



FLORIDA
AGRICULTURAL
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AVOCADOS & LEMONS

ANNUAL PRODUCTION AND VALUE

April 19, 1991

AVOCADOS

FLORIDA: Total avocado production for the 1990-91 season ended March 31 was 784,000 bushels, 41 percent less than the 1,340,000 bushels produced the previous season. The December 1989 freeze is the primary reason for this large decline in production. Summer varieties were not affected as severely as winter varieties whose shipments were greatly reduced.

The average price of \$17.10 per bushel received by growers for fruit delivered to the packing house is more than double the \$8.30 averaged last season. Prices remained strong throughout the season with record high prices in January. Total value of the crop at the packing house door increased to \$13,406,000 which is higher than recent seasons but not a record.

Recovery of trees from the 1989 freeze in Dade County is evident by the good bloom on most varieties. Bearing acreage has decreased to 9,000 acres from 10,600 last season. Although some trees were lost in the freeze, bearing acreage has been declining for several seasons.

CALIFORNIA: Production of the 1989-90 season which ended last October was 4,160,000 bushel equivalents, down 37 percent from the previous season and the lowest production in many seasons. The season average price for fruit delivered to the packing house door was a record \$57.25 per bushel. Official projections of the 1990-91 crop size are not being made by the California Avocado Commission, but other industry sources expect the crop to be similar to the 1989-90 crop.

Table 1. FLORIDA AVOCADOS: Bearing acreage, production, utilization, season average price, and value of production at packing house door for crop years 1982-83 through 1990-91

Season	Bearing acreage	Total production	Certified shipments	Local fresh use	Processing	Price per bushel	Value of production
	Acres	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Dollars	Dollars
1982-83	10,000	1,388,000	1,326,000	32,000	30,000	12.00	16,658,000
1983-84	10,900	1,080,000	1,032,000	28,000	20,000	11.50	12,409,000
1984-85	11,000	1,180,000	1,150,000	20,000	10,000	9.75	11,496,000
1985-86	10,700	1,140,000	1,111,000	19,000	10,000	14.40	16,415,000
1986-87	11,300	988,000	957,000	25,000	6,000	10.30	10,176,000
1987-88	11,300	1,160,000	1,130,000	30,000	--	7.80	9,048,000
1988-89	10,900	1,080,000	1,058,000	22,000	--	10.90	11,772,000
1989-90	10,600	1,340,000	1,300,000	40,000	--	8.30	11,122,000
1990-91	9,000	784,000	752,000	17,000	15,000	17.10	13,406,000

Table 2. CALIFORNIA AVOCADOS: Bearing acreage, production, season average price and value of production at packing house door for crop years 1982-83 through 1989-90

Season	Bearing acreage	Total production	Fresh shipments	Processing	Price per bushel	Value of production
	Acres	Bushels	Bushels 1/	Bushels	Dollars	Dollars
1982-83	68,000	8,080,000	8,080,000	--	11.50	92,920,000
1983-84	72,100	9,880,000	9,880,000	--	9.25	91,390,000
1984-85	73,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	--	14.55	116,400,000
1985-86	74,500	6,400,000	6,400,000	--	25.50	163,200,000
1986-87	75,000	11,120,000	11,120,000	--	8.45	93,964,000
1987-88	74,800	7,200,000	7,200,000	--	28.50	205,200,000
1988-89	75,200	6,600,000	6,120,000	480,000	31.50	207,900,000
1989-90	74,600	4,160,000	3,680,000	480,000	57.25	238,160,000

1/ Pounds converted to bushels at 50 pound equivalents.

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LEMONS

Bearing acreage is estimated to be 1,000 acres, 900 of true varieties and slightly less than 100 of Meyers. Acreage has declined steadily since the freezes of the 1980's with very few new trees being set.

Average price per box was \$6.80, near last season's \$6.90 but up considerably from 1988. Total value of the crop at \$1,697,000 is down from last season and near the lows of 1977 and 1986.

Production of all lemons in 1990 was 250,000 boxes, the lowest in this twenty year series. Fresh utilization of true lemon varieties was 120,000 boxes, down from 215,000 in 1989. Processing of true and Meyer lemons was down also, from 160,000 boxes in 1989 to only 130,000 boxes in 1990.

FLORIDA LEMONS: Bearing acreage, production, season average on-tree prices and value for crop years 1972 through 1990

Season: True lemons : Meyer lemons : All lemons
 : Bearing: Product-: Price: Bearing: Product-: Price: Bearing: Product-: Price: Value of
 : acres : t/ton : per box: acres : t/ton : per box: acres : t/ton : per box: production

Year	True lemons	Meyer lemons	All lemons
1972	6.8	3.00	1,180
1973	6.3	3.25	1,010
1974	6.0	2.50	1,150
1975	5.4	3.60	850
1976	5.6	2.45	900
1977	3.7	4.55	200
1978	3.5	5.25	370
1979	3.9	8.90	770
1980	3.8	7.90	850
1981	3.7	6.70	870
1982	2.0	13.30	140
1983	1.6	9.00	455
1984	1.6	.5	485
1985	1.3	.1	275
1986	1.3	.1	560
1987	1.2	.1	470
1988	1.1	.1	433
1989	1.0	.1	333
1990	.9	.1	210

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