxes ahead at 10.7 million boxes.

## ALL TANGERINES DECREASED TO 4.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all tangerines is reduced to 4.0 million boxes. The total consists of the early varieties (**Fallglo and Sunburst**) at 2.6 million boxes and the later maturing **Honey** tangerine at 1.4 million boxes. Harvest of the early variety tangerines is over for the season. Utilization of the **Fallglo** variety remains at 650,000 boxes and the **Sunburst** tangerine utilization remains at 1.95 million boxes.

The change in the all tangerine forecast is due to the change in the Honey variety. The forecast of **Honey** tangerines, which account for over 35% of the all tangerine forecast, is reduced to 1.4 million boxes. A significant amount of the fruit in the southernmost citrus counties did not maintain necessary quality for the fresh markets following the freezing temperatures of late January and early February. The adverse weather has resulted in smaller, non-marketable fruit. The smaller size and increased droppage are supporting indicators used in setting the March forecast.

The February route survey indicated that only 48% of the available rows were picked. However, utilization has been below 100,000 boxes for the past few weeks indicating limited availability of fruit.

## TANGELOS REDUCED TO 1.2 MILLION BOXES

The **tangelo** forecast is reduced to 1.2 million boxes (including an allocation of non-certified use of 100,000 boxes). The Row Count survey showed approximately 68% of the rows harvested. However, weekly utilization the last week of February dropped to only 11,000 boxes, signifying the season is almost over. Estimated utilization to the first of March is 1.1 million boxes. The Size and Drop survey data for tangelos was final in November. It will require approximately 234 pieces of fruit to fill one 90-pound equivalent box of tangelos.

**UNADJUSTED MATURITY TESTS: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 2007-08 and 2008-09 seasons**

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09
	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Percent</i>				<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Pounds</i>	

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

**LATE ORANGES: (149-146)**

Oct 1	2.62	2.49	9.47	8.86	3.66	3.61	43.86	47.30	4.15	4.19
Nov 1	1.95	1.87	9.27	9.30	4.82	5.05	48.85	51.84	4.53	4.82
Dec 1	1.70	1.62	10.11	10.20	6.02	6.39	52.22	54.03	5.28	5.51
Jan 1	1.36	1.39	11.14	11.15	8.27	8.11	53.58	55.71	5.97	6.21
Feb 1	1.25	1.34	11.92	11.77	9.65	8.85	54.50	55.49	6.49	6.53
Feb 15	NA	1.30	NA	12.07	NA	9.37	NA	56.53	NA	6.82
Mar 1	1.13	1.24	12.56	12.62	11.21	10.29	54.81	54.93	6.88	6.93

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, MARCH 1, 2009**

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>

**LATE ORANGES:**

Indian River District	27	1.32	12.85	9.83	55.36	7.10
Other Areas	119	1.22	12.56	10.40	54.83	6.89

**FREEZE DAMAGE COMPARISONS**

This report presents the results of the special orange surveys conducted on February 11-12 and February 25-26, 2009 to assess fruit and leaf damage caused by the subfreezing temperatures that occurred on January 21-22, 2009 and again on February 5-6, 2009. Personnel checked fruit and trees in identical sample groves across the State's production areas. Using the Federal-State Inspection Service standards, fruit was cut and scored for damage at depths of ¼-inch, ½-inch, and at the center, recording the point of greatest severity of damage.

The tables below and on the next page show the comparisons in the severity of damage between successive survey periods. In all instances, the large majority of samples observed fell into the "no damage apparent" category. In freeze damaged groves, it is assumed that fruit remaining on trees will increasingly dry out, and observable damage will progress toward the center of the fruit.

**FLORIDA CITRUS: Condition of fruit on trees by production areas and survey dates, 2009**

Fruit type and production area (No. groves)	No damage apparent		Damage at ¼-inch cut		Damage at ½-inch cut		Damage at center cut			
							Minor		Major	
	Feb 11-12	Feb 25-26	Feb 11-12	Feb 25-26	Feb 11-12	Feb 25-26	Feb 11-12	Feb 25-26	Feb 11-12	Feb 25-26

*Percent*

**LATE ORANGES (146-146)**

Indian River	96.4	87.1	3.6	7.1	--	4.5	--	0.4	--	0.9
Northern	80.0	80.0	10.0	2.5	5.0	10.0	2.5	5.0	2.5	2.5
Central	96.5	98.2	2.6	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.3	0.3	--	--
Western	90.4	91.9	8.5	6.0	1.1	0.9	--	0.9	--	0.3
Southern	96.0	90.1	3.1	7.6	0.3	1.5	0.6	0.8	--	--
Total	94.4	92.0	4.5	4.9	0.7	2.0	0.3	0.8	0.1	0.3

**FLORIDA CITRUS: Condition of trees by production areas and survey dates, 2009**

Fruit type and production area (No. groves)	Leaf damage							
	None apparent		Minor		Major		Serious	
	Feb 11-12	Feb 25-26	Feb 11-12	Feb 25-26	Feb 11-12	Feb 25-26	Jan 27-28	Feb 25-26
	<i>Percent</i>							
<b>Late Oranges (146-146)</b>								
Indian River	85.7	78.6	7.2	12.5	7.1	8.9	--	--
Northern	95.0	80.0	5.0	10.0	--	10.0	--	--
Central	94.2	95.0	5.8	5.0	--	--	--	--
Western	92.7	83.1	5.1	14.4	2.2	0.6	--	1.9
Southern	82.5	83.3	15.6	15.9	1.9	--	--	0.8
Total	89.0	85.5	8.6	11.6	2.4	2.2	--	0.7

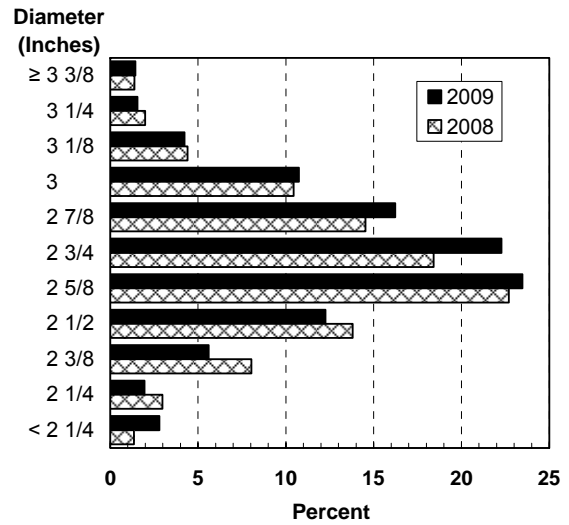
**FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS**

Size frequency distributions developed from the February 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.

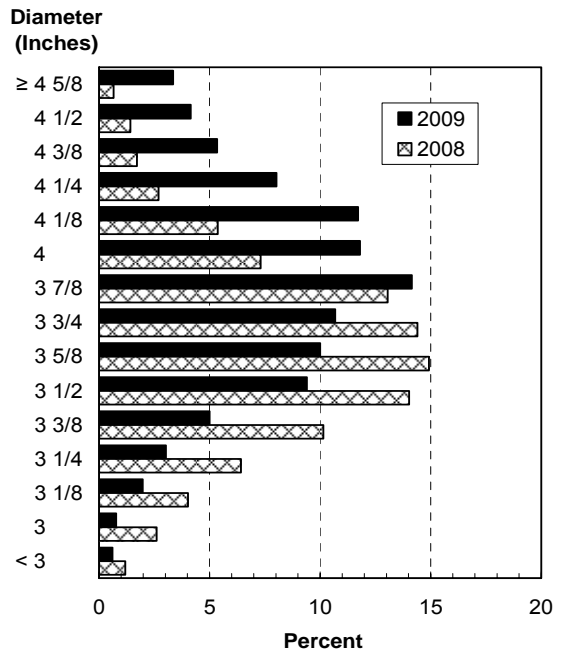
**FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from February measurements**

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	2007	2008	2009
	<i>Percent</i>		
<b>VALENCIA ORANGES:</b>			
64 and larger	12.6	5.1	4.1
80	30.8	19.7	20.6
100	35.7	37.0	42.1
125	16.0	25.8	24.8
163 and smaller	4.9	12.4	8.4
<b>WHITE SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT:</b>			
32 and larger	36.6	8.6	25.2
36	23.1	18.7	27.5
40	16.3	19.3	16.5
48	10.4	20.7	14.8
56	6.5	12.8	7.1
63 and smaller	7.1	19.9	8.9
<b>COLORED SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT:</b>			
32 and larger	22.8	6.0	13.8
36	22.8	15.0	19.8
40	21.3	14.9	19.4
48	15.1	17.3	19.9
56	9.1	15.0	10.3
63 and smaller	8.9	31.8	16.8
<b>HONEY TANGERINES:</b>			
80 and larger	48.2	26.5	26.9
100	31.1	33.4	30.0
120	12.5	24.2	22.2
176	4.1	8.4	11.5
21 and smaller	4.1	7.5	9.4

**CHART 1: Valencia size frequency by diameter from February measurements**



**CHART 2: White seedless grapefruit size frequency by diameter from February measurements**



The charts to the right describe the relationships 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.