



CITRUS

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

MARCH FORECAST

MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE FREEZE DAMAGE REPORT



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

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All Oranges Increased to 131.0 Million Boxes

The Florida all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is increased by 2.0 million boxes to 131.0 million boxes, comprised of 63.0 million boxes of Valencia oranges and 68.0 million boxes of non-Valencia varieties (early, midseason, Navel, and Temple). If realized, this forecast would be 19 percent less than last season's production of 162.4 million boxes. Freeze damage assessment and monthly surveys were conducted to determine the extent of damage to the Florida citrus crop.

Forecast Dates - 2009-2010 Season

April 9, 2010	June 11, 2010
May 11, 2010	July 9, 2010

Non-Valencia Oranges Increased to 68.0 Million Boxes

The forecast of non-Valencia oranges is raised by 2.0 million boxes due to increased utilization. The Navel portion of the crop remains at 2.3 million boxes. In response to the freezing temperatures in January, growers began harvesting their remaining fruit at an accelerated rate, moving fruit from the grove to the processing plants. Plants processed much more fruit than normal in January and early February. The route survey (Row Count) conducted March 1-2, showed nearly 99 percent of the rows harvested. Objective size and drop surveys have concluded for these varieties.

Valencia Oranges Unchanged at 63.0 Million Boxes

The forecast of Valencia oranges remains unchanged at 63.0 million boxes. Harvesting of this variety began in late January and has maintained an average weekly harvest rate of nearly 200,000 boxes throughout February. Although fruit size has increased slightly, it remains just below average. Droppage continues at an average rate and is projected to be slightly above average at harvest.

FCOJ Yield 1.53 Gallons per Box

The projection for frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) is decreased to 1.53 gallons per box of 42° Brix concentrate for all oranges, down from 1.56 gallons per box in February. The early-midseason projection is increased to 1.51 gallons per box, up from 1.50 gallons per box, and the late (Valencia) projection is 1.58 gallons per box, down from 1.65 gallons per box. Last season the Florida Department of Citrus reported final FCOJ yield for all oranges at 1.664451 gallons per box.

Orange Production by Type and State — United States: 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, Forecasted February 1, 2010 and March 1, 2010

Crop and State	Production			2009-2010 Forecast	
	2006-2007 (1,000 boxes)	2007-2008 (1,000 boxes)	2008-2009 (1,000 boxes)	February (1,000 boxes)	March (1,000 boxes)
NON-VALENCIA ORANGES ¹					
Florida	65,600	83,500	84,600	66,000	68,000
California ²	34,500	45,000	34,500	40,000	40,000
Texas ²	1,600	1,600	1,300	1,310	1,310
Arizona ³	200	230	150		
United States.....	101,900	130,330	120,550	107,310	109,310
VALENCIA ORANGES					
Florida	63,400	86,700	77,800	63,000	63,000
California ²	11,500	17,000	14,000	15,000	15,000
Texas ²	380	196	159	277	277
Arizona ³	100	150	100		
United States.....	75,380	104,046	92,059	78,277	78,277
ALL ORANGES					
Florida	129,000	170,200	162,400	129,000	131,000
California ²	46,000	62,000	48,500	55,000	55,000
Texas ²	1,980	1,796	1,549	1,587	1,587
Arizona ³	300	380	250		
United States.....	177,280	234,376	212,609	185,587	187,587

¹ Early, midseason, Navel, and Temple varieties.

² Estimates for current year carried forward from previous forecast.

³ Estimates discontinued beginning with the 2009-2010 crop year.

Grapefruit Unchanged at 18.8 Million Boxes

The forecast of all grapefruit remains at 18.8 million boxes and consists of 5.3 million boxes of white and 13.5 million boxes of colored grapefruit. The Row Count survey conducted on March 1-2 indicated 51 percent of the whites and 64 percent of the colored are harvested. According to the Citrus Administrative Committee, certified utilization is 11.7 million boxes through February 28, 2010.

All Tangerines Unchanged at 4.0 Million Boxes

The all tangerine forecast remains at 4.0 million boxes and consists of 1.7 million boxes of Sunburst, 600,000 boxes of Fallglo and 1.7 million boxes of the Honey tangerines. Survey indications show that 64 percent of the later maturing Honey tangerines are harvested. The early tangerine (Fallglo and Sunburst) forecast remains at 2.3 million boxes with the harvest now complete.

Tangelos Unchanged at 900,000 Boxes

The forecast of tangelos remains at 900,000 boxes. The Row Count Survey conducted on March 1-2 indicates that 91 percent of the tangelos are harvested. Estimated utilization is approximately 869,000 boxes with the harvest nearly complete.

Forecast Components, by Variety — Florida: March 2010

[Survey data is considered final in December for Navels, January for early-midseason oranges, February for grapefruit, and April for Valencias]

Orange Type	Bearing trees (1,000)	Fruit per tree (number)	Droppage (percent)	Fruit per box (number)	Grapefruit Type	Bearing trees (1,000)	Fruit per tree (number)	Droppage (percent)	Fruit per box (number)
Early-midseason ...	24,575	862	8	246	White ¹	1,462	430	12	96
Navel.....	1,151	365	10	138	Colored	3,794	410	10	109
Valencia	33,685	478	14	218					

¹ Seedless variety only.

Citrus Production by Type and State — United States: 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and Forecasted February 1, 2010 and March 1, 2010

Crop and State	Production			2009-2010 Forecast	
	2006-2007 (1,000 boxes)	2007-2008 (1,000 boxes)	2008-2009 (1,000 boxes)	February (1,000 boxes)	March (1,000 boxes)
GRAPEFRUIT					
Florida-All	27,200	26,600	21,700	18,800	18,800
White	9,300	9,000	6,600	5,300	5,300
Colored	17,900	17,600	15,100	13,500	13,500
California ¹	5,500	5,200	5,600	4,200	4,200
Texas ¹	7,100	6,000	5,500	5,490	5,490
Arizona ²	100	100	25		
United States	39,900	37,900	32,825	28,490	28,490
LEMONS					
California ¹	18,500	14,800	22,000	20,000	20,000
Arizona ¹	2,500	1,500	3,000	2,500	2,500
United States	21,000	16,300	25,000	22,500	22,500
TANGELOS					
Florida	1,250	1,500	1,150	900	900
TANGERINES					
Florida-All	4,600	5,500	3,850	4,000	4,000
Early ³	2,400	2,600	2,550	2,300	2,300
Honey	2,200	2,900	1,300	1,700	1,700
California ^{1 4}	3,500	6,700	6,700	8,200	8,200
Arizona ^{1 4}	300	400	250	350	350
United States	8,400	12,600	10,800	12,550	12,550

¹ Estimates for current year carried forward from previous forecast.

² Estimates discontinued beginning with the 2009-2010 crop year.

³ Fallglo and Sunburst varieties.

⁴ Includes tangelos and tangors.

Freeze Damage — Florida: March 1, 2010

The citrus producing region of Florida experienced 8 days of sub-freezing temperatures during January 5-13, 2010. A special survey was conducted to assess the fruit and leaf damage in unharvested sample groves. 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. Results of the two most recent surveys are below.

Florida Citrus — Condition of fruit on trees by production area

Fruit type and production area (Number of groves)	No damage apparent		Damage at ¼-inch cut		Damage at ½-inch cut		Damage at center cut			
	Feb 15-16	Mar 1-2	Feb 15-16	Mar 1-2	Feb 15-16	Mar 1-2	Minor		Major	
							Feb 15-16	Mar 1-2	Feb 15-16	Mar 1-2
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Late Oranges (150-146)										
Indian River	91.7	88.0	5.1	5.5	2.8	6.0	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.0
Northern	52.5	37.5	12.5	17.5	7.5	15.0	27.5	10.0	0.0	20.0
Central.....	88.1	84.6	4.4	4.8	4.7	5.8	2.8	4.8	0.0	0.0
Western.....	68.0	66.3	15.8	13.2	8.5	10.2	7.7	9.1	0.0	1.2
Southern.....	77.0	75.0	11.9	15.3	0.6	2.3	8.0	5.1	2.5	2.3
Total	79.7	76.5	9.6	10.5	4.1	6.1	5.8	5.3	0.8	1.6

Florida Citrus — Leaf damage by production area

Fruit type and production area (Number of groves)	No damage		Minor		Major		Serious	
	Feb 15-16	Mar 1-2	Feb 15-16	Mar 1-2	Feb 15-16	Mar 1-2	Feb 15-16	Mar 1-2
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Late Oranges (150-146)								
Indian River	81.5	100.0	18.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northern	100.0	80.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	5.0
Central.....	95.0	98.0	5.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western.....	86.0	82.0	14.0	18.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Southern.....	84.7	91.0	15.3	9.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	87.7	92.0	12.3	7.5	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2

Maturity — Florida: March 1, 2010

Valencia orange samples were collected on established routes throughout the citrus producing region on March 1-2, 2010, and tested at the laboratory of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Florida Field Office. Acid levels, Brix, unfinished juice per box, and solids per box were lower for the late oranges when compared to March 1, 2009.

Citrus Unadjusted Maturity Tests — Florida: 2008-2009 and 2009-2010

[Averages of regular bloom fruit from sample groves. Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to juice processing plant test results. 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.]

Fruit type (number of groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	2008-2009	2009-2010	2008-2009	2009-2010	2008-2009	2009-2010	2008-2009	2009-2010	2008-2009	2009-2010
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)			(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
ORANGES										
Late (146-146)										
Oct 1	2.49	2.41	8.86	8.87	3.61	3.74	47.30	43.47	4.19	3.85
Nov 1	1.87	1.86	9.30	9.33	5.05	5.07	51.84	48.09	4.82	4.48
Dec 1	1.62	1.52	10.20	10.22	6.39	6.85	54.03	51.01	5.51	5.21
Jan 1	1.39	1.29	11.15	10.89	8.11	8.52	55.71	53.02	6.21	5.78
Feb 1	1.34	1.23	11.77	11.67	8.85	9.57	55.49	52.16	6.53	6.08
Feb 15	1.30	1.14	12.07	12.08	9.37	10.78	56.53	52.07	6.82	6.30
Mar 1	1.24	1.11	12.62	12.27	10.29	11.19	54.93	51.54	6.93	6.33

Citrus Fruit Maturity Test Averages, by Areas — Florida: March 1, 2010

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	(number)	(percent)	(percent)		(pounds)	(pounds)
ORANGES						
Late						
Indian River	25	1.17	12.59	10.79	53.64	6.75
Other Areas	121	1.10	12.21	11.27	51.10	6.24

Fruit Size Comparisons by Types to Previous Seasons

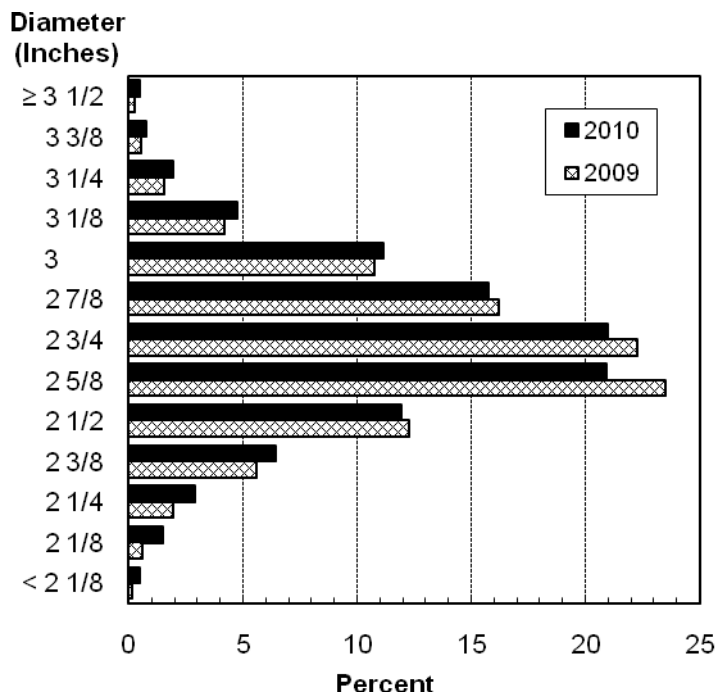
Size frequency distributions from the February size survey are shown in the following table. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. These frequency distributions include fruit from regular bloom and exclude fruit from summer bloom.

Citrus Size Frequency Measurement Distributions, by Type — Florida: February

Type and number of fruit per 4/5-bushel containers	2008 (percent)	2009 (percent)	2010 (percent)	Type and number of fruit per 4/5-bushel containers	2008 (percent)	2009 (percent)	2010 (percent)
VALENCIA ORANGES				WHITE SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT			
64 or less	5.1	4.1	5.1	32 or less	8.6	25.2	15.9
80	19.7	20.6	21.4	36	18.7	27.5	27.0
100	37.0	42.1	38.7	40	19.3	16.5	18.3
125	25.8	24.8	23.5	48	20.7	14.5	15.8
163 or more	12.4	8.4	11.3	56	12.8	7.1	8.5
				63 or more	19.9	8.9	14.5
HONEY TANGERINES				COLORED SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT			
80 or less	26.5	26.9	28.7	32 or less	6.0	13.8	4.3
100	33.4	30.0	26.0	36	15.0	19.8	12.2
120	24.2	22.2	20.0	40	14.9	19.4	17.6
176	8.4	11.5	8.7	48	17.3	19.9	23.5
210 or more	7.5	9.4	16.6	56	15.0	10.3	16.1
				63 or more	31.8	16.8	26.3

The charts below show the distribution of fruit sizes in 2010 compared to 2009. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each 1/8-inch range, except for the smallest values.

Fruit Size Frequency Measurements, Valencia Oranges, by Diameter — Florida: February



Fruit Size Frequency Measurements, White Seedless Grapefruit, by Diameter — Florida: February

