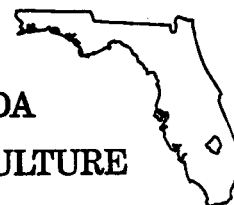




FILE COPY



FLORIDA  
AGRICULTURE

# AVOCADOS

August 12, 1996

**FLORIDA:** The forecast of avocados for certified shipments for the 1996-97 season is 800,000 bushels. This is over eight percent more than last season's shipments and three percent more than the 1994-95 season. Shipments of last season's crop were reduced by unusually high levels of theft of fruit from the groves.

Statewide bearing acreage is estimated at 5,800 acres, the same as last season but greatly reduced from 8,400 acres in 1992 before Hurricane Andrew. Avocado trees in Dade County require about three years to begin bearing fruit. Some

resets in older groves planted since the storm should begin bearing fruit next season.

Shipments through July are above any season since the storm with quality of fruit being reported as good.

**CALIFORNIA:** Shipments through July total 5,322,000 bushel equivalents, slightly above last season. Three months remain in the marketing season with a total crop size expected to be slightly larger than last season.

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

Season	Shipments through July	Remaining to be shipped	Total shipments
Bushels			
<b>Certified:</b>			
1986-87	41,100	915,900	957,000
1987-88	83,500	1,046,500	1,130,000
1988-89	124,900	933,100	1,058,000
1989-90	150,100	1,149,900	1,300,000
1990-91	128,500	623,500	752,000
1991-92	199,400	911,600	1,111,000
1992-93	133,100	150,900	284,000
1993-94	3,100	171,900	175,000
1994-95	92,800	686,200	779,000
1995-96	92,200	651,800	744,000
<b>Estimated:</b>			
1996-97	107,700	692,300	800,000

**CALIFORNIA:** Estimated avocado shipments, 1995-96 season, with comparisons - Season: November 1 - October 31

Variety	1994-95 season	1995-96 season		Estimated total shipments
	Total shipments	Shipments through July	Remaining to be shipped	
Bushels 1/				
Fuerte	168,000	157,000	3,000	160,000
Hass	5,062,000	4,476,000	1,044,000	5,520,000
Other	854,000	689,000	91,000	780,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,084,000</b>	<b>5,322,000</b>	<b>1,138,000</b>	<b>6,460,000</b>

1/ Pounds converted to bushels at 50 pound equivalents.