FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

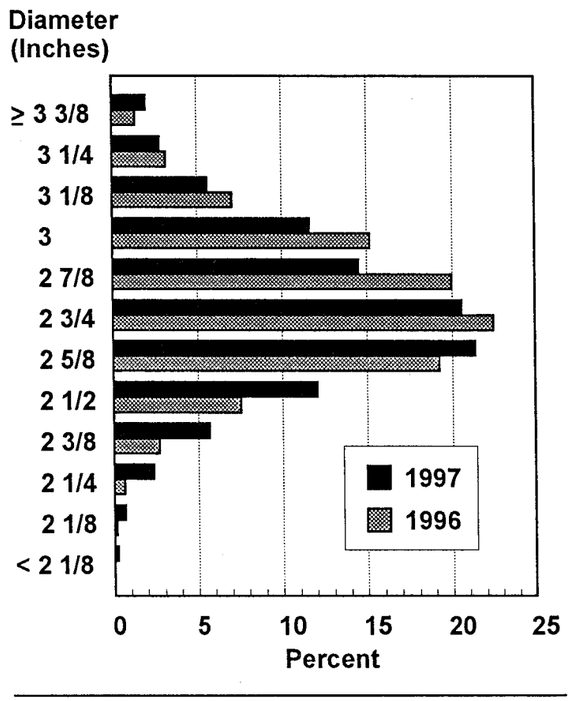
Size frequency distributions from the January size survey are shown in the table below. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. Fruit sizes were measured on trees in sample groves during the period January 6 through 27, 1997. Comparable sizes for 1995 and 1996 are also shown. These measurements are of fruit from spring bloom and exclude summer bloom in all seasons.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from January measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1995	1996	1997
	--- Percent ---		
Valencia oranges:			
64 and larger	9.8	7.5	6.5
80	31.0	29.3	23.2
100	40.5	41.9	37.5
125	15.7	17.7	23.7
163 and smaller	3.0	3.6	9.1
White seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	31.2	42.8	21.3
36	28.4	25.8	23.9
40	16.2	14.5	22.9
48	11.9	8.6	15.9
56	5.3	4.2	7.9
63 and smaller	7.0	4.1	8.1
Colored seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	24.2	27.8	12.6
36	28.7	28.6	21.5
40	18.4	20.3	24.5
48	15.3	12.7	20.7
56	7.1	5.7	11.3
63 and smaller	6.3	4.9	9.4
Temples:			
80 and larger	66.7	64.7	38.0
100	22.8	25.7	35.2
120	7.9	8.3	17.4
156 and smaller	2.6	1.3	9.4
Honey tangerines:			
150 and larger	90.2	91.1	79.3
176	3.8	3.3	10.9
210	3.1	3.1	6.1
246	1.7	2.1	2.6
294 and smaller	1.2	0.4	1.1

The chart below compares the relationship of the January 1997 Valencia orange fruit size measurements with those taken in January 1996. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range except for the smallest values. The March release will compare 1997 Valencia sizes with 1996 measurements.

CHART: Valencia size frequency by diameter from January measurements.



FREEZE DAMAGE REPORT FOR VALENCIA ORANGES

The table below presents results of a freeze damage survey conducted in conjunction with the monthly Row Count and Maturity surveys on February 3-4. Results of surveys from previous January freezes (all conducted approximately two weeks after the freeze event) are shown for comparison.

As shown, 88 percent of the 1,200 pieces of Valencia fruit cut statewide showed no damage of any kind. Only damage at the 1/2 inch and center cuts is considered serious and may represent lost fruit. Harvest of these damaged Valencia crops has started and may not result in loss of volume delivered to processors.

A subjective leaf condition survey was also conducted at each sample site and showed over 75 percent of trees with no damage. Very little dead wood was observed, mostly limited to younger trees and resets. Some trees have defoliated but many of these are beginning to show new growth and bloom buds.

Valencia Oranges: Condition of fruit on trees in unharvested sample groves two weeks after freeze date

Crop year	Freeze date	No damage apparent	Damage at 1/4" cut	Damage at 1/2" cut	Damage at center cut	
					Minor	Major
			Percent			
1970-71	Jan. 20-21	67	9	8	8	8
1976-77	Jan. 18-20	43	33	16	5	3
1980-81	Jan. 13-14	47	30	17	5	1
1981-82	Jan. 12	50	19	14	11	6
1996-97	Jan. 19	88	7	3	2	0

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FLORIDA AGRICULTURE

CITRUS

FEBRUARY FORECAST
MATURITY TEST RESULTS, FRUIT SIZE, AND FREEZE DAMAGE REPORT

February 12, 1997

ORANGES REMAIN 220.0 MILLION BOXES

The 1996-97 Florida all orange forecast, released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board, remains unchanged at 220.0 million boxes. This forecast is comprised of 133.0 million boxes of early and midseason oranges (including Navels) and 87.0 million boxes of late (Valencia) oranges. If realized, the total will be a record utilization and will exceed last season's 203.2 million boxes by 8 percent.

Results of objective surveys, including a special freeze damage survey, were used in evaluating the effects of the cold weather experienced in many growing locations on January 19. The history of utilization of distressed fruit following a freeze event also was considered in establishing this forecast.

EARLY AND MIDS INCREASED TO 133.0 MILLION BOXES

The early and midseason orange forecast is increased from 130.0 to 133.0 million boxes. This will be a record utilization, exceeding the 121.2 million boxes utilized last season. The Navel portion remains unchanged from last month at 6.5 million boxes, also a record.

The monthly Row Count Survey indication fully supports increasing the forecast. Fruit droppage has increased on unharvested blocks affected by the cold weather but very little, if any, loss is expected. Estimated utilization through February 2 is 106 million boxes. Harvest continues at a rapid pace with an estimated 9 million boxes delivered to processors last week.

Citrus production, February 1, 1997
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1994-95	1995-96	Jan 9, 1997	Feb 12, 1997
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:	--- 1,000 boxes ---			
FLORIDA	**119,700**	**121,200**	**130,000**	**133,000**
California	35,000	38,000	39,000	39,000
Texas	950	830	1,300	1,300
Arizona	400	700	550	550
Total Above Varieties	156,050	160,730	170,850	173,850
Valencias:				
FLORIDA	**85,800**	**82,000**	**90,000**	**87,000**
California	21,000	28,000	26,000	26,000
Texas	105	110	150	150
Arizona	650	950	850	850
Total Valencias	107,555	111,060	117,000	114,000
All Oranges:				
FLORIDA	**205,500**	**203,200**	**220,000**	**220,000**
California	56,000	66,000	65,000	65,000
Texas	1,055	940	1,450	1,450
Arizona	1,050	1,650	1,400	1,400
Total All Oranges	263,605	271,790	287,850	287,850

FORECAST DATES 1996-97 SEASON

March 11, 1997 — April 11, 1997
May 12, 1997 — June 12, 1997
July 11, 1997

VALENCIAS NOW 87.0 MILLION BOXES

The Valencia forecast is decreased three million boxes from 90.0 to 87.0 million boxes. Results of a special freeze damage survey on Valencia oranges are shown with comparisons to previous January freeze seasons on page 4 of this report. This information along with the history of utilization following freezing weather and the monthly fruit size and drop surveys were used to indicate this three million box reduction.

Fruit droppage has increased following the cold weather, and affected groves where the fruit is passing minimum maturity requirements are being harvested. Estimated utilization last week was nearly one million boxes.

Loss of production will occur from increased fruit droppage before harvest and loss of juice which affects weight conversion to 90 pound box equilivents when measured at the processing plants. Weather conditions over the next two months and harvest patterns affecting the rate of harvest could alter the expectations of final harvest.

FCOJ NOW 1.54 GALLONS PER BOX

The projection of yield per box for all fruit going into FCOJ is increased slightly from 1.53 to 1.54 gallons per box. This increase is indicated by the excellent yield obtained by processors from the early and mid portion of the crop. Last season's yield as reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association was 1.522516.

The early-mid projection is increased from 1.48 to 1.50 gallons per box. Last season's final was 1.45 gallons per box. The Valencia portion is decreased from 1.62 to 1.60 gallons per box as a result of the freezing weather on January 19. Final yield will be determined by weather conditions and harvest patterns over the remainder of the season. Last season's final for Valencias was 1.67 gallons.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Marketing and Development

University of Florida
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT HELD AT 58.0 MILLION BOXES

The all seedless grapefruit forecast is continued at 58.0 million boxes. The white and colored divisions are maintained at 26.5 and 31.5 million boxes, respectively.

The January fruit size survey continued to show that the averages of both white and colored are almost identical with the mean size of the historic series. However, the averages are much smaller than the past two seasons. In standard box equivalents, white seedless would require 13 more fruit than last season and 7 more fruit than in the 1994-95 season. Colored seedless would require 10 more fruit and 8 more fruit, in relation to the same seasons. Fruit loss from droppage through late January continues to be considerably less than average and near the minimal loss of last season. The resultant computations did not change the objective count surveys estimates of crop size, relative to the recent season's recorded utilization.

The initial Row Count (route survey) was conducted on February 3-4, 1997. As is usual at this time of year, the reliability of this survey is subject to the relationship of "spot picked" (where the majority of regular bloom fruit remains) and "clean harvest" groves.

However, the all seedless percent of row harvest is only slightly less than the percent of recorded utilization to the same dates. The Row Count indicator, obviously, improves as a greater percent harvest is recorded and near one-half of the crop is indicated.

Recorded utilization is lagging behind last season in both categories. It is estimated to February 2, 1997, that only 4.4 million boxes of white and 12.7 million boxes of colored had been used.

Citrus production, February 1, 1997
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1994-95	1995-96	Jan 9, 1997	Feb 12, 1997
	--- 1,000 boxes ---			
Grapefruit:				
FLORIDA-All	**55,700**	**52,350**	**59,000**	**59,000**
Seedless	**54,400**	**51,300**	**58,000**	**58,000**
White	**25,700**	**23,200**	**26,500**	**26,500**
Colored	**28,700**	**28,100**	**31,500**	**31,500**
Seedy (Other)	**1,300**	**1,050**	**1,000**	**1,000**
Texas	4,650	4,550	5,500	5,500
Arizona	1,400	1,200	1,000	1,000
California	9,300	8,100	9,000	9,000
Total Grapefruit	71,050	66,200	74,500	74,500
Lemons:				
California	20,000	21,000	22,000	22,000
Arizona	3,600	5,100	4,000	4,000
Total Lemons	23,600	26,100	26,000	26,000
Limes: **Florida**	**230**	**300**	**300**	**300**
Temples: **Florida**	**2,550**	**2,150**	**2,500**	**2,500**
Tangelos: **Florida**	**3,150**	**2,450**	**3,800**	**4,000**
K-Early: **Florida**	**120**	**160**	**150**	**150**
Tangerines:				
FLORIDA-All	**3,550**	**4,500**	**6,000**	**6,200**
Early [1]	**2,350**	**2,900**	**4,200**	**4,500**
Honey	**1,200**	**1,600**	**1,800**	**1,700**
California	2,500	2,600	2,700	2,700
Arizona	650	1,000	750	750
Total Tangerines	6,700	8,100	9,450	9,650

[1] Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy.

SEEDY GRAPEFRUIT 1.0 MILLION BOXES

The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast is continued at 1.0 million boxes. Harvest is slowly progressing, with only 100,000 boxes recorded as of February 1, 1997. The January size survey indicated the average was at the historic series mean, but smaller than the last two seasons. Fruit loss from droppage also is at the historic mean and slightly above the past two seasons. This crop is only utilized in processed form and utilization depends on load records.

ALL TANGERINES INCREASED TO 6.2 MILLION BOXES

The all tangerine forecast is increased by 200,000 boxes to 6.2 million boxes. The early portion, comprised of **Robinson, Fallglo, Dancy**, and mostly **Sunburst,** is increased by 300,000 boxes to 4.5 million boxes. Recent weekly estimates of utilization have continued beyond expectations. As of February 2, 1997, including 100,000 boxes of gift fruit and other use, 4,450,000 boxes had been recorded.

The **Honey** tangerine portion is decreased 100,000 boxes to 1.7 million boxes. Loss from fruit droppage has been a record low through the January survey period and, if accepted at face value, would have indicated an increase in the forecast. However, with the below freezing weather, it is projected that droppage will accelerate on affected crops that are not harvested rapidly. Harvest has just begun in volume, with only 430,000 boxes used to February 2, 1997.

TEMPLES HELD AT 2.5 MILLION BOXES

The Temple forecast is continued at 2.5 million boxes. The January surveys of fruit size and drop indicate average size at the historic small mean and fruit loss also at the historic low. The Row Count survey, relative to historic relationships, supported the forecast level. About 20 percent of the forecast amount was harvested by February 2, 1997.

TANGELOS NOW 4.0 MILLION BOXES

The tangelo forecast is increased 200,000 boxes to 4.0 million boxes. Estimated utilization, as of February 2, 1997, including a 200,000 box pre-season allocation for unrecorded gift fruit and other use, was 3.65 million boxes. The Row Count survey indicated about 10 percent of the rows remaining. This is the largest utilized tangelo crop since 1987-88.

K-EARLY CITRUS FINAL

The 1996-97 K-Early Citrus estimate is final at 150,000 boxes. Last season's final was 160,000 boxes.

Unadjusted maturity tests: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 1995-96 and 1996-97 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date		Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
		1995-96	1996-97	1995-96	1996-97	1995-96	1996-97	1995-96	1996-97	1995-96	1996-97
		Percent		Percent				Pounds		Pounds	
		Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.									
ORANGES:											
Early (8-16)											
Oct	1	1.18	1.21	9.44	9.82	8.25	8.26	51.25	48.44	4.83	4.76
Nov	1	0.85	0.95	9.91	10.21	12.27	11.09	54.78	50.42	5.42	5.15
Dec	1	0.83	0.84	10.81	11.02	13.44	13.22	51.48	51.97	5.57	5.73
Jan	1	0.81	0.79	11.41	11.80	14.50	15.12	51.01	49.82	5.83	5.88
Feb	1	0.75	0.75	12.48	12.07	17.15	16.36	51.27	48.94	6.38	5.92
Midseason (11-15)											
Oct	1	1.26	1.41	9.38	9.71	7.53	6.98	52.75	48.81	4.95	4.74
Nov	1	0.96	1.16	10.11	10.26	10.64	8.98	54.51	52.51	5.52	5.38
Dec	1	0.95	1.02	10.90	11.53	11.57	11.52	53.15	53.90	5.79	6.21
Jan	1	0.88	0.94	12.10	12.27	13.97	13.26	53.69	50.46	6.50	6.19
Feb	1	0.85	0.86	12.98	12.99	15.52	15.48	52.39	50.54	6.80	6.57
Late (150-150)											
Oct	1	2.39	2.40	8.60	8.93	3.65	3.76	47.68	46.08	4.10	4.11
Nov	1	1.77	1.98	8.68	9.33	5.00	4.78	52.66	49.71	4.58	4.64
Dec	1	1.55	1.64	9.54	10.29	6.25	6.37	53.39	53.19	5.10	5.48
Jan	1	1.38	1.44	10.44	11.13	7.67	7.84	54.23	54.16	5.67	6.03
Feb	1	1.21	1.28	11.37	11.88	9.54	9.39	54.70	54.05	6.23	6.43

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, February 1, 1997

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
ORANGES:	Number	Percent	Percent		Pounds	Pounds
Early						
Indian River Dist.	1	0.86	13.10	15.23	48.74	6.38
Other Areas	15	0.74	12.00	16.44	48.95	5.89
Midseason						
Indian River Dist.	5	0.89	14.18	16.31	52.28	7.40
Other Areas	10	0.84	12.40	15.06	49.67	6.16
Late						
Indian River Dist.	25	1.34	12.47	9.40	56.62	7.07
Other Areas	125	1.27	11.76	9.39	53.54	6.30