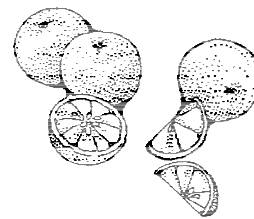


2003-04 California Valencia Orange Objective Measurement Survey Results



Released: March 10, 2004



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

The initial 2003-04 Valencia orange forecast is 30.0 million (37.5-pound) cartons, 28 percent below last season's estimated total. Survey data indicated an average fruit set of 374 oranges per tree in the Central Valley, and 450 oranges per tree in Southern California. Fruit sizes have increased this year, with an average diameter of 2.758 inches in the Central Valley, and 2.539 inches in Southern California. The State average fruit set is 392 fruits per tree, with an average size of 2.707 inches.

A special thanks goes to the many Valencia orange farm operators and owners who provided information on their operations.

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A Valencia Orange Objective Measurement Survey will continue to be collected in February with the results published in March. Below are the data by district for the 1999-00, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-2003, and 2003-04 seasons.

Data were collected from 785 groves. Two trees per grove were selected with two paths in each tree.

California Agricultural Statistics Service
publications are available on the Internet at:
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/ca>

CALIFORNIA VALENCIA ORANGE DATA BY DISTRICT 1/

District and Season	No. of Samples	Bearing Acres	Average			
			Trees Per Acre	Set Per Tree	Diameter as of March 1	Diameter as of July 1
					<i>(Inches)</i>	
Central Valley						
1999-00	214	44,700	125	596	2.641	2.779
2000-01	391	45,500	125	402	2.671	2.937
2001-02	412	45,500	126	489	2.761	2.910
2002-03	402	45,500	126	708	2.625	2.774
2003-04	387	40,000	126	374	2.758	2.907
Southern California						
1999-00	129	24,800	125	548	2.473	2.655
2000-01	391	21,000	125	640	2.489	2.715
2001-02	392	19,500	126	585	2.439	2.648
2002-03	378	18,500	126	518	2.483	2.692
2003-04	398	12,000	126	450	2.539	2.748
State Total						
1999-00	343	69,500	125	579	2.581	2.743
2000-01	782	66,500	125	477	2.614	2.867
2001-02	804	65,000	126	518	2.654	2.831
2002-03	780	64,000	126	653	2.584	2.750
2003-04	785	52,000	126	392	2.707	2.870

1/ All data were revised for 2001-02 and "Trees Per Acre" data were revised for 2002-03.