

Estimated Average Picking, Roadsiding and Hauling Charges for Florida Citrus, 2005-06 Season

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A survey was conducted in the Spring of 2006 to collect Florida citrus harvesting charges (picking, roadsiding and hauling). Harvesting charges for the 2005-06 season were collected for both fresh and processed market citrus fruit. The survey 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 survey will continue as long as there is adequate participation.

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.^a The citrus varieties that harvesting 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 2005-06 average picking, roadsiding and hauling charges for Florida citrus are presented in the attached table. 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 2004-05 charges, 2005-06 average picking charges were 10% to 21% higher for oranges and 5% to 10% higher for grapefruit. Picking charges for Valencia oranges after May 15th were 19% higher than the season average. No distinction was reported for hauling charges between citrus varieties. Depending on hauling distance, 2005-06 hauling charges for fresh fruit were 10% to 32% higher than 2004-05; processed hauling charges were 9% to 15% higher.

A comparison of picking, roadsiding and hauling charges from 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 seasons are shown on 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>

^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, 2005-06.

	Fresh Fruit		Processed Fruit	
	Range	Average	Range	Average
	\$/Box	\$/Box	\$/Box	\$/Box
<u>Picking Charges:</u>				
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	0.85 - 1.50	1.048	0.75 - 1.50	0.982
Valencia Oranges	0.85 - 1.55	1.094	0.80 - 1.50	1.055
Pink/Red Grapefruit	0.60 - 1.45	0.780	0.60 - 1.35 ^a	0.736 ^a
White/Marsh Grapefruit	0.60 - 1.10	0.741	—	—
Temples/Tangelos	0.90 - 1.75	1.167	0.80 - 1.50	1.203
Tangerines	0.95 - 2.50	1.598	0.95 - 1.55	1.336
Add for Spot Picking	0.10 - 0.25	0.175	—	—
	Fresh Fruit		Processed Fruit	
	Range	Average	Range	Average
	\$/Box	\$/Box	\$/Box	\$/Box
<u>Roadsiding Charges:</u>				
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	0.85 - 1.65	1.038	0.80 - 1.25	0.963
Valencia Oranges	0.80 - 1.55	1.074	0.80 - 1.25	1.011
Pink/Red Grapefruit and White/Marsh Grapefruit	0.65 - 1.45	0.835 ^a	0.75 - 1.50 ^a	0.877 ^a
Temples/Tangelos	0.95 - 1.65	0.920	0.85 - 1.40	1.062
Tangerines	1.05 - 2.00	1.143	0.85 - 1.55	1.216
	Fresh Fruit		Processed Fruit	
	All Varieties		All Varieties	
	\$/Box		\$/Box	
<u>Hauling Charges:</u>				
0 - 30 miles	0.459		0.428	
31 - 50 miles	0.561		0.498	
51 - 80 miles	0.697		0.632	
81 - 100 miles	0.792		0.735	
100 + miles	0.989		0.840	

^aFor processed grapefruit, both Pink/Red and White/Marsh grapefruit are reported together.

SOURCE: Ronald P. Muraro, University of Florida/IFAS, Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, FL, August 2006.

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

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

^aFor processed grapefruit, both Pink/Red and White/Marsh grapefruit are reported together.

SOURCE: Ronald P. Muraro, University of Florida/IFAS, Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, FL, August 2006.