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**FLORIDA
 AGRICULTURE**

AVOCADOS

February 12, 1997

FLORIDA: The forecast of avocados for certified shipments is increased to 900,000 bushels. This is 21 percent more than was shipped last season and the most since the 1991-92 pre-hurricane Andrew season. Trees were heavily loaded and no adverse weather was experienced all season to cause loss.

Cold temperatures January 19 caused no discernible loss to the current season crop but may have affected early blooming varieties for the 1997-98 season.

Weekly shipments are decreasing with the season almost complete.

CALIFORNIA: Shipments through January are near the same level as last season to the same date, but winds and rain may have decreased the available crop for later months. The crop is, however, currently projected to be the largest in several seasons.

FLORIDA: Estimated certified shipments of avocados, 1996-97 season, with comparisons - Season: April 1 - March 31

Season	Shipments through January	Remaining to be shipped	Total shipments
Bushels			
Certified:			
1986-87	888,700	68,300	957,000
1987-88	1,027,300	102,700	1,130,000
1988-89	1,036,900	21,100	1,058,000
1989-90	1,262,500	37,500	1,300,000
1990-91	744,500	7,500	752,000
1991-92	1,091,300	19,700	1,111,000
1992-93	274,700	9,300	284,000
1993-94	165,500	9,500	175,000
1994-95	762,700	16,300	779,000
1995-96	731,800	12,200	744,000
Estimated:			
1996-97	887,800	12,200	900,000

CALIFORNIA: Estimated avocado shipments, 1996-97 season, with comparisons - Season: November 1 - October 31

Variety	1995-96	1996-97 season		
	Total shipments	Shipments through January	Remaining to be shipped	Estimated total shipments
Bushels 1/				
Fuerte	157,000	85,000	105,000	190,000
Hass	5,628,000	908,000	4,820,000	5,728,000
Other	750,000	296,000	546,000	842,000
Total	6,535,000	1,289,000	5,471,000	6,760,000

1/ Pounds converted to bushels at 50 pound equivalents.