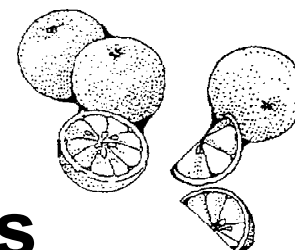


1997-98 California Navel Orange Objective Measurement Survey Results



Released: September 12, 1997
5:30 A.M. PDT



1997-98 CALIFORNIA NAVEL ORANGE FORECAST

The initial 1997-98 Navel orange forecast is 88.0 million (37.5-pound) cartons, up 10 percent from the 80.0 million cartons in the 1996-97 season. Of this 88.0 million, 80.0 million cartons are estimated to be in the Central Valley. The crop is maturing well, with large sized fruit.

SURVEY HISTORY

A Navel Orange Objective Measurement (O.M.) Survey has been conducted in the Central Valley since the 1984-85 crop year. The data from the first two years were used for research purposes in developing crop estimating models.

SURVEY SAMPLE

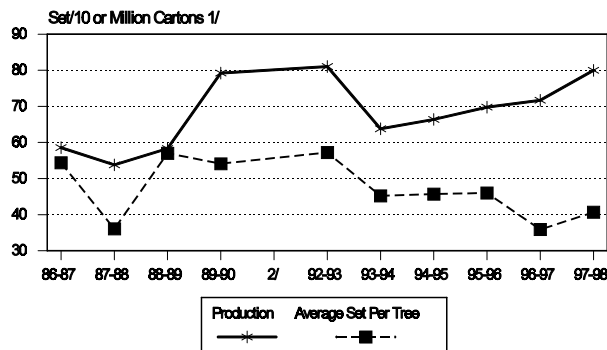
A sample of 531 Navel orange groves was randomly selected proportional to county and variety bearing acreage. Once a grove is randomly chosen and permission is granted, two trees are randomly selected. Trunk and branch measurements along with fruit counts are then made on each tree.

CALIFORNIA NAVEL ORANGE AVERAGE SET PER TREE, BY COUNTY

Year ^{1/}	Madera	Fresno	Tulare	Kern	Central Valley
1986-87	347	637	541	504	544
1987-88	272	236	402	354	361
1988-89	403	518	585	594	570
1989-90	491	606	501	614	541
1990-91	655	476	505	479	498
1991-92	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1992-93	402	501	569	654	572
1993-94	498	433	427	513	452
1994-95	300	356	450	529	457
1995-96	372	428	467	479	460
1996-97	285	280	376	388	359
1997-98	191	292	424	477	407

^{1/} Data for 1990-91 (a freeze year) were not used in forecasting the 1997-98 crop.

Navel Orange Production and Set Data Central Valley



^{1/} 37.5 pounds per carton
^{2/} 90-91 freeze, 91-92 no survey

CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY NAVEL ORANGES 1/

Crop Year 2/	Final Utilized Production 3/ (37.5-Lb. Cartons)	Bearing Acres	Average Trees Per Acre	Average Set Per Tree
1984-85	43,386,000	93,039	128	354
1985-86	57,612,000	94,074	128	457
1986-87	58,566,000	94,997	128	544
1987-88	53,588,000	96,110	126	361
1988-89	58,326,000	98,766	126	570
1989-90	79,242,000	101,525	125	541
1990-91	25,514,000	104,560	124	498
1991-92	60,406,000	102,000	124	N/A
1992-93	81,034,000	102,612	121	572
1993-94	63,800,000	106,381	121	452
1994-95	66,358,000	107,049	121	457
1995-96	69,750,000	113,000	121	460
1996-97	71,700,000	115,000	121	359
1997-98	80,000,000	116,500	121	407

1/ Data for final utilized production and bearing acres are from the orange industry. Acreage data is number of acres of bearing age (more than four years old). Some fruit could have been picked from trees younger than four years old, but not enough to consider the tree full bearing.

2/ Data for 1990-91 (a freeze year) were not used in forecasting the 1997-98 crop. No Objective Measurement Survey was conducted for the 1991-92 season due to lack of funding.

3/ California Agricultural Statistics Service preliminary forecast for 1997-98.

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