

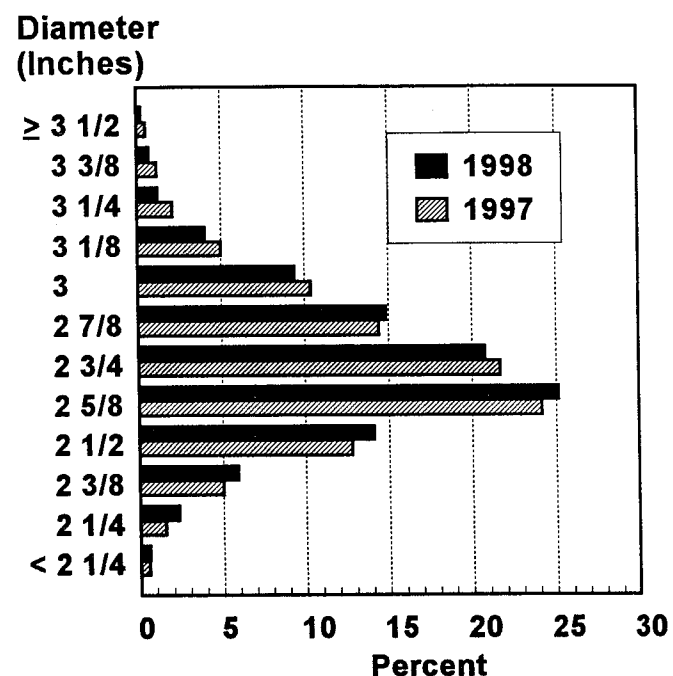
**FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS**

Size frequency distributions from the December size survey are shown in the table below. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. Fruit sizes were measured on trees in sample groves during the period December 7 through December 24, 1998. Comparable sizes for 1996 and 1997 are also shown. These measurements are of fruit from spring bloom and exclude summer bloom in all seasons.

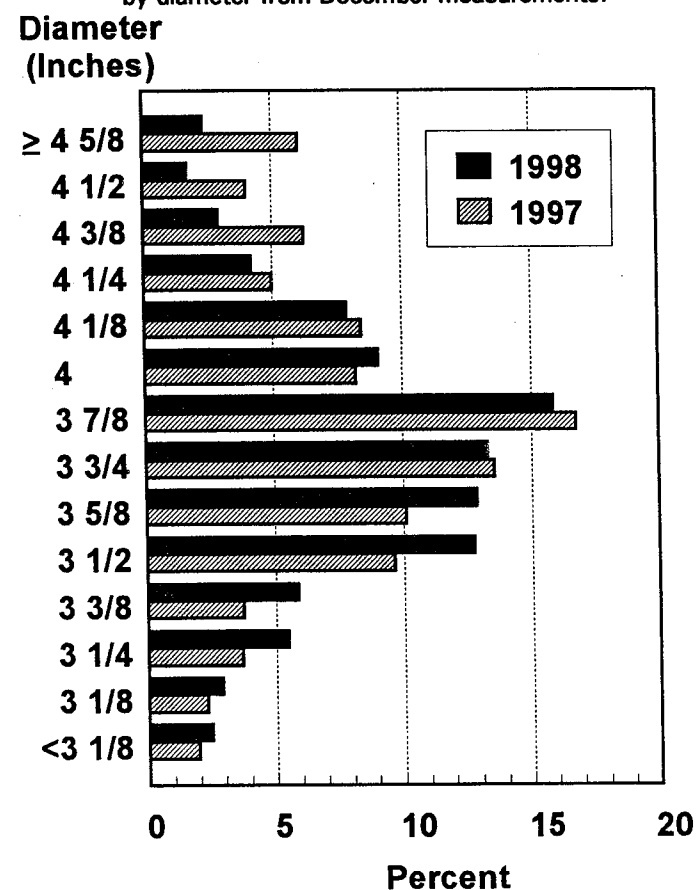
**FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from December measurements**

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1996	1997	1998
--- Percent ---			
<b>Early and midseason oranges: (excluding Navels)</b>			
64 and larger	3.5	3.7	1.9
80	16.8	15.1	11.7
100	37.6	34.7	36.9
125	29.8	32.5	35.2
163 and smaller	12.3	14.0	14.3
<b>Valencia oranges:</b>			
64 and larger	5.3	5.7	3.7
80	20.9	21.0	19.5
100	37.5	40.6	39.7
125	25.8	25.4	28.1
163 and smaller	10.5	7.3	9.0
<b>White seedless grapefruit:</b>			
32 and larger	18.6	25.0	15.1
36	22.7	22.1	20.8
40	19.9	21.4	21.6
48	17.7	14.0	18.6
56	8.8	7.5	9.7
63 and smaller	12.3	10.0	14.2
<b>Colored seedless grapefruit:</b>			
32 and larger	9.3	15.1	6.6
36	19.2	20.7	16.6
40	20.4	23.3	22.9
48	21.2	20.1	24.4
56	11.7	9.9	13.7
63 and smaller	18.2	10.9	15.8
<b>Temples:</b>			
80 and larger	25.7	40.2	24.4
100	39.1	39.9	46.0
120	23.1	14.7	23.7
156 and smaller	12.1	5.2	5.9
<b>Honey tangerines:</b>			
150 and larger	77.6	90.0	90.4
176	10.5	5.7	5.9
210	7.6	2.9	2.5
246	3.3	1.3	1.1
294 and smaller	1.0	0.1	0.1

**CHART 1: Valencia size frequency by diameter from December measurements.**



**CHART 2: White seedless grapefruit size frequency by diameter from December measurements.**

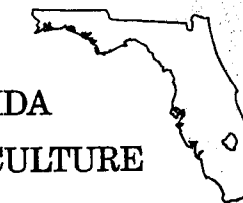


The charts to the right compare the relationship of the December 1998 fruit size measurements with those taken in December 1997. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range except for the smallest values. The February and March releases will compare 1999 sizes with 1998 measurements.

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**FLORIDA AGRICULTURE**



**CITRUS**

**JANUARY FORECAST MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE**

January 11, 1999

**ALL ORANGES 190.0 MILLION BOXES**

The 1998-99 Florida all orange forecast (excluding Temples), released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board, continues at 190.0 million boxes. While this forecast is for the smallest crop since 1993-94, the interim seasons have been at record or near-record levels. If realized, this crop would be the sixth largest recorded.

For the past 10 non-freeze seasons, the January forecast has deviated from the final recorded production by an average of 2.6 percent. In four seasons the forecast was below final production and in six seasons it was above.

**EARLY-MIDSEASONS HELD AT 112.0 MILLION BOXES**

The forecast for early and midseason oranges remains unchanged at 112.0 million boxes. If realized, this crop would be the smallest since 1993-94. The route survey (Row Count) conducted December 28 and 29 confirms the lagging harvest and supports the current forecast. Results of field measurements indicate the fruit is slightly larger than the initial projection but still smaller than average. Droppage is higher than previously projected and above the average of the past eight seasons. This forecast includes a Navel projection of 4.9 million boxes. The allocation has been adjusted upward 0.4 million boxes based on certifications of utilization and the route survey in which 85 percent of the rows were harvested. Certified utilization through January 3 of early and midseason oranges is over 49 million boxes including 3.8 million boxes of Navels.

**Citrus production, January 1, 1999 forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons**

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1996-97	1997-98	Dec 11, 1998	Jan 11, 1999
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
<b>Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	134,200	140,000	112,000	112,000
California	40,000	44,000	34,000	19,000
Texas	1,300	1,350	1,300	1,300
Arizona	400	350	400	450
<b>Total Above Varieties</b>	<b>175,900</b>	<b>185,700</b>	<b>147,700</b>	<b>132,750</b>
<b>Valencias:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	92,000	104,000	78,000	78,000
California	24,000	30,000	28,000	19,000
Texas	120	175	140	140
Arizona	600	650	600	550
<b>Total Valencias</b>	<b>116,720</b>	<b>134,825</b>	<b>106,740</b>	<b>97,690</b>
<b>All Oranges:</b>				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	226,200	244,000	190,000	190,000
California	64,000	74,000	62,000	38,000
Texas	1,420	1,525	1,440	1,440
Arizona	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>Total All Oranges</b>	<b>292,620</b>	<b>320,525</b>	<b>254,440</b>	<b>230,440</b>

**FORECAST DATES 1998-99 SEASON**

February 10, 1999	May 12, 1999
March 11, 1999	June 11, 1999
April 9, 1999	July 12, 1999

**VALENCIAS REMAIN AT 78.0 MILLION BOXES**

The late type (Valencia) orange forecast is continued at 78.0 million boxes. If attained, this crop would be smaller than the four previous crops and 25 percent below the record 104.0 million boxes utilized last season. Fruit sizes are projected below but near average while droppage continues above the average of the past eight seasons. Indications support the initial forecast from October. Harvest has not yet begun.

**CALIFORNIA COMMENTS**

The four nights from December 20-23 were devastating to citrus growers in the San Joaquin Valley where approximately 90 percent of the Navel and 60 percent of the Valencia oranges are grown. Temperatures in the low 20's caused extensive freeze damage. About 15 percent of the Navel crop was picked before the freeze; the unharvested fruit was severely hurt. The immature Valencia crop suffered considerably. Temperatures in southern California dipped below freezing but did not stay there long enough to do damage.

**FCOJ AT 1.57 GALLONS PER BOX**

The all orange FCOJ yield projection remains at 1.57 gallons per box of 42.0 degrees Brix concentrate. This forecast is very close to the near record 1997-98 final yield of 1.5773 reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association. The yield projection for early and midseason fruit is 1.52 gallons per box, higher than last season's 1.49255 and near the 1992-93 record of 1.52480. The late (Valencia) portion of the crop is projected to yield 1.67 gallons per box, below last season's record 1.71525. The projections of yield are based on the assumption that harvest patterns and utilization by the processors will be similar to the past several seasons.

**SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT MAINTAINED**

The total seedless grapefruit forecast is unchanged at 49.5 million boxes. The white seedless forecast is 18.0 million boxes and the colored varieties forecast is 31.5 million boxes.

If realized, the white forecast will be the lowest certifications of any season since 1969-70. The colored forecast is a record high indicator of utilization, exceeding the certification of 1996-97 by 0.1 million boxes.

As of late December, the white seedless mean fruit size was at the level of the past eight season average. The growth rate of colored varieties slowed with the average size below the average of the past eight seasons. It is possible that extensive spot picking of larger fruit has been more prevalent this season and is reflected in the mean size of the remaining crop.

Fruit loss from droppage through the December survey period for total seedless is at the eight season average. White seedless is slightly less and colored slightly more than their individual averages. The objective count survey expansions continue to support the forecast levels.

These forecasts are based on objective fruit count and measurement surveys in relationship to the harvest patterns and utilization of the past six seasons. All citrus forecasts project certified utilization and include a preseason allocation of less than two percent for unrecorded usage. Certifications include only fruit actually shipped in fresh pack or recorded at a processing plant.

Citrus production, January 1, 1999 forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1996-97 <sup>1/</sup>	1997-98 <sup>2/</sup>	Dec 11, 1998	Jan 11, 1999
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
<b>Grapefruit:</b>				
FLORIDA-All	55,800	49,550	50,000	50,000
Seedless	54,900	48,900	49,500	49,500
White	23,500	18,300	18,000	18,000
Colored	31,400	30,600	31,500	31,500
Seedy (Other)	900	650	500	500
Texas	5,300	4,800	5,000	5,000
Arizona	900	800	700	700
California	8,200	9,000	8,400	8,000
<b>Total Grapefruit</b>	<b>70,200</b>	<b>64,150</b>	<b>64,100</b>	<b>63,700</b>
<b>Lemons:</b>				
California	22,600	22,000	21,000	18,000
Arizona	2,600	2,600	2,700	3,200
<b>Total Lemons</b>	<b>25,200</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>23,700</b>	<b>21,200</b>
<b>Limes: Florida</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>450</b>
<b>Temples: Florida</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,250</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Tangelos: Florida</b>	<b>3,950</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>K-Early: Florida</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Tangerines:</b>				
FLORIDA-All	6,300	5,200	4,200	4,500
Early <sup>3/</sup>	4,500	3,200	2,600	2,900
Honey	1,800	2,000	1,600	1,600
California <sup>4/</sup>	2,600	2,400	2,500	1,600
Arizona <sup>4/</sup>	550	600	650	700
<b>Total Tangerines</b>	<b>9,450</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>7,350</b>	<b>6,800</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes 6 million boxes of economic abandonment in Fl.: 3 million white seedless and 3 million colored. <sup>2/</sup> Excludes 6 million boxes of economic abandonment in Fl: 5 million white seedless and 1 million colored. <sup>3/</sup> Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy. <sup>4/</sup> Includes tangelos.

Estimated certifications of total seedless grapefruit through January 3, 1999, is 10.4 million boxes as compared with 11.7 last season. Maturity levels have lagged behind last season, however, processed use is at the 3.8 million box level, almost the same as the past two seasons.

**SEEDY GRAPEFRUIT UNCHANGED**

The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast is continued at 500,000 boxes. This would provide a record low certification. Average fruit sizes continue to be the smallest in the series, and loss from droppage continues to be greater than average. All seedy grapefruit is certified in processed form and records are dependent on load tickets. Harvest of this variety has just started.

**EARLY TANGERINES INCREASED**

The total early tangerine forecast is raised 0.3 million boxes to 2.9 million boxes. The Robinson and Fallglo varieties are complete. The record low expectation for the Dancy variety is still unharvested. Harvest of Sunburst, the major early variety, is still continuing. Estimated total Early certifications through January 3, 1999, indicate the increase.

**HONEY TANGERINES CONTINUED**

The late maturing Honey tangerine forecast is unchanged at 1.6 million boxes. The mean fruit size continues to be at the eight year series average. Fruit loss from droppage, as indicated from the December survey, is at a seasonal record high. However, the seasonal projection of total droppage is slightly below the record of 60 percent loss from August through January.

**TEMPLES STAY AT 2.0 MILLION BOXES**

The Temple forecast of 2.0 million boxes, the smallest non-freeze indication since the series began in 1954-55, is continued. Average fruit size is still well below average and loss from droppage the lowest in the series. This crop is still lagging in maturity and harvest has just started.

**TANGELOS HELD AT 2.5 MILLION BOXES**

The total Tangelo forecast is unchanged at 2.5 million boxes. This is a relatively small crop indication, 12 percent less than realized last season and 37 percent less than recorded in 1996-97. Estimated certification through January 3, 1999, is 1.1 million boxes, well below use in the past two seasons.

**K-EARLY 60,000 BOXES**

Estimated utilization through January 3, 1999, is 52,000 boxes including an allocation for local use. Small amounts are still being harvested for processing.

Unadjusted maturity tests: Average of regular bloom fruit groves, 1997-98 and 1998-99 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box		
	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	
		Percent		Percent		Pounds		Pounds			
Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.											
<b>ORANGES:</b>											
<b>Early (57-68)</b>											
Sep 1	1.32	1.76	9.31	9.51	7.14	5.54	45.47	42.41	4.23	4.03	
Oct 1	1.02	1.17	9.81	9.29	9.83	8.03	47.68	47.84	4.67	4.44	
Nov 1	0.87	0.93	10.50	10.04	12.26	11.02	49.61	50.85	5.21	5.10	
Dec 1	0.78	0.74	11.33	11.07	14.67	15.14	50.85	51.92	5.76	5.75	
Jan 1	0.74	0.68	11.91	11.63	16.35	17.18	49.58	51.68	5.90	6.01	
<b>Mids (43-47)</b>											
Sep 1	1.58	1.96	9.15	9.43	5.93	4.92	45.25	42.52	4.14	4.01	
Oct 1	1.17	1.30	9.45	9.16	8.30	7.19	50.12	48.38	4.74	4.43	
Nov 1	1.01	1.06	10.33	10.01	10.55	9.57	51.94	52.91	5.37	5.29	
Dec 1	0.89	0.84	11.40	11.19	13.09	13.57	52.08	53.91	5.94	6.04	
Jan 1	0.82	0.78	12.06	12.28	15.07	15.99	51.12	53.17	6.17	6.53	
<b>Late (150-150)</b>											
Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Oct 1	2.10	2.44	8.84	8.65	4.30	3.60	47.87	45.68	4.23	5.95	
Nov 1	1.80	2.02	9.44	8.98	5.34	4.51	51.05	50.66	4.82	4.55	
Dec 1	1.44	1.58	10.23	9.91	7.21	6.34	53.23	53.31	5.45	5.28	
Jan 1	1.24	1.33	11.01	10.79	9.02	8.18	53.82	54.20	5.93	5.85	

NOTICE: All samples were run through an FMC 091 machine using mechanical pressure only. This machine utilizes a .040 short strainer and standard 5/8-inch orifice tube. The beam settings are also identical to past tests and no restrictors are used.

Maturity test averages by areas, January 1, 1999

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box	
		Percent		Percent		Pounds	
<b>ORANGES:</b>							
<b>Early</b>							
Indian River Dist.	8	0.68	12.08	17.87	51.15	6.17	
Other Areas	60	0.68	11.57	17.09	51.75	5.99	
<b>Midseason</b>							
Indian River Dist.	10	0.78	12.69	16.42	52.07	6.62	
Other Areas	37	0.79	12.16	15.87	53.47	6.50	
<b>Late</b>							
Indian River Dist.	25	1.45	11.36	7.90	56.35	6.39	
Other Areas	125	1.31	10.68	8.24	53.77	5.74	