United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

CITRUS

DECEMBER FORECAST
MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1222 Woodward St. · Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

December 11, 2008

ALL ORANGES NOW 165.0 MILLION BOXES

The Florida all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is 165.0 million boxes. The decrease of 1.0 million boxes from the October forecast is in the early-midseason-Navel portion (including Temples) of the crop. If realized, the forecast would be three percent less than last season's production but 28 percent more than the harvest of 2006-07. In the past eight non-hurricane seasons, the December forecast has deviated from actual production by an average of 3.8 percent, with five forecasts above and three below the actual production.

EARLY-MIDSEASON-NAVELS DOWN TO 87.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of early-midseason-Navel oranges (including Temples) is lowered by 1.0 million boxes to 87.0 million boxes. This forecast is four percent greater than the 2007-08 production and the highest utilization since 2003-04. Fruit size is below average but the growth rate during the past month was about normal and is projected to continue at a similar rate. The projected fruit size is unchanged from the previous forecast and is slightly below the average of the recent non-hurricane seasons, requiring an additional two pieces of fruit to fill a 90-pound equivalent box. Measurements of actual droppage show loss to be increasing at a faster than average rate, resulting in a higher drop projection in forecast models.

CITRUS PRODUCTION: DECEMBER 1, 2008
Forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons [1/]

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2006-07	2007-08	Oct 10, 2008	Dec 11, 2008
	- - - 1,000 boxes - - -			
EARLY, MIDSEASON, AND NAVEL ORANGES:				
FLORIDA[2/]	**65,600**	**83,500**	**88,000**	**87,000**
California	34,500	48,500	32,000	32,000
Texas	1,600	1,500	1,300	1,300
Arizona	200	230	150	150
Total Above Varieties	101,900	133,730	121,450	120,450
VALENCIAS:				
FLORIDA	**63,400**	**86,700**	**78,000**	**78,000**
California	11,500	16,000	12,000	12,000
Texas	380	234	200	200
Arizona	100	150	100	100
Total Valencias	75,380	103,084	90,300	90,300
ALL ORANGES:				
FLORIDA	**129,000**	**170,200**	**166,000**	**165,000**
California	46,000	64,500	44,000	44,000
Texas	1,980	1,734	1,500	1,500
Arizona	300	380	250	250
Total All Oranges	177,280	236,814	211,750	210,750

[1/] Estimates for AZ, CA, and TX are carried forward from October.
[2/] Includes Temples.

FORECAST DATES — 2008-09 SEASON

January 12, 2009	April 9, 2009
February 9, 2009	May 12, 2009
March 11, 2009	June 10, 2009
July 10, 2009	

Navels comprise 3.1 million boxes of the total for this category, down from the 3.3 million boxes in October. Field measurements recorded in November are the final components used in the forecasting model for Navels. Changes in the average size and drop necessitated the lower forecast. Compared to the initial projections, average fruit size is smaller and droppage is higher. However, both are below average for seasons included in the forecast regressions.

VALENCIAS REMAIN 78.0 MILLION BOXES

The Valencia forecast is unchanged from October at 78.0 million boxes. Harvest of this late variety has not begun. Current fruit size and droppage are below average. Both components are projected to be slightly below average at harvest.

COMPONENTS USED IN THE DECEMBER FORECAST [1/]

Type	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
	(1,000)			
ORANGES:				
Early-mid	24,596	1,079	10	249
Navel	1,231	469	11	139
Valencia	34,151	574	14	206

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

FCOJ YIELD NOW 1.58 GALLONS PER BOX

The projection of FCOJ yield of all orange is lowered from 1.59 to 1.58 gallons per box of 42º Brix concentrate. The average yield over the past 10 seasons is 1.60 gallons per box. Last season's record high reported by the Department of Citrus is 1.672737. Separate projections for the early-midseason fruit and late (Valencia) oranges will be included in the January release.

Fruit samples were collected December 1-2 and tested in this office's laboratory. Results are printed on page 3.

GRAPEFRUIT UNCHANGED AT 23.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of grapefruit for certified utilization (including an allocation of 700,000 boxes of gift fruit and local sales) continues at 23.0 million boxes. This forecast, consisting of 7.0 million boxes of white and 16.0 million boxes of colored grapefruit, is unchanged from the initial forecast in October. If realized, this forecast will be 14 percent less than last season's 26.6 million box utilization.

The fruit size and drop measurements obtained in October and November are the primary indicators used in setting this month's forecast. Fruit growth for **white** grapefruit is higher than earlier forecasted, and it is now projected to take 84 of pieces of fruit to fill a 1-3/5 bushel box. Droppage, at 11 percent, is unchanged since October. Size is near the maximum of the past eight non-hurricane seasons, while drop is only slightly higher than the average.

Typically, early harvested fruit are sent to packinghouses with only the eliminations going to processing plants. This season, according to the Citrus Administrative Committee's Utilization Report No. 8, more white grapefruit has been certified as processed than as fresh. As harvesting increases and fruit is sent directly from the field to processing plants, a much larger percentage of the white grapefruit will be processed. As of the first of the month, an estimated 602,000 boxes of white grapefruit have been harvested (including an allocation of other use.)

CITRUS PRODUCTION: December 1, 2008
forecasts by varieties and States, with comparisons [1/]

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2006-07	2007-08	Oct 10, 2008	Dec 11, 2008
	- - - 1,000 boxes - - -			
GRAPEFRUIT:				
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	5,500	5,500
Texas	7,100	6,100	5,300	5,300
Arizona	100	100	150	150
Total Grapefruit	39,900	38,500	33,950	33,950
LEMONS:				
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
TANGELOS: **Florida**	**1,250**	**1,500**	**1,500**	**1,500**
TANGERINES:				
Florida-All	**4,600**	**5,500**	**4,900**	**4,900**
Early [2/]	**2,400**	**2,600**	**2,900**	**2,900**
Honey	**2,200**	**2,900**	**2,000**	**2,000**
California [3/]	3,500	5,700	6,300	6,300
Arizona [3/]	300	400	300	300
Total Tangerines	8,400	11,600	11,500	11,500

[1/] Estimates for AZ, CA, and TX are carried forward from October.
[2/] Fallglo and Sunburst varieties.
[3/] Includes tangelos and tangors.

COMPONENTS USED IN THE DECEMBER FORECAST [1/]

Type	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
	(1,000)			
GRAPEFRUIT:				
White [2/]	1,688	401	11	84
Colored	4,035	425	12	98

[1/] January data is considered final.
[2/] Seedless variety only.

The rate of growth for **colored** grapefruit has gone as expected, following the average of the past eight non-hurricane seasons. If average growth continues, it will take 98 pieces of fruit to fill a 1-3/5 bushel box at harvest. The overall quality of the grapefruit has been reported as very good this season, and 72 percent of harvested colored grapefruit has been certified as fresh. As of the first of the month, an estimated 2.5 million boxes of colored grapefruit have been harvested.

ALL TANGERINES 4.9 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all tangerines remains at 4.9 million boxes. The total consists of the early varieties (Fallglo and Sunburst) at 2.9 million boxes and the late Honey tangerine at 2.0 million boxes. The early varieties of tangerines are 45 percent harvested.

The **Fallglo** tangerine forecast is 700,000 boxes. Results of Fallglo tangerine size and droppage surveys show both are slightly below average. While the Fallglo crop is complete for the season, the remaining S**unburst** tangerines, forecast at 2.2 million boxes, are currently being harvested for the fresh fruit market. Sunburst sizes are slightly below average but larger than last year at this time. Fruit droppage is well above average.

Production of the late **Honey** tangerine variety, forecast is 2.0 million boxes. Down 31 percent from last season, the forecast is equal to the production of the 2004-05 season. Harvesting is expected to begin in January.

TANGELOS CONTINUED AT 1.5 MILLION BOXES

The **tangelo** forecast remains unchanged from the initial October forecast of 1.5 million boxes. The size of the fruit is slightly above average while the drop rate is running below average. It will require approximately 234 pieces of fruit to fill one 1-3/5 bushel box of tangelos. Estimated utilization to December 1 is approximately 90,000 boxes or the equivalent of six percent of the forecast total.

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

Fruit type (number of 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
	Percent		*Percent*				*Pounds*		*Pounds*	
	Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to processing plant test results.									
ORANGES:										
Early (115-108)										
Sep 1	1.76	1.44	9.45	9.25	5.50	6.53	41.07	46.89	3.88	4.34
Oct 1	1.26	1.08	10.27	9.65	8.36	9.12	45.92	48.76	4.71	4.70
Nov 1	0.88	0.83	10.21	10.24	11.91	12.61	50.87	52.74	5.19	5.39
Dec 1	0.82	0.79	10.90	11.14	13.62	14.33	51.74	52.61	5.63	5.86
Midseason (54-53)										
Sep 1	2.00	1.66	9.63	9.00	4.91	5.48	41.56	45.10	4.00	4.06
Oct 1	1.50	1.29	9.63	9.40	6.57	7.45	46.23	50.84	4.45	4.78
Nov 1	1.01	0.90	10.30	10.18	10.47	11.57	50.74	53.83	5.23	5.47
Dec 1	0.97	0.88	11.23	11.17	11.77	12.94	50.30	53.01	5.64	5.92
Late (149-150)										
Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.62	2.48	9.47	8.86	3.66	3.62	43.86	47.40	4.15	4.20
Nov 1	1.95	1.86	9.27	9.30	4.82	5.07	48.85	51.82	4.53	4.82
Dec 1	1.70	1.61	10.11	10.19	6.02	6.40	52.22	54.06	5.28	5.51
GRAPEFRUIT:										
White Seedless (45-41)										
Sep 1	1.94	1.71	10.18	9.61	5.31	5.62	30.29	30.95	3.08	2.98
Oct 1	1.64	1.59	10.09	10.00	6.17	6.37	35.63	36.23	3.59	3.62
Nov 1	1.40	1.43	9.96	10.04	7.17	7.10	41.40	39.71	4.12	3.99
Dec 1	1.37	1.47	10.08	10.45	7.40	7.16	44.15	41.98	4.45	4.38
Colored Seedless (48-42)										
Sep 1	1.96	1.69	10.52	9.81	5.40	5.82	30.61	32.64	3.21	3.20
Oct 1	1.67	1.52	10.56	10.11	6.36	6.68	35.34	36.71	3.73	3.71
Nov 1	1.40	1.37	10.43	10.30	7.50	7.60	41.69	40.93	4.35	4.21
Dec 1	1.37	1.41	10.64	10.67	7.79	7.65	44.79	43.99	4.76	4.69

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, 2008

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	0.79	11.22	14.23	53.36	5.98
Other Areas	99	0.79	11.14	14.34	52.54	5.85
Midseason						
Indian River District	11	0.94	11.42	12.22	54.41	6.22
Other Areas	42	0.86	11.10	13.14	52.64	5.84
Late						
Indian River District	27	1.71	10.36	6.10	53.30	5.52
Other Areas	123	1.59	10.15	6.46	54.23	5.51
GRAPEFRUIT:						
White Seedless						
Indian River District	31	1.52	10.58	7.00	41.10	4.34
Other Areas	10	1.31	10.03	7.68	44.71	4.49
Colored Seedless						
Indian River District	32	1.42	10.66	7.58	44.04	4.69
Other Areas	10	1.37	10.69	7.86	43.84	4.69

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	2006	2007	2008
	- - - Percent - - -		
EARLY AND MIDSEASON ORANGES (excluding Navels):			
64 and larger	3.9	0.8	1.6
80	13.9	6.1	8.1
100	32.8	22.0	29.2
125	31.3	35.9	38.5
163 and smaller	18.1	35.2	22.6
NAVEL ORANGES:			
64 and larger	75.4	52.8	46.5
80	20.4	32.3	34.0
100	3.7	9.9	14.5
125	0.5	3.8	4.0
163 and smaller	0.0	1.2	1.0
VALENCIA ORANGES:			
64 and larger	2.7	1.1	1.2
80	16.4	7.8	13.1
100	37.1	28.7	40.4
125	29.5	35.1	31.8
163 and smaller	14.3	27.3	13.5
WHITE SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT:			
32 and larger	11.1	3.7	17.6
36	19.7	10.0	22.9
40	25.0	15.0	18.6
48	17.7	22.3	18.8
56	11.0	17.2	9.8
63 and smaller	15.5	31.8	12.3
COLORED SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT:			
32 and larger	4.3	2.7	7.6
36	12.1	7.3	13.1
40	22.5	13.7	17.1
48	21.1	21.7	22.1
56	16.1	14.3	14.9
63 and smaller	23.9	40.3	25.2
SUNBURST TANGERINES:			
80 and larger	10.3	7.3	11.8
100 and larger	27.8	18.6	30.7
120	27.8	32.1	29.6
176	18.1	13.4	11.4
210 and smaller	16.0	28.6	16.5
HONEY TANGERINES:			
80 and larger	7.5	2.6	8.2
100	25.0	14.7	32.1
120	34.1	27.0	28.8
176	12.5	18.8	12.0
210 and smaller	20.9	36.9	18.9
TANGELOS:			
80 and larger	40.8	22.7	40.0
100	34.2	25.6	34.6
120	17.3	25.6	16.0
156 and smaller	7.7	26.1	9.4

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 eighth inch range, except for the smallest values.

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

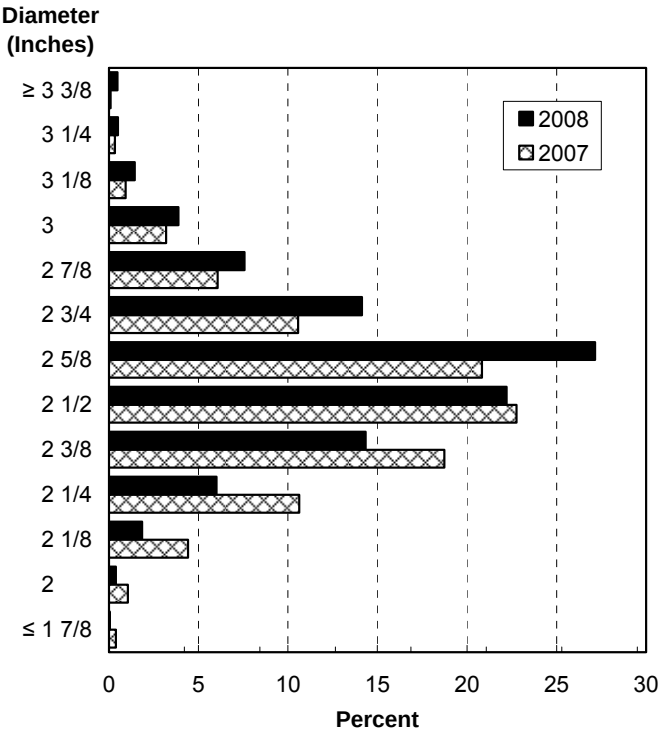

CHART 2: White seedless grapefruit size frequency by diameter from November measurements