

Summary of Central Florida (Ridge) and Indian River-Southwest Florida Citrus Custom Rate Charges, 2017/18

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In this report, we present the results of a survey conducted by mail during December 2017 among Florida citrus caretaking companies to collect data on their custom rate charges during the 2017/18 season. Cooperatives, their members, and growers performing their own cultural practices were not included in the survey. Therefore, this report refers to grove practices that growers may contract out. The custom rates for growers who are members of such cooperatives, or the costs for growers who conduct their own cultural practices, may differ from the rates reported below.

Twenty-six caretakers participated in the survey this season, giving a response rate of 35%; similar to last year. Participants represented 45,349 acres, which accounts for approximately 10% of the total citrus acreage in Florida. When considering also the area serviced by participating aerial companies, the acreage represented in the survey increases to 157,149; approximately 35% of the state's citrus area (USDA-NASS, 2018). From the total pool of participants, twelve were citrus caretakers and service providers from Central Florida (Ridge), two were from the Indian River, and three were from the Southwest Florida region. The remainder nine caretakers serviced two or three regions, and the data they provided was used for both reported regions.

The average custom rate charges for the Central and Indian River – Southwest Florida regions are presented in Tables 1 and 2, respectively. Despite a few grove practices having only one data point, we included them in this report since they do not represent a significant change compared to the past two seasons. Tables are organized by program, each with an itemized list of grove practices. The tables also include the minimum and maximum rates reported for each practice.

Comparative data from previous seasons, additional information on citrus budgeting and cost analysis, harvesting charges, packing charges, and more can be obtained at the UF/IFAS CREC Economics Extension website: www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/economics.

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Table 1. Listing of 2017/18 custom rates reported by central Florida citrus caretakers.

Grove Practice	Unit	Rate Reported		
		Min	Max	Average ¹
Cultivation and Equipment²				
Backhoe	Hour	50.00	85.00	61.40
V-Mower	Hour	13.00	85.00	46.83
V-Mower	Acre	12.00	15.00	13.63
Rotovate	Hour	38.00	85.00	54.17
Ant Bait Application with ATV (bait not included)	Hour	6.00	41.25	24.94
Scouting for Diseases and Pests	Hour	25.50	30.00	27.75
ATV with Driver	Hour	18.00	41.25	28.84
ATV with Driver for Imidacloprid Soil Drench Application	Hour	18.00	41.25	29.94
Flatbed Truck with Driver	Hour	31.50	75.00	57.30
Pickup Truck with Driver	Hour	20.00	50.79	36.02
Tractor with Driver	Hour	28.00	75.00	45.43
Water Supply Truck with Driver	Hour	30.00	65.00	41.01
General Labor ³	Hour	13.00	30.00	18.53
Mechanic Labor ³	Hour	42.00	65.00	49.70
Mechanic Labor with Truck	Hour	40.00	85.00	59.84
Weed Management²				
Disc 7 - 8'	Hour	36.00	38.00	37.00
Disc 7 - 8'	Acre	11.00	11.00	11.00
Disc 9 - 10'	Hour	35.50	65.00	48.50
Disc 9 - 10'	Acre	12.00	19.95	14.15
Bush Hog	Hour	36.50	45.00	41.17
Mow 5 - 7'	Hour	36.50	37.75	37.13
Mow 5 - 7'	Acre	13.00	18.95	15.36
Mow 8 - 12'	Hour	42.50	49.50	46.00
Mow 8 - 12'	Acre	12.00	16.98	14.00
Mow 13 - 16'	Acre	13.00	16.50	14.75
Chopping	Hour	34.70	65.00	49.85
Herbicide Strip/Band (Single Boom)	Hour	38.55	41.50	40.03
Herbicide Strip/Band (Single Boom)	Acre	12.55	20.75	16.53
Herbicide Strip/Band (Double Boom)	Hour	42.00	60.00	51.00
Herbicide Strip/Band (Double Boom)	Acre	14.00	16.50	15.13
Chemical Mow	Acre	1.50	15.00	6.50
Chemical Mow	Hour	29.70	60.00	43.99

Table 1. Listing of 2017/18 custom rates reported by central Florida citrus caretakers (cont'd).

Grove Practice	Unit	Rate Reported		
		Min	Max	Average ¹
Spraying Air Blast Sprayer With Electronic Sensors⁴				
		<u>PTO Powered (1,000 gallons tank)</u>		
16 to 25 GPA	Acre	15.00	15.00	15.00
50 to 99 GPA	Acre	20.00	25.00	21.67
100 to 124 GPA	Acre	22.50	30.00	27.92
125 to 149 GPA	Acre	25.00	30.00	28.00
150 to 249 GPA	Acre	30.00	37.28	33.09
250 to 500 GPA	Acre	32.00	35.00	34.00
Aerial Application²				
Fixed Wing 5 to 9 GPA	Acre	5.95	7.50	6.98
Fixed Wing 10 to 15 GPA	Acre	6.95	10.73	9.49
Irrigation²				
Start/Stop, System Supervision	Hour	30.00	38.50	33.63
Start/Stop, System Supervision	Run	28.00	60.00	41.75
Maintenance of Drip System	Hour	14.90	30.00	22.45
Maintenance of Microsprinkler System	Hour	14.90	30.00	23.13
Drainage System and Canal Management²				
Water Furrow Disc	Hour	35.50	44.00	39.13
Ditch Bank Mower	Hour	35.00	85.00	50.25
Fertilizer Application and Soil Amendments²				
Injection of Liquid Fertilizer into Irrigation System	Hour	30.00	50.00	41.50
Injection of Liquid Fertilizer into Irrigation System	Acre	2.00	4.00	2.63
Fertilizer (every middle)	Acre	7.50	14.95	11.01
Fertilizer (every other middle)	Acre	6.00	15.00	9.25
VRT Spreader (every middle)	Acre	7.50	15.00	12.21
VRT Spreader (every other middle)	Acre	7.00	15.00	10.10
Hand Spread (Young Trees)	Hour	13.50	30.00	19.93
Fertilizer Spreader (Young Trees)	Hour	40	40.50	40.25
Lime or Dolomite Application	Acre	10.00	17.25	12.96

Table 1. Listing of 2017/18 custom rates reported by central Florida citrus caretakers (cont'd).

Grove Practice	Unit	Rate Reported		
		Min	Max	Average ¹
Pruning²				
Hedging (double side)	Hour	275.00	275.00	275.00
Topping	Hour	275.00	275.00	275.00
Push brush out of the grove	Hour	60.00	75.00	70.00
Crop Brush	Hour	34.70	85.00	59.85
Mow Brush	Hour	36.50	75.00	56.70
Front-end Loader	Hour	60.00	90.00	73.06
Tree Removal and Disposal²				
Tree Pushing	Hour	60.00	90.00	72.33
Tree Clipping	Hour	63.00	90.00	71.14
Hauling Clipped Tree out of the grove	Hour	60.00	75.00	67.57
Herbicide spray tree stump	Hour	14.90	35.00	27.08
Tree Resetting and Care²				
Tree Site Preparation ⁵	Hour	38.00	38.00	38.00
Tree Planting and First Watering ⁶				
1 to 5 trees per acre	Tree	3.00	4.00	3.33
6 to 10 trees per acre	Tree	2.00	4.00	3.00
11 to 25 trees per acre	Tree	2.25	5.00	3.42
26+ trees per acre	Tree	2.25	6.00	3.58
Solid set block	Tree	1.00	2.00	1.58
Tree Wrap Installation	Hour	14.90	16.25	15.58
Sprouting and Pruning	Hour	14.90	19.00	17.23
Spot Herbicide Application	Hour	18.00	30.00	27.03
Neonicotinoids Drench Application (Psyllid Management)	Hour	18.00	30.00	26.58
Slow Release Fertilization	Hour	14.90	30.00	21.57
Grove Management²				
Grove Care Supervision	Acre/Month	1.25	8.25	3.78
Chemicals and Fertilizers Handling/Supervision	Percent	5.00	30.00	15.63
Marketing and Fruit Handling	Box	0.05	0.25	0.15

¹Calculated by averaging the total number of data points reported.

²Rates include labor and equipment.

³Rates only include labor.

⁴Rates are based on every middle application.

⁵Includes disk and/or rotovate tree site.

⁶Does not include tree cost.

Table 2. Listing of 2017/18 custom rates reported by Indian River & southwest Florida citrus caretakers.

Grove Practice	Unit	Rate Reported		
		Min	Max	Average ¹
Cultivation and Equipment²				
Backhoe	Hour	50.00	85.00	59.29
V-Mower	Hour	46.50	85.00	68.83
V-Mower	Acre	12.00	15.00	13.36
Rotovate	Hour	45.00	85.00	65.00
Ant Bait Application with ATV (bait not included)	Hour	23.00	26.00	24.67
Scouting for Diseases and Pests	Hour	23.00	75.00	49.00
ATV with Driver	Hour	18.00	32.00	26.96
ATV with Driver for Imidacloprid Soil Drench Application	Hour	18.00	35.00	27.16
Flatbed Truck with Driver	Hour	55.00	65.00	60.00
Pickup Truck with Driver	Hour	25.00	55.00	36.00
Tractor with Driver	Hour	37.00	75.00	53.86
Water Supply Truck with Driver	Hour	35.00	39.00	37.00
General Labor ³	Hour	13.00	25.00	18.35
Mechanic Labor ³	Hour	30.00	65.00	50.00
Mechanic Labor with Truck	Hour	50.00	85.00	71.43
Weed Management²				
Disc 7 - 8'	Hour	37.00	75.00	54.25
Disc 9 - 10'	Hour	46.00	65.00	55.50
Mow 8 - 12'	Acre	12.00	16.00	13.07
Mow 13 - 16'	Hour	46.50	80.00	59.00
Mow 13 - 16'	Acre	12.00	16.00	14.75
Herbicide Strip/Band (Single Boom)	Acre	15.00	18.50	16.50
Herbicide Strip/Band (Double Boom)	Acre	14.00	16.00	14.56
Chemical Mow	Acre	1.50	8.00	3.36

Table 2. Listing of 2017/18 custom rates reported by Indian River & southwest Florida citrus caretakers (cont'd).

Grove Practice	Unit	Rate Reported		
		Min	Max	Average ¹
Spraying Air Blast Sprayer With Electronic Sensors⁴				
		<u>PTO Powered (1,000 gallons tank)</u>		
50 to 99 GPA	Acre	20.00	20.00	20.00
100 to 124 GPA	Acre	22.50	32.00	26.63
125 to 149 GPA	Acre	25.00	34.00	29.88
125 to 249 GPA	Acre	30.00	36.00	32.83
250 to 500 GPA	Acre	35.00	39.25	37.05
Greater than 500 GPA	Acre	40.00	45.50	43.13
Aerial Application²				
Fixed Wing 5 to 9 GPA	Acre	6.50	7.50	7.17
Fixed Wing 10 to 15 GPA	Acre	9.75	10.00	9.92
Irrigation²				
Start/Stop, System Supervision	Hour	50.00	50.00	50.00
Start/Stop, System Supervision	Run	28.00	38.00	33.67
Maintenance of Microsprinkler System	Hour	30.75	30.75	30.75
Drainage System and Canal Management²				
Water Furrow Disc	Hour	37.00	48.75	42.69
Water Furrow Cleaner	Hour	18.00	45.00	31.50
Rotary Ditcher or Auger	Hour	35.00	35.00	35.00
Ditch Bank Mower	Hour	35.00	125.00	70.50
Fertilizer Application and Soil Amendments²				
Injection of Liquid Fertilizer into Irrigation System	Hour	38.00	50.00	44.00
Fertilizer (every middle)	acre	11.00	12.00	11.80
Fertilizer (every other middle)	Acre	6.00	11.50	8.50
VRT Spreader (every middle)	Acre	10.00	15.00	12.00
VRT Spreader (every other middle)	Acre	7.00	12.00	9.60
Hand Spread (Young Trees)	Hour	15.00	30.75	19.38
Lime or Dolomite Application	Acre	10.00	14.00	11.75

Table 2. Listing of 2017/18 custom rates reported by Indian River & southwest Florida citrus caretakers (cont'd).

Grove Practice	Unit	Rate Reported		
		Min	Max	Average ¹
Pruning²				
Tree Skirting (single side)	Acre	32.00	32.00	32.00
Hedging (double side)	Acre	20.00	28.00	24.00
Topping	Acre	30.00	42.00	36.00
Push brush out of the grove	Hour	65.00	90.00	75.00
Mow Brush	Hour	46.50	75.00	62.17
Front-end Loader	Hour	65.00	90.00	75.00
Tree Removal and Disposal²				
Tree Pushing	Hour	65.00	90.00	74.00
Tree Clipping	Hour	65.00	90.00	75.00
Grinding Tree in place	Hour	125.00	250.00	175.00
Grinding Clipped Tree	Hour	100.00	250.00	166.67
Hauling Clipped Tree out of the grove	Hour	65.00	90.00	75.00
Herbicide spray tree stump	Hour	30.00	35.00	32.50
Tree Resetting and Care²				
Tree Planting and First Watering ⁵				
1 to 5 trees per acre	Tree	2.00	3.00	2.50
6 to 10 trees per acre	Tree	2.00	4.00	2.67
11 to 25 trees per acre	Tree	2.00	5.00	3.50
26+ trees per acre	Tree	2.00	6.00	3.33
Solid set block	Tree	1.60	2.00	1.78
Tree Wrap Cost (solid set block)	Tree	0.35	0.60	0.48
Sprouting and Pruning	Hour	18.00	43.00	26.50
Spot Herbicide Application	Hour	18.00	43.00	26.96
Neonicotinoids Drench Application (Psyllid Management)	Hour	18.00	43.00	28.63
Slow Release Fertilization	Hour	18.00	43.00	25.80
Grove Management²				
Grove Care Supervision	Acre/Month	1.50	8.25	4.38
Chemicals and Fertilizers Handling/Supervision	Percent	5.00	17.50	12.31
Marketing and Fruit Handling	Box	0.05	0.21	0.14

¹Calculated by averaging the total number of data points reported.

²Rates include labor and equipment.

³Rates only include labor.

⁴Rates are based on every middle application.

⁵Does not include tree cost.

Acknowledgments

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References

USDA-NASS. 2018. Florida Citrus Statistics 2016-2017.