



Dear Client,

The January 2018 U.S. citrus crop production forecast has been released by the United States Department of Agriculture for the 2017 – 2018 season.

The report, released January 12, 2018, forecasts Florida all orange production of **46.0 million boxes**, unchanged from the December 2017 forecast. This forecast represents 33 percent less fruit as compared to last season's final production (69.0 million boxes). This total volume is comprised of 19.0 million boxes of early, midseason and Navel varieties and 27.0 million boxes of Valencia oranges.

NON-VALENCIA ORANGES – FORECAST OF 19.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of total early, midseason and Navel oranges is unchanged at 19.0 million boxes. The expected/final fruit size is below average, such that approximately 286 pieces of fruit are required to fill a 90 pound box. Final fruit droppage, significantly impacted by Hurricane Irma, is at 62 percent. A row count survey conducted January 1st and 2nd suggests that 73 percent of early-midseason rows and 83 percent of Navel rows had been harvested at that time. The expected utilization through December for these oranges, which includes some usage of non-certified fruit, is 11.2 million boxes, compared to 12.1 million boxes last season.

VALENCIA ORANGES – FORECAST OF 27.0 MILLION BOXES

The Valencia production outlook is also unchanged from December. As with non-Valencia varieties, current fruit size is below average and is expected to remain so through harvest. Current droppage is also quite significant, with no improvement in rates expected through harvest.

ALL GRAPEFRUIT – FORECAST OF 4.65 MILLION BOXES

The total grapefruit production forecast has not changed from December, with expectation of 4.65 million boxes of fruit. A yield of 850,000 boxes of white grapefruit is projected, while reds are forecast at 3.80 million boxes. Unlike Florida oranges this year, the fruit size of white grapefruit at harvest is expected to be above average, though droppage is significant. Fruit size of red grapefruit at harvest is also expected to be above average and accompanied by significant droppage.

TANGERINES AND TANGELOS (TOTAL) – FORECAST OF 0.86 MILLION BOXES

Tangerines and tangelos suffered a loss in forecast from last month, with a current projection of 860,000 boxes, a reduction of 50,000 boxes from December's forecast, a 5 percent reduction. This figure also represents 47 percent less fruit as compared to final production from last year.

The first week of the new year greeted parts of the Florida citrus region with sub-freezing temperatures, though the severity and duration of this weather were not significant enough to impact the crop.

[READ FULL JANUARY 2018 CITRUS REPORT ARTICLE](#)

The citrus industry continues to face challenging times.

It is our goal to provide our customers with security of supply, quality service and quality products that meet your requirements. Florida Chemical Company, Inc. remains committed to the supply of citrus terpenes and citrus derivatives.

Thank you for your continued business and trust in us.

Sincerely,



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A pioneer in citrus oil applications since 1942, Florida Chemical Company partners with the citrus industry to provide products and services that exceed customer expectations.

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