



FLORIDA  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE  
1222 Woodward Street  
Orlando, Florida 32803

# AVOCADOS & LEMONS



ANNUAL PRODUCTION AND VALUE

April 29, 1988

## AVOCADOS

FLORIDA: Total production of avocados for the 1987-88 season ended March 31 was 1,160,000 bushels, over 17 percent more than the 988,000 bushels produced the previous season. The record high production was in 1982-83 when 1,388,000 bushels were utilized.

The average price of \$7.80 per bushel received by growers for fruit delivered to the packing house was substantially reduced from the previous season, and the lowest in many years. The very large 1986-87 crop produced by California contributed to Florida's reduced price.

Total value of the crop at \$9,048,000 was 11 percent less than the previous season, and the

lowest since the 1978-79 season. Bearing acreage is estimated at 11,300 acres, unchanged from the previous season.

CALIFORNIA: Production of the 1986-87 crop which ended last October was a record high 11,040,000 bushel equivalents. This was considerably more than any previous season and reflects the heavy plantings that have occurred in the last decade. Average price of the crop was very low at \$8.28 per bushel equivalent.

Projections of this season's crop size are not being made by the California Avocado Commission because of several periods of adverse weather in winter months.

Table 1. Florida avocados: Bearing acreage, production, utilization, season average price, and value of production at packing house door for crop years 1978-79 through 1987-88

Season	Bearing acreage	Total production	Certified shipments	Local fresh use	Processing	Price per bushel	Value of production
	Acres	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Dollars	Dollars
1978-79	7,700	924,000	895,000	8,000	21,000	10.00	9,240,000
1979-80	8,300	1,090,000	1,017,000	21,000	52,000	14.95	16,298,000
1980-81	9,000	1,230,000	1,114,000	26,000	90,000	13.25	16,293,000
1981-82	9,300	1,032,000	977,000	23,000	32,000	12.50	12,935,000
1982-83	10,000	1,388,000	1,326,000	32,000	30,000	12.00	16,656,000
1983-84	10,900	1,080,000	1,032,000	28,000	20,000	11.50	12,420,000
1984-85	11,000	1,180,000	1,150,000	20,000	10,000	9.75	11,505,000
1985-86	10,700	1,140,000	1,111,000	19,000	10,000	14.40	16,416,000
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

Table 2. California avocados: Bearing acreage, production, season average price and value of production at packing house door for crop years 1978-79 through 1986-87

Season	Bearing acreage	Total production 1/	Price per bushel	Value of production
	Acres	Bushels	Dollars	Dollars
1978-79	39,960	4,920,000	17.30	84,993,000
1979-80	44,370	3,000,000	37.40	112,200,000
1980-81	47,830	9,520,000	8.90	84,966,000
1981-82	64,800	6,280,000	17.20	108,173,000
1982-83	72,300	8,080,000	11.50	92,920,000
1983-84	75,000	9,880,000	9.25	91,390,000
1984-85	73,000	8,000,000	14.55	116,400,000
1985-86	74,500	6,400,000	25.38	162,400,000
1986-87	74,800	11,040,000	8.28	91,356,000

1/ Pounds converted to bushels at 50 pounds per bushel, rounded to nearest thousands.

Production of all lemons fell almost 18 percent—from 620,000 boxes in 1986 to 510,000 boxes in 1987. This crop is equal to the freeze-affected crop in 1983. Fresh utilization of true lemons was 190,000 boxes, just 40 percent of the production of this variety which is primarily intended for the fresh market. The remainder of the true lemons and all of the Meyer lemons were processed. At 40,000 boxes, the Meyer lemon production is the lowest in this series and represents a 94 percent reduction from the record 1972 crop.

Total value of Florida lemon production in 1987 at \$2,561,000 is up substantially over the previous season's \$1,594,000. The increase is attributed to the higher price per box which at \$5.00 is nearly double the \$2.60 received in 1986. In the 1985 season, \$16.60 per box was returned. Bearing acreage continues to decline and now is estimated at 1,300 acres with the majority in Hendry County. More than 90 percent of the acreage is set with true lemons.

Florida Lemons: Bearing acreage, production, season average on-tree prices and value for crop years 1972 through 1987

True Lemons :  
 Meyer Lemons :  
 All Lemons :  
 Season : Bearing : Acres : Price : Production : Bearing : Acres : Price : Production : Bearing : Acres : Price : Production : Value of :  
 : acres : tion : per box : acres : tion : per box : acres : tion : per box : acres : tion : per box : production

Year	Bearing Acres	Price per Box	Production (boxes)	Bearing Acres	Price per Box	Production (boxes)	Bearing Acres	Price per Box	Production (boxes)
1972	6.8	3.00	1,180	1.6	1.40	670	8.4	2.47	4,570
1973	6.3	3.25	1,010	1.6	1.45	590	7.9	2.58	4,128
1974	6.0	2.50	1,150	1.6	.70	530	7.6	1.92	3,231
1975	5.4	3.60	850	1.5	1.45	450	6.9	2.85	3,697
1976	5.6	2.45	900	1.4	1.30	470	7.0	2.05	2,808
1977	3.7	4.55	200	1.4	1.55	190	5.1	3.05	1,190
1978	3.5	5.25	370	1.4	1.60	330	4.9	3.50	2,450
1979	3.9	8.90	770	1.3	2.50	480	5.2	6.45	8,063
1980	3.8	7.90	850	1.3	3.95	630	5.1	6.20	9,204
1981	3.7	6.70	870	1.3	2.20	340	5.0	5.45	6,577
1982	2.0	13.30	140	1.2	2.00	580	3.2	4.20	3,005
1983	1.6	9.00	455	.7	.40	55	2.3	8.10	4,111
1984	1.6	NA	485	.5	NA	65	2.1	6.00	3,313
1985	1.3	NA	275	.1	NA	55	1.4	16.60	5,483
1986	1.3	NA	560	.1	NA	60	1.4	2.60	1,594
1987	1.2	NA	470	.1	NA	40	1.3	5.00	2,561

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