

Estimated Average Picking, Roadsiding and Hauling Charges for Florida Citrus, 2011-12 Season

Ronald P. Muraro, Extension Economist
University of Florida, IFAS, CREC, Lake Alfred, FL

Florida citrus harvesters were contacted during the Spring-Summer of 2012 to collect Florida citrus harvesting charges (picking, roadsiding and hauling). Harvesting charges for the 2011-12 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 picking, roadsiding and hauling 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"^a 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 2011-12 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. There was a minimal change in the 2011-12 picking charges for early variety oranges compared to the 2010-11 season. The season average for Valencia oranges increased over 14% with most of the increase occurring toward the end of the season. From May through June, Valencia picking charges increased 12% compared to the 2010-11 season. The increase was due to harvesting labor moving to other crops such as melon and blueberries in Florida and the southeastern United States. Roadsiding charges for oranges remained about the same as the 2010-11 season.

Average picking and roadsiding charges for the other variety groups (grapefruit, temples/tangelos and tangerines) showed little change over 2010-11 charges. No distinction was reported for hauling charges between citrus varieties. However, with fuel prices somewhat lower during much of the 2011-12 season, the average hauling charges were slightly lower than in 2010-11.

A comparison of picking, roadsiding and hauling charges from 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 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 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, 2011-12.

	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	0.942	0.80 - 1.26	0.932
Valencia Oranges (Season Average)	0.85 - 1.50	1.019	0.85 - 1.50	1.008
Valencia Oranges (Average After May 15)	0.95 - 1.25	1.116	0.90 - 2.00	1.111
Pink/Red Grapefruit	0.65 - 0.80	0.713	0.65 - 0.80	0.710
White/Marsh Grapefruit ^a	0.65 - 0.80	0.709	—	—
Temples/Tangelos	1.00 - 1.90	1.173	0.90 - 1.50	1.113
Tangerines	1.25 - 1.90	1.566	—	—
Add for Spot Picking	0.05 - 0.25	0.158	—	—
	Fresh Fruit		Processed Fruit	
	Range	Average	Range	Average
	\$/Box	\$/Box	\$/Box	\$/Box
<u>Roadsiding Charges:</u>				
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	0.88 - 1.42	1.039	0.77 - 1.46	0.976
Valencia Oranges (Season Average)	0.91 - 1.49	1.072	0.78 - 1.48	0.989
Valencia Oranges (Average After May 15)	1.02 - 1.49	1.162	0.73 - 1.67	1.111
Pink/Red Grapefruit and White/Marsh Grapefruit ^a	0.75 - 1.14	0.951	0.70 - 1.09	0.872
Temples/Tangelos	0.97 - 1.57	1.205	0.97 - 1.51	1.109
Tangerines	1.09 - 1.69	1.400	—	—
	Fresh Fruit		Processed Fruit	
	All Varieties		All Varieties	
	\$/Box		\$/Box	
<u>Hauling Charges:</u>				
0 - 30 miles		0.482		0.455
31 - 50 miles		0.538		0.533
51 - 80 miles		0.680		0.672
81 - 100 miles		0.727		0.716
100 + miles		0.894		0.903

^aFor 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 2012.

Table 2. – Estimated average picking, roadsiding, and hauling charges for Florida citrus – 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12.

	Fresh Fruit					Processed Fruit				
	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12
<u>Picking Charges:</u>	-----\$/Box-----					-----\$/Box-----				
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	0.960	0.962	0.941	0.964	0.942	0.931	0.883	0.881	0.918	0.932
Valencia Oranges (Season Average)	0.976	0.938	0.886	0.982	1.019	0.956	0.936	0.899	0.995	1.008
Valencia Oranges (Average After May 15)	1.132	1.063	0.992	1.208	1.116	1.167	1.035	0.960	1.168	1.111
Pink/Red Grapefruit	0.691	0.690	0.702	0.709	0.713	0.657 ^a	0.643 ^a	0.694	0.686 ^a	0.710
White/Marsh Grapefruit	0.689	0.679	0.681	0.691	0.709	—	—	—	—	—
Temples/Tangelos	1.156	1.227	1.164	1.171	1.173	1.019	0.958	0.952	1.111	1.113
Tangerines	1.583	1.650	1.385	1.499	1.566	—	—	—	—	—
Add for Spot Picking	0.183	0.183	0.057	0.100	0.158	—	—	—	—	—
<u>Roadsiding Charges:</u>	-----\$/Box-----					-----\$/Box-----				
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	1.037	1.073	1.048	1.053	1.039	0.899	0.891	0.890	0.928	0.976
Valencia Oranges (Season Average)	1.016	1.046	1.016	1.063	1.072	0.904	0.906	0.882	0.973	0.989
Valencia Oranges (Average After May 15)	1.108	1.081	0.932	1.063	1.162	1.167	1.035	0.960	1.168	1.111
Pink/Red Grapefruit and White/Marsh Grapefruit	0.939	0.968	0.911	0.919	0.951	0.821 ^a	0.839 ^a	0.840	0.850 ^a	0.872
Temples/Tangelos	1.199	1.332	1.271	1.281	1.205	0.940	0.921	0.893	0.954	1.109
Tangerines	1.692	1.600	1.407	1.493	1.400	—	—	—	—	—
<u>Hauling Charges:</u>	-----\$/Box-----					-----\$/Box-----				
0 - 30 miles	0.493	0.543	0.478	0.519	0.482	0.486	0.480	0.476	0.458	0.455
31 - 50 miles	0.553	0.595	0.545	0.584	0.538	0.571	0.545	0.521	0.559	0.533
51 - 80 miles	0.703	0.724	0.632	0.711	0.680	0.654	0.641	0.613	0.665	0.672
81 - 100 miles	0.841	0.831	0.757	0.761	0.727	0.765	0.804	0.734	0.784	0.716
100+ miles	1.183	0.954	0.962	0.949	0.894	0.990	0.916	0.888	0.916	0.903

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

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