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FLORIDA
 AGRICULTURE

AVOCADOS

FILE COPY

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FLORIDA: The forecast of avocados for certified shipments is continued at 950,000 bushels. This is slightly more than the 918,000 bushels shipped last season. The shipping season is almost over.

Trees are in excellent condition from the abundant rains this winter and a heavy bloom is expected.

Shipments in January were very light as winter varieties were nearly depleted because of advanced maturity this season.

CALIFORNIA: Shipments through January are near the same level as last season even with adverse weather conditions. Frequent rains have interrupted harvest but quality is reported good. Some droppage from windy weather is also occurring. Projections are for the crop size to be near the same as last season.

FLORIDA: Estimated certified shipments of avocados, 1997-98 season, with comparisons - Season: April 1 - March 31

Season	Shipments through January	Remaining to be shipped	Total shipments
Bushels			
Certified:			
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
1996-97	887,800	30,200	918,000
Estimated:			
1997-98	935,500	14,500	950,000

CALIFORNIA: Estimated avocado shipments, 1997-98 season, with comparisons - Season: November 1 - October 31

Variety	1996-97	1997-98 season		
	Total shipments	Shipments through January	Remaining to be shipped	Estimated total shipments
Bushels 1/				
Fuerte	197,000	74,000	68,000	142,000
Hass	5,521,000	831,000	4,693,000	5,524,000
Other	731,000	341,000	393,000	734,000
Total	6,449,000	1,246,000	5,154,000	6,400,000

1/ Pounds converted to bushels at 50 pound equivalents.