

Estimated Average Picking, Roadsiding and Hauling Charges for Florida Citrus, 2006-07 Season

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Florida citrus harvesters were contacted during the Spring-Summer of 2007 to collect Florida citrus harvesting charges (picking, roadsiding and hauling). Harvesting charges for the 2006-07 season were collected for both fresh and processed market citrus fruit. This was not a statistically chosen sample; therefore, the charges may not represent Florida's total citrus industry. The participants were chosen because of their willingness to provide their harvesting charges. The information reported was "harvesting charges," not actual harvesting costs.

The harvesting charges provided by the participating firms came from either their own citrus harvesting division or from other commercial harvesting firms. All charges were reported in "Florida field box" units. The citrus varieties for which harvesting charges were collected include early and late oranges, red and white grapefruit, temples/tangelos and tangerines.

The harvesting charges were summarized into three categories as follows:

- Picking** represents the cost paid to the person picking or removing the fruit from the tree.
- Roadsiding** represents the costs which the harvester incurs to transport the "picked" fruit to the transport flatbed truck or trailer. Also, included in these charges are the costs for fruit pallets boxes or tubs; ladders and worker transport equipment; payroll taxes insurance (workers compensation, liability, etc.).
- Hauling** represents the costs associated with transporting the fruit to either the

fresh fruit packinghouse or juice processing plant.

The 2006-07 average picking, roadsiding and hauling charges for Florida citrus are presented in Table 1. The charges shown are for both fresh and processed market citrus and are presented as a range and overall average. The picking and roadsiding charges for fresh fruit were higher than processed fruit. Compared with 2005-06 charges, 2006-07 average picking charges were 2% to 7% lower for oranges and 10% to 13% lower for grapefruit. With the slow down in Florida's construction industry, harvest labor availability was less of a problem in 2006-07. No distinction was reported for hauling charges between citrus varieties. Depending on hauling distance, 2006-07 hauling charges were about the same or slightly less than 2005-06. Adjustments for higher fuel costs were made in the 2005-06 season.

A comparison of picking, roadsiding and hauling charges from 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07 seasons are shown in Table 2.

Additional information on citrus budgeting and cost analysis and harvesting charges (pick, roadside and hauling) can be obtained by contacting your County Extension Citrus Agent or going to UF/IFAS EDIS website: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> or UF/IFAS CREC website: www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/economics

*Florida field box equals the following weight equivalents:

- Oranges - 90 lbs
- Grapefruit - 85 lbs
- Tangerines - 95 lbs

Table 1. – Estimated average picking, roadsiding and hauling charges for Florida citrus, 2006-07.

	Fresh Fruit		Processed Fruit	
	Range	Average	Range	Average
	\$/Box	\$/Box	\$/Box	\$/Box
<u>Picking Charges:</u>				
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	0.85 - 1.25	1.031	0.80 - 1.50	0.951
Valencia Oranges	0.85 - 1.25	1.054	0.82 - 1.25	0.977
Pink/Red Grapefruit	0.60 - 1.00	0.707	0.55 - 0.75 ^a	0.640 ^a
White/Marsh Grapefruit	0.60 - 0.75	0.668	—	—
Temples/Tangelos	1.00 - 1.54	1.255	0.84 - 1.38	1.111
Tangerines	1.00 - 2.14	1.443	1.02 - 1.77	1.305
Add for Spot Picking	0.05 - 0.25	0.130	—	—
	Fresh Fruit		Processed Fruit	
	Range	Average	Range	Average
	\$/Box	\$/Box	\$/Box	\$/Box
<u>Roadsiding Charges:</u>				
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	0.77 - 1.31	1.087	0.80 - 1.26	0.939
Valencia Oranges	0.89 - 1.31	1.105	0.81 - 1.16	0.955
Pink/Red Grapefruit and White/Marsh Grapefruit	0.67 - 1.00 ^a	0.875 ^a	0.67 - 0.95 ^a	0.889 ^a
Temples/Tangelos	1.09 - 1.48	1.218	0.85 - 1.35	1.065
Tangerines	0.94 - 2.17	1.370	—	—
	Fresh Fruit		Processed Fruit	
	All Varieties		All Varieties	
	\$/Box		\$/Box	
<u>Hauling Charges:</u>				
0 - 30 miles	0.471		0.436	
31 - 50 miles	0.537		0.516	
51 - 80 miles	0.672		0.628	
81 - 100 miles	0.770		0.721	
100 + miles	0.911		0.816	

^aFor processed Pink/Red and White/Marsh grapefruit, picking charges are reported together; roadsiding charges are reported together for both fresh and processed grapefruit.

SOURCE: Ronald P. Muraro, University of Florida/IFAS, Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, FL, October 2007.

Table 2. – Estimated average picking, roadsiding, and hauling charges for Florida citrus – 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07.

	Fresh Fruit				Processed Fruit			
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
<u>Picking Charges:</u>	-----\$/Box-----				-----\$/Box-----			
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	0.840	0.954	1.048	1.031	0.772	0.829	0.982	0.951
Valencia Oranges	0.840	0.938	1.094	1.054	0.791	0.870	1.055	0.977
Pink/Red Grapefruit	0.658	0.739	0.780	0.707	0.590 ^a	0.668 ^a	0.736 ^a	0.640 ^a
White/Marsh Grapefruit	0.633	0.744	0.741	0.668	—	—	—	—
Temples/Tangelos	0.950	1.163	1.167	1.255	0.851	1.043	1.203	1.111
Tangerines	1.563	1.529	1.598	1.443	—	—	—	—
Add for Spot Picking	—	0.314	0.175	0.130	—	—	—	—
<u>Roadsiding Charges:</u>	-----\$/Box-----				-----\$/Box-----			
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	0.860	0.895	1.038	1.087	0.801	0.817	0.963	0.939
Valencia Oranges	0.868	0.899	1.074	1.105	0.817	0.836	1.011	0.955
Pink/Red and Grapefruit White/Marsh Grapefruit	0.755 ^a	0.847 ^a	0.835 ^a	0.875 ^a	0.620 ^a	0.793 ^a	0.877 ^a	0.889 ^a
Temples/Tangelos	0.938	1.003	0.920	1.218	0.833	0.890	1.062	1.065
Tangerines	1.155	1.095	1.143	1.370	—	—	—	—
<u>Hauling Charges:</u>	-----\$/Box-----				-----\$/Box-----			
0 - 30 miles	0.410	0.417	0.459	0.471	0.392	0.393	0.428	0.436
31 - 50 miles	0.460	0.512	0.561	0.537	0.457	0.464	0.498	0.516
51 - 80 miles	0.553	0.573	0.697	0.672	0.530	0.515	0.632	0.628
81 - 100 miles	0.625	0.640	0.792	0.770	0.570	0.632	0.735	0.721
100+ miles	0.687	0.746	0.989	0.911	0.625	0.728	0.840	0.816

^a For processed Pink/Red and White/Marsh grapefruit, picking charges reported together; roadsiding charges are reported together for both fresh and processed grapefruit.

SOURCE: Ronald P. Muraro, University of Florida/IFAS, Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, FL, October 2007.