FLORIDA
Citrus December Forecast
MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

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ORANGES REDUCED TO 162.0 MILLION BOXES

The all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is down 28.0 million boxes, 15 percent, to 162.0 million. The primary reason for the reduction is the fruit losses due to Hurricane Wilma. After entering the State south of Naples as a Category 3 hurricane, it continued through the Southern production area with winds up to 125 mph. The storm exited the Indian River area near West Palm Beach. Two weeks later, crews visited one-third of the Limb Count samples in the two affected areas. Results of the recounts provided revised fruit per tree numbers reflecting the losses. In addition, estimated bearing tree numbers used in the expansions are adjusted downward from those used in October due to additional canker finds. Early-midseason tree numbers are reduced by 1.4 percent and Valencias by 2.4 percent.

Excluding the 2004-05 season, the December all orange forecast has averaged 3.2 percent different from actual production in the previous 10 seasons, with six above and four below.

Early-midseason and Valencia average fruit sizes are projected to be the smallest at harvest for the past ten years. Based on the observations from last season's droppage following the hurricanes, projected drop for early-midseason and Valencias is expected to be above average.

COMPONENTS USED IN THE DECEMBER FORECAST

Type	Bearing Trees	Fruit per Tree	Percent Droppage	Fruit per box
	(1,000)			
ORANGES:				
Early-Mid	28,964	937	11	282
Navel	1,634	436	9	139
Valencia	37,246	612	17	220

EARLY-MIDSEASON-NAVEL REDUCED TO 80.0 MILLION BOXES

The early-midseason-Navel orange forecast is down 13.0 million boxes (14 percent) to 80.0 million. If attained, this will be only 900,000 boxes more than last season, otherwise the smallest crop since the freeze year of 1989-90. The revised fruit per tree for early-midseasons is lower than 8 of the 10 previous seasons. The **Navel** portion of the forecast is reduced from 5.0 million boxes to 3.5 million.

VALENCIA ORANGES NOW 82.0 MILLION BOXES

The Valencia forecast is reduced 15.0 million boxes (15 percent) to 82 million boxes. This crop will be 11.5 million boxes more than last season, and the second smallest crop since the 1998-99 season. Excluding last season, the revised fruit per tree is near the average of the 10 previous seasons.

CITRUS PRODUCTION: December 1, 2005
Forecasts by varieties and States, with comparison

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2003-04	2004-05	Oct. 12, 2005	Dec. 9, 2005
	- - - 1,000 boxes - - -			
EARLY, MIDSEASON, AND NAVEL ORANGES:				
Florida	**126,000**	**79,100**	**93,000**	**80,000**
California	39,500	43,000	42,000	42,000
Texas	1,420	1,500	1,300	1,300
Arizona	300	240	270	270
Total Above Varieties	167,220	123,840	136,570	123,570
VALENCIAS:				
Florida	**116,000**	**70,500**	**97,000**	**82,000**
California	11,000	18,000	13,000	13,000
Texas	230	270	230	230
Arizona	170	190	200	200
Total Valencias	127,400	88,960	110,430	95,430
ALL ORANGES:				
Florida	**242,000**	**149,600**	**190,000**	**162,000**
California	50,500	61,000	55,000	55,000
Texas	1,650	1,770	1,530	1,530
Arizona	470	430	470	470
Total All Oranges	294,620	212,800	247,000	219,000

FCOJ YIELD 1.55 GALLONS PER BOX

The projection of FCOJ yield for all oranges is decreased from 1.58 gallons per box in October to 1.55 gallons. Last season's final reported yield was 1.58311 gallons. A projection by types will be made in the January release.

FORECAST DATES 2005-06 SEASON

January 12, 2006
February 9, 2006
March 10, 2006
April 10, 2006
May 12, 2006
June 9, 2006
July 12, 2006

United States Department Of Agriculture

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Florida Field Office

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GRAPEFRUIT NOW 16.0 MILLION BOXES

The Florida grapefruit forecast for certified utilization (including an allocation of 700,000 boxes of gift fruit and local sales) is decreased 8.0 million boxes to 16.0 million. The reduction includes decreases of three million boxes in the white and five million in the colored. If realized, this forecast will be 25 percent more than harvested last season. Fruit loss in hurricane affected areas was adjusted by fruit per tree changes. Based on the increased drop realized after last year's hurricanes, above average drop is expected statewide for both white and colored varieties. These indications, in conjunction with a significant decline in bearing tree numbers support the current forecast.

Two weeks after Hurricane Wilma, Limb Count crews were sent to revisit one-third of the samples in hurricane affected areas (Indian River and Southern Area). New state wide fruit per tree numbers were adopted that support the reduction in both the white and colored categories.

The **white** grapefruit forecast is reduced by 3.0 million boxes, to 4.0 million. The new fruit per tree number at 212 pieces is 103 more than last year, however still far less than any of the 10 years prior to last year. Expected drop at 11 percent is higher than nine of the past 10 seasons, excluding last year. The number of fruit for white grapefruit required to fill a box at harvest is lowered slightly to 84 pieces.

The **colored** grapefruit forecast is down 5.0 million boxes to 12.0 million. Fruit per tree at 252 pieces is lower than the 10 seasons previous to last year.

CITRUS PRODUCTION: December 1, 2005
forecasts by varieties and States, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2003-04	2004-05	Oct. 12, 2005	Dec. 9, 2005
	- - - 1,000 boxes - - -			
GRAPEFRUIT:				
Florida-All	**40,900**	**12,800**	**24,000**	**16,000**
White	**15,900**	**3,400**	**7,000**	**4,000**
Colored	**25,000**	**9,400**	**17,000**	**12,000**
Texas	5,700	6,600	5,400	5,400
Arizona	140	140	120	120
California	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800
Total Grapefruit	52,540	25,340	35,320	27,320
LEMONS:				
California	18,000	19,000	19,000	19,000
Arizona	3,000	2,400	3,800	3,800
Total Lemons	21,000	21,400	22,800	22,800
TEMPLES: **Florida**	**1,400**	**650**	**900**	**800**
TANGELOS: Florida	**1,000**	**1,550**	**1,400**	**1,200**
TANGERINES:				
Florida-All	**6,500**	**4,450**	**6,000**	**5,700**
Early [1/]	**3,600**	**2,450**	**3,500**	**3,500**
Honey	**2,900**	**2,000**	**2,500**	**2,200**
California [2/]	2,200	2,800	3,200	3,200
Arizona [2/]	690	400	500	500
Total Tangerines	9,390	7,650	9,700	9,400

[1/] Fallglo and Sunburst varieties.
[2/] Includes tangelos and tangors.

COMPONENTS USED IN THE DECEMBER FORECAST

Type	Bearing Trees	Fruit per Tree	Percent Droppage	Fruit per box
	(1,000)			
GRAPEFRUIT:				
White [1/]	2,216	212	11	84
Colored	4,230	252	14	92

[1/] Seedless variety only.

The growth rate in the colored grapefruit has increased since last month and sizes are projected to be above average. The number of colored grapefruit required to fill a box is now projected at 92, less than the 97 pieces used in the October forecast. The droppage has increased and is projected to be higher than any of the past ten seasons other than last season.

ALL TANGERINES LOWERED TO 5.7 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all tangerines is decreased 300,000 boxes to 5.7 million boxes. The early tangerines remain unchanged at 3.5 million boxes. **Fallglo** harvest is relatively complete for the season. **Sunburst** harvest is underway for the holiday season with commercial, gift fruit, and fund raising shipments. The later maturing **Honey** tangerines are reduced by 300,000 boxes. The primary reason for lowering the Honey forecast is an adjustment in the fruit per tree. Prior to Hurricane Wilma, the Honey fruit per tree was higher than any of the last ten seasons. After being lowered to 848 pieces, it is higher than seven of the last 10 seasons.

TEMPLES NOW AT 800,000 BOXES

The **Temple** forecast is reduced to 800,000 boxes. The primary reason for the decrease was the fruit per tree reduction due to Hurricane Wilma. If attained this would be the second smallest amount since the 1954-55 season. Last year's utilization was 650,000 after being reduced by the effect of four hurricanes. Average Temple fruit size is still very small for this time of the season and is expected to be much smaller than average at harvest. Fruit drop for Temples is expected to be slightly above average.

TANGELOS DOWN TO 1.2 MILLION BOXES

Tangelos are being reduced 200,000 boxes to 1.2 million. If realized, other than last year's crop, this will be the smallest crop since the 1965-66 season. The primary reduction is due to decreased fruit per tree from Hurricane Wilma. The adjusted average fruit per tree at 698 is still higher than seven of the last 10 seasons. The small crop is the result of average fruit size being extremely small for the season. Drop is final for the season and is slightly above average.

UNADJUSTED MATURITY TESTS: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 2004-05 and 2005-06 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06
	Percent		*Percent*				*Pounds*		*Pounds*	
Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.										
ORANGES:										
Early (108-112)										
Sep 1	1.62	1.81	9.30	9.31	5.83	5.20	42.30	39.10	3.93	3.64
Oct 1	1.09	1.33	9.27	9.40	8.65	7.16	48.57	44.75	4.50	4.20
Nov 1	0.82	0.90	9.85	9.85	12.23	11.19	51.88	50.18	5.11	4.94
Dec 1	0.73	0.82	10.68	10.66	14.77	13.32	51.36	51.04	5.49	5.44
Midseason (53-52)										
Sep 1	1.80	1.97	9.02	9.09	5.11	4.67	42.08	39.50	3.79	3.59
Oct 1	1.26	1.52	9.01	9.38	7.26	6.29	49.93	45.33	4.50	4.25
Nov 1	0.93	1.12	9.52	9.95	10.43	9.16	53.35	50.92	5.08	5.06
Dec 1	0.83	0.97	10.58	10.90	12.94	11.46	51.97	51.77	5.50	5.64
Late (144-148)										
Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.43	2.60	8.64	9.02	3.59	3.51	46.50	43.06	4.02	3.88
Nov 1	1.92	1.98	8.84	9.15	4.64	4.66	50.23	48.16	4.44	4.41
Dec 1	1.56	1.64	9.73	9.83	6.29	6.07	53.16	51.04	5.17	5.02
GRAPEFRUIT:										
White Seedless (38-45)										
Sep 1	1.71	1.77	9.60	9.91	5.61	5.60	32.50	29.65	3.12	2.94
Oct 1	1.42	1.55	9.27	9.91	6.54	6.41	38.79	36.51	3.60	3.61
Nov 1	1.28	1.40	9.32	9.70	7.33	6.99	43.00	41.13	4.01	3.99
Dec 1	1.28	1.27	9.59	9.67	7.53	7.62	44.33	43.30	4.25	4.18
Colored Seedless (41-42)										
Sep 1	1.66	1.78	9.75	10.18	5.88	5.75	33.89	30.72	3.31	3.13
Oct 1	1.36	1.52	9.44	10.14	6.96	6.67	40.50	36.65	3.83	3.72
Nov 1	1.28	1.34	9.54	9.95	7.50	7.43	43.16	40.93	4.12	4.07
Dec 1	1.21	1.20	9.87	9.84	8.19	8.21	46.25	43.17	4.56	4.24

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, DECEMBER 1, 2005

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	Number	*Percent*	*Percent*		*Pounds*	*Pounds*
ORANGES:						
Early						
Indian River District	9	0.87	10.54	12.14	48.86	5.17
Other Areas	103	0.81	10.67	13.43	51.23	5.47
Midseason						
Indian River District	9	1.03	10.91	10.59	52.54	5.74
Other Areas	43	0.95	10.90	11.64	51.60	5.62
Late						
Indian River Disrict	25	1.64	9.69	5.94	50.25	4.87
Other Areas	123	1.63	9.85	6.10	51.20	5.05
GRAPEFRUIT:						
White Seedless						
Indian River District	34	1.29	9.72	7.55	42.63	4.14
Other Areas	11	1.23	9.51	7.81	45.37	4.32
Colored Seedless						
Indian River District	33	1.22	9.90	8.18	43.14	4.27
Other Areas	9	1.16	9.59	8.32	43.27	4.15

FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

Size frequency distributions developed from the November 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 November measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	2003	2004	2005
	- - - Percent - - -		
EARLY AND MIDSEASON ORANGES: (excluding Navels)			
64 and larger	3.1	0.9	0.4
80	11.9	5.7	3.3
100	31.9	25.0	17.2
125	33.7	38.9	37.3
163 and smaller	19.4	29.5	41.8
NAVEL ORANGES:			
64 and larger	72.7	51.6	49.9
80	22.4	35.0	33.5
100	4.0	10.1	13.1
125	0.7	2.7	2.7
163 and smaller	0.2	0.6	0.8
WHITE SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT:			
32 and larger	13.4	13.1	16.7
36	17.2	17.2	19.3
40	23.7	26.0	26.3
48	17.0	17.9	15.5
56	10.6	11.5	9.7
63 and smaller	18.1	14.3	12.5
COLORED SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT:			
32 and larger	8.2	6.5	14.1
36	12.1	12.2	14.1
40	22.5	22.2	23.3
48	21.7	22.8	17.4
56	14.6	15.1	12.9
63 and smaller	20.9	21.2	18.2
SUNBURST TANGERINES:			
80 and larger	15.6	9.2	9.3
100 and larger	25.3	22.8	21.5
120	31.9	26.4	25.2
176	13.9	15.8	15.3
210 and smaller	13.3	25.8	28.7
HONEY TANGERINES:			
80 and larger	24.5	6.9	2.6
100	35.6	21.2	18.5
120	22.6	32.3	40.2
176	9.1	15.2	18.7
210 and smaller	8.2	24.4	20.0
TEMPLES:			
80 and larger	17.1	10.4	10.0
100	37.2	40.0	38.9
120	30.2	39.4	30.8
156 and smaller	15.5	10.2	20.3
TANGELOS:			
80 and larger	57.4	18.2	18.9
100	26.5	28.4	33.3
120	9.8	33.4	25.6
156 and smaller	6.3	20.0	22.2

The charts below 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 eight inch range, except for the smallest values.

CHART 1: Early and midseason oranges (excluding Navels) size frequency by diameter from November measurements

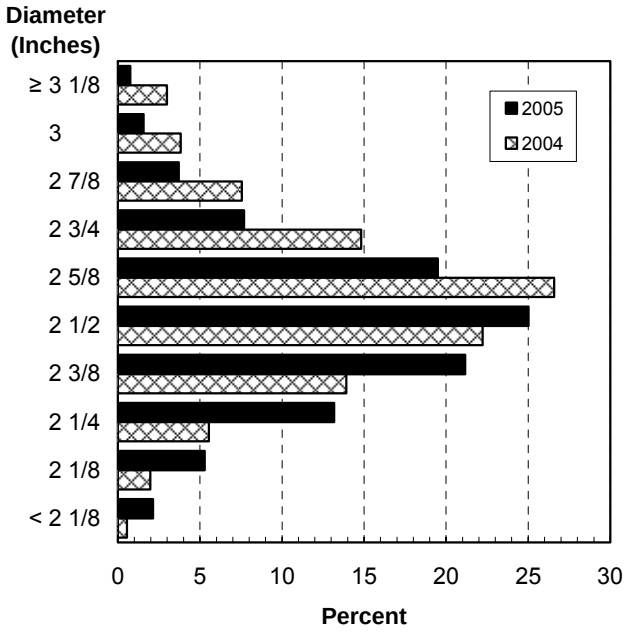

CHART 2: White seedless grapefruit size frequency by diameter from November measurements