

Estimated Average Picking, Roadsiding and Hauling Charges for Florida Citrus, 2007-08 Season

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Florida citrus harvesters were contacted during the Spring-Summer of 2008 to collect Florida citrus harvesting charges (picking, roadsiding and hauling). Harvesting charges for the 2007-08 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 2007-08 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 2006-07 charges, 2007-08 average picking charges were 2% to 7% lower for oranges with grapefruit showing very little change. With the slow down in Florida's construction industry, harvest labor availability was less of a problem in 2007-08. No distinction was reported for hauling charges between citrus varieties. Depending on hauling distance, 2007-08 hauling charges increased over 2006-07 between 4% and 25% with the longer distance experiencing the higher increase.

A comparison of picking, roadsiding and hauling charges from 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08 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

^aFlorida 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, 2007-08.

	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	0.960	0.80 - 1.50	0.931
Valencia Oranges (Season Average)	0.90 - 1.25	0.976	0.82 - 1.25	0.956
Valencia Oranges (Average After May 15)	0.90 - 1.25	1.132	0.82 - 1.25	1.167
Pink/Red Grapefruit	0.60 - 1.00	0.691	0.55 - 0.75	0.657
White/Marsh Grapefruit	0.60 - 0.75	0.689	—	—
Temples/Tangelos	1.00 - 1.54	1.156	0.84 - 1.38	1.019
Tangerines	1.00 - 2.14	1.583	1.02 - 1.77	1.364
Add for Spot Picking	0.05 - 0.25	0.183	—	—
	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	1.037	0.80 - 1.26	0.899
Valencia Oranges (Season Average)	0.89 - 1.31	1.016	0.81 - 1.16	0.904
Valencia Oranges (Average After May 15)	0.90 - 1.25	1.108	0.82 - 1.25	1.167
Pink/Red Grapefruit and White/Marsh Grapefruit	0.67 - 1.00 ^a	0.939	0.67 - 0.95 ^a	0.821
Temples/Tangelos	1.09 - 1.48	1.199	0.85 - 1.35	0.940
Tangerines	0.94 - 2.17	1.692	—	—
	Fresh Fruit		Processed Fruit	
	All Varieties		All Varieties	
	\$/Box		\$/Box	
<u>Hauling Charges:</u>				
0 - 30 miles	0.493		0.486	
31 - 50 miles	0.553		0.571	
51 - 80 miles	0.703		0.654	
81 - 100 miles	0.841		0.765	
100 + miles	1.183		0.990	

^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, September 2008.

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				
	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08
Picking Charges:	-----\$/Box-----					-----\$/Box-----				
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	0.840	0.954	1.048	1.031	0.960	0.772	0.829	0.982	0.951	0.931
Valencia Oranges (Season Average)	0.840	0.938	1.094	1.054	0.976	0.791	0.870	1.055	0.977	0.956
Pink/Red Grapefruit	0.658	0.739	0.780	0.707	0.691	0.590 ^a	0.668 ^a	0.736 ^a	0.640 ^a	0.657 ^a
White/Marsh Grapefruit	0.633	0.744	0.741	0.668	0.689	—	—	—	—	—
Temples/Tangelos	0.950	1.163	1.167	1.255	1.156	0.851	1.043	1.203	1.111	1.019
Tangerines	1.563	1.529	1.598	1.443	1.583	—	—	—	—	—
Add for Spot Picking	—	0.314	0.175	0.130	0.183	—	—	—	—	—
Roadsiding Charges:	-----\$/Box-----					-----\$/Box-----				
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	0.860	0.895	1.038	1.087	1.037	0.801	0.817	0.963	0.939	0.899
Valencia Oranges (Season Average)	0.868	0.899	1.074	1.105	1.016	0.817	0.836	1.011	0.955	0.904
Pink/Red Grapefruit and White/Marsh Grapefruit	0.755 ^a	0.847 ^a	0.835 ^a	0.875 ^a	0.939	0.620 ^a	0.793 ^a	0.877 ^a	0.889 ^a	0.821 ^a
Temples/Tangelos	0.938	1.003	0.920	1.218	1.199	0.833	0.890	1.062	1.065	0.940
Tangerines	1.155	1.095	1.143	1.370	1.692	—	—	—	—	—
Hauling Charges:	-----\$/Box-----					-----\$/Box-----				
0 - 30 miles	0.410	0.417	0.459	0.471	0.493	0.392	0.393	0.428	0.436	0.486
31 - 50 miles	0.460	0.512	0.561	0.537	0.553	0.457	0.464	0.498	0.516	0.571
51 - 80 miles	0.553	0.573	0.697	0.672	0.703	0.530	0.515	0.632	0.628	0.654
81 - 100 miles	0.625	0.640	0.792	0.770	0.841	0.570	0.632	0.735	0.721	0.765
100+ miles	0.687	0.746	0.989	0.911	1.183	0.625	0.728	0.840	0.816	0.990

^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, September 2008.