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
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All Oranges Reduced to 135.0 Million Boxes

The Florida all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is 135.0 million boxes, comprised of 66.0 million boxes of Valencia oranges and 69.0 million boxes of the non-Valencia varieties (early, midseason, Navel, and Temple). The reduction of 1.0 million boxes is in the Valencia category. If realized, this forecast would be 17 percent less than last season's production of 162.4 million boxes. In the past 8 non-hurricane seasons, the December forecast has differed from actual production by an average of 3 percent with 5 seasons above and 3 seasons below.

Forecast Dates - 2009-2010 Season

January 12, 2010	May 11, 2010
February 10, 2010	June 11, 2010
March 10, 2010	July 9, 2010
April 9, 2010	

Non-Valencia Oranges Remain 69.0 Million Boxes

The forecast of the non-Valencia oranges is unchanged at 69.0 million boxes. Despite an average rate of growth during the past 2 months, fruit sizes have remained small and are projected to be less than average at harvest, requiring an additional 2 pieces of fruit to fill a 90-pound box equivalent. The smaller sized fruit is offset by a lower rate of loss due to droppage, which continues to track near the minimum of recent seasons.

Navels, which are included in this forecast, are continued at 2.3 million boxes. Measurements of fruit size and drop for this portion of the crop have been below average during each survey period. These components are now final and very close to the projections made originally in October.

Valencia Oranges Now 66.0 Million Boxes

The forecast of the Valencia oranges is decreased 1.0 million boxes. Rate of growth of the fruit has slowed in the past 2 months and projected size at harvest has been reduced. Droppage continues at a near-minimum level.

FCOJ Yield 1.63 Gallons per Box

The projection for frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) is continued at 1.63 gallons per box of 42° Brix concentrate for all oranges. Individual components will be published starting in January. The record all orange yield is 1.672737 set in 2007-08.

Orange Production by Type and State — United States: 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and Forecasted October 1, 2009 and December 1, 2009

Crop and State	Production			2009-2010 Forecast	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	October	December
	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 boxes)
NON-VALENCIA ORANGES [1]					
Florida	**65,600**	**83,500**	**84,600**	**69,000**	**69,000**
California [2]	34,500	45,000	34,500	40,000	40,000
Texas [2]	1,600	1,600	1,300	1,250	1,250
Arizona [3]	200	230	150		
United States	101,900	130,330	120,550	110,250	110,250
VALENCIA ORANGES					
Florida	**63,400**	**86,700**	**77,800**	**67,000**	**66,000**
California [2]	11,500	17,000	14,000	15,000	15,000
Texas [2]	380	196	159	200	200
Arizona [3]	100	150	100		
United States	75,380	104,046	92,059	82,200	81,200
ALL ORANGES					
Florida	**129,000**	**170,200**	**162,400**	**136,000**	**135,000**
California [2]	46,000	62,000	48,500	55,000	55,000
Texas [2]	1,980	1,796	1,549	1,450	1,450
Arizona [3]	300	380	250		
United States	177,280	234,376	212,609	192,450	191,450

[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 19.8 Million Boxes

The forecast of grapefruit for certified utilization (including an allocation of 700,000 boxes of gift fruit and local sales) continues at 19.8 million boxes. This forecast, consisting of 5.8 million boxes of white and 14.0 million boxes of colored grapefruit, is unchanged from the initial forecast. If realized, this forecast will be 9 percent less than last season's 21.7 million box utilization. Fruit size at harvest is projected to be below the average of the 8 seasons used in the regressions. Droppage is expected to be near the minimum for those same seasons.

All Tangerines Reduced to 4.8 Million Boxes

The forecast of all tangerines for certified utilization (including an allocation of 300,000 boxes of gift fruit and local sales) is reduced to 4.8 million boxes. The Fallglo and Sunburst forecasts have each been lowered by 50,000 boxes resulting in a 100,000 box reduction in the early tangerine forecast. The changes are attributed to smaller fruit sizes for both varieties and a higher than projected droppage rate for the Sunburst variety.

Tangelos Continued at 1.0 Million Boxes

The tangelo forecast for certified utilization (including an allocation of 100,000 boxes of gift fruit and local sales) remains unchanged from the initial forecast of 1.0 million boxes and is 13 percent less than the previous season's production. The size of the fruit and the droppage rate are both below average. It will require approximately 264 pieces of fruit to fill one 1-3/5 bushel box of tangelos.

Forecast Components, by Variety — Florida: December 2009

[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	Fruit per tree	Droppage	Fruit per box	Grapefruit Type	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Droppage	Fruit per box
	(1,000)	(number)	(percent)	(number)		(1,000)	(number)	(percent)	(number)
Early-midseason	24,575	862	7	251	White [1]	1,462	430	8	92
Navel	1,151	365	10	138	Colored	3,794	410	8	101
Valencia	33,685	478	13	214					

[1] Seedless variety only.

Citrus Production by Type and State — United States: 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and Forecasted October 1, 2009 and December 1, 2009

Crop and State	Production			2009-2010 Forecast	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	October	December
	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 boxes)
GRAPEFRUIT					
Florida-All	**27,200**	**26,600**	**21,700**	**19,800**	**19,800**
White	**9,300**	**9,000**	**6,600**	**5,800**	**5,800**
Colored	**17,900**	**17,600**	**15,100**	**14,000**	**14,000**
California [1]	5,500	5,200	5,600	4,700	4,700
Texas [1]	7,100	6,000	5,500	5,300	5,300
Arizona [2]	100	100	25		
United States	39,900	37,900	32,825	29,800	29,800
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**	**1,000**	**1,000**
TANGERINES					
Florida-All	**4,600**	**5,500**	**3,850**	**4,900**	**4,800**
Early [3]	**2,400**	**2,600**	**2,550**	**2,600**	**2,500**
Honey	**2,200**	**2,900**	**1,300**	**2,300**	**2,300**
California [1 4]	3,500	6,700	6,700	7,000	7,000
Arizona [1 4]	300	400	250	350	350
United States	8,400	12,600	10,800	12,250	12,150

[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.

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)	(number)	(number)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
ORANGES										
Early (120-115)										
Sep 1	1.44	1.54	9.25	9.26	6.53	6.12	46.89	41.97	4.34	3.88
Oct 1	1.08	1.14	9.65	9.31	9.12	8.33	48.76	46.17	4.70	4.30
Nov 1	0.83	0.85	10.24	10.31	12.61	12.36	52.74	49.51	5.39	5.10
Dec 1	0.79	0.72	11.14	11.05	14.33	15.75	52.61	50.78	5.86	5.61
Mid (55-53)										
Sep 1	1.66	1.72	9.00	9.23	5.48	5.46	45.10	42.89	4.06	3.95
Oct 1	1.29	1.31	9.40	9.23	7.45	7.20	50.84	47.25	4.78	4.36
Nov 1	0.90	0.97	10.18	10.28	11.57	10.86	53.83	51.27	5.47	5.27
Dec 1	0.88	0.84	11.17	11.07	12.94	13.56	53.01	51.67	5.92	5.72
Late (150-150)										
Sep 1	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Oct 1	2.48	2.41	8.86	8.86	3.62	3.73	47.40	43.46	4.20	3.85
Nov 1	1.86	1.86	9.30	9.32	5.07	5.07	51.82	48.08	4.82	4.48
Dec 1	1.61	1.52	10.19	10.22	6.40	6.83	54.06	50.91	5.51	5.20
GRAPEFRUIT										
White Seedless (48-48)										
Sep 1	1.71	1.75	9.61	9.81	5.62	5.60	30.95	31.50	2.98	3.09
Oct 1	1.59	1.54	10.00	9.77	6.37	6.39	36.23	36.52	3.62	3.57
Nov 1	1.43	1.41	10.04	10.46	7.10	7.46	39.71	41.17	3.99	4.31
Dec 1	1.47	1.37	10.45	10.58	7.16	7.75	41.98	43.24	4.38	4.57
Colored Seedless (49-49)										
Sep 1	1.69	1.75	9.81	10.07	5.82	5.79	32.64	31.48	3.20	3.17
Oct 1	1.52	1.54	10.11	10.23	6.68	6.69	36.71	36.57	3.71	3.74
Nov 1	1.37	1.36	10.30	10.69	7.60	7.90	40.93	41.72	4.21	4.46
Dec 1	1.41	1.31	10.67	10.98	7.65	8.42	43.99	44.23	4.69	4.85

NA Not available.

Citrus Fruit Maturity Test Averages, by Areas — Florida: December 1, 2009

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	(number)	(percent)	(percent)	(number)	(pounds)	(pounds)
ORANGES						
Early						
Indian River	9	0.78	11.42	14.85	51.98	5.93
Other Areas	106	0.71	11.02	15.83	50.67	5.58
Midseason						
Indian River	10	0.95	11.35	11.95	52.43	5.95
Other Areas	43	0.81	11.01	13.94	51.49	5.67
Late						
Indian River	27	1.57	10.59	6.81	51.01	5.40
Other Areas	123	1.51	10.15	6.84	50.89	5.16
GRAPEFRUIT						
White Seedless						
Indian River	38	1.39	10.72	7.72	43.23	4.63
Other Areas	10	1.29	10.04	7.85	43.26	4.33
Colored Seedless						
Indian River	39	1.33	11.12	8.41	44.39	4.92
Other Areas	10	1.23	10.43	8.49	43.61	4.56

Fruit Size Comparisons by Types to Previous Seasons

Size frequency distributions 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 include fruit from regular bloom and exclude fruit from summer bloom.

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

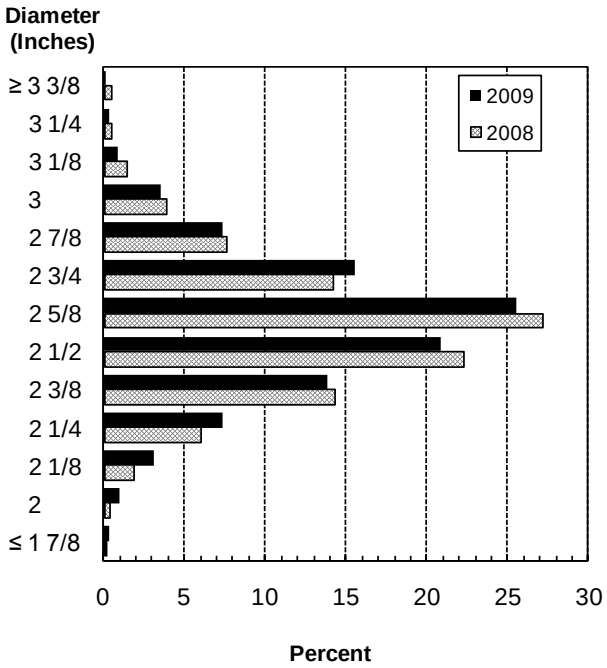
Type and number of fruit per 4/5-bushel containers	2007	2008	2009
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
EARLY AND MIDSEASON ORANGES [1]			
64 or less	0.8	1.6	0.8
80	6.1	8.1	7.2
100	22.0	29.2	30.3
125	35.9	38.5	36.1
163 or more	35.2	22.6	25.6
NAVEL ORANGES			
64 or less	52.8	46.5	46.9
80	32.3	34.0	33.8
100	9.9	14.5	11.5
125	3.8	4.0	5.5
163 or more	1.2	1.0	2.3
VALENCIA ORANGES			
64 or less	1.1	1.2	0.8
80	7.8	13.1	8.9
100	28.7	40.4	34.3
125	35.1	31.8	32.8
163 or more	27.3	13.5	23.2
WHITE SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT			
32 or less	3.7	17.6	12.7
36	10.0	22.9	12.8
40	15.0	18.6	15.9
48	22.3	18.8	18.2
56	17.2	9.8	13.5
63 or more	31.8	12.3	26.9
COLORED SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT			
32 or less	2.7	7.6	9.8
36	7.3	13.1	9.2
40	13.7	17.1	10.7
48	21.7	22.1	15.5
56	14.3	14.9	14.9
63 or more	40.3	25.2	39.9
SUNBURST TANGERINES			
80 or less	7.3	11.8	5.0
100	18.6	30.7	20.6
120	32.1	29.6	32.2
176	13.4	11.4	16.7
210 or more	28.6	16.5	25.5
HONEY TANGERINES			
80 or less	2.6	8.2	5.5
100	14.7	32.1	19.3
120	27.0	28.8	29.1
176	18.8	12.0	16.0
210 or more	36.9	18.9	30.1
TANGELOS			
80 or less	22.7	40.0	26.6
100	25.6	34.6	30.2
120	25.6	16.0	23.6
156 or more	26.1	9.4	19.6

[1] Excludes Navels and Temples.

The charts below show the distribution of fruit sizes in 2009 compared to 2008. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth-inch range, except for the smallest values.

Fruit Size Frequency Measurements, Early and Midseason Oranges, by Diameter — Florida: November

[Excludes Navels and Temples]



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