

Estimated Average Picking, Roadsiding and Hauling Charges for Florida Citrus, 2009-10 Season

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

Florida citrus harvesters were contacted during the Spring-Summer of 2010 to collect Florida citrus harvesting charges (picking, roadsiding and hauling). Harvesting charges for the 2009-10 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" 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 2009-10 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 2008-09 charges, 2009-10 average picking charges were about 3% lower for oranges with grapefruit showing little change. With the continued slow down in Florida's construction industry, harvest labor availability appears to be sufficient for the next few years. No distinction was reported for hauling charges between citrus varieties. With fuel prices stabilized, hauling charges showed no significant change.

A comparison of picking, roadsiding and hauling charges from 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 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, 2009-10.

	Fresh Fruit		Processed Fruit	
	Range	Average	Range	Average
	\$/Box	\$/Box	\$/Box	\$/Box
<u>Picking Charges:</u>				
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	0.80 - 1.20	0.941	0.79 - 1.11	0.881
Valencia Oranges (Season Average)	0.80 - 1.10	0.886	0.80 - 1.00	0.899
Valencia Oranges (Average After May 15)	0.90 - 1.10	0.992	0.83 - 1.10	0.960
Pink/Red Grapefruit	0.65 - 0.80	0.702	0.50 - 0.75	0.694
White/Marsh Grapefruit*	0.64 - 0.75	0.681	—	—
Temples/Tangelos	1.00 - 1.29	1.164	0.89 - 1.00	0.952
Tangerines	1.00 - 1.75	1.385	1.00 - 1.50	1.267
Add for Spot Picking	0.05 - 0.10	0.057	—	—
	Fresh Fruit		Processed Fruit	
	Range	Average	Range	Average
	\$/Box	\$/Box	\$/Box	\$/Box
<u>Roadsiding Charges:</u>				
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	0.65 - 1.34	1.048	0.60 - 1.21	0.890
Valencia Oranges (Season Average)	0.65 - 1.26	1.016	0.60 - 1.06	0.882
Valencia Oranges (Average After May 15)	0.80 - 1.20	0.932	0.72 - 1.17	0.960
Pink/Red Grapefruit and White/Marsh Grapefruit*	0.64 - 1.20	0.911	0.71 - 0.95	0.840
Temples/Tangelos	0.85 - 2.09	1.271	0.80 - 0.96	0.893
Tangerines	0.90 - 2.15	1.407	0.90 - 1.12	1.027
	Fresh Fruit		Processed Fruit	
	All Varieties		All Varieties	
	\$/Box		\$/Box	
<u>Hauling Charges:</u>				
0 - 30 miles	0.478		0.476	
31 - 50 miles	0.545		0.521	
51 - 80 miles	0.632		0.613	
81 - 100 miles	0.757		0.734	
100 + miles	0.962		0.888	

* 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 2010.

Table 2. – Estimated average picking, roadsiding, and hauling charges for Florida citrus – 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

	Fresh Fruit					Processed Fruit				
	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10
Picking Charges:	-----\$/Box-----					-----\$/Box-----				
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	1.048	1.031	0.960	0.962	0.941	0.982	0.951	0.931	0.883	0.881
Valencia Oranges (Season Average)	1.094	1.054	0.976	0.938	0.886	1.055	0.977	0.956	0.936	0.899
Pink/Red Grapefruit	0.780	0.707	0.691	0.690	0.702	0.736 ^a	0.640 ^a	0.657 ^a	0.643 ^a	0.694
White/Marsh Grapefruit	0.741	0.668	0.689	0.679	0.681	—	—	—	—	—
Temples/Tangelos	1.167	1.255	1.156	1.227	1.164	1.203	1.111	1.019	0.958	0.952
Tangerines	1.598	1.443	1.583	1.650	1.385	—	—	—	—	1.267
Add for Spot Picking	0.175	0.130	0.183	0.183	0.057	—	—	—	—	—
Roadsiding Charges:	-----\$/Box-----					-----\$/Box-----				
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	1.038	1.087	1.037	1.073	1.048	0.963	0.939	0.899	0.891	0.890
Valencia Oranges (Season Average)	1.074	1.105	1.016	1.046	1.016	1.011	0.955	0.904	0.906	0.882
Pink/Red Grapefruit and White/Marsh Grapefruit	0.835 ^a	0.875 ^a	0.939	0.968	0.911	0.877 ^a	0.889 ^a	0.821 ^a	0.839 ^a	0.840
Temples/Tangelos	0.920	1.218	1.199	1.332	1.271	1.062	1.065	0.940	0.921	0.893
Tangerines	1.143	1.370	1.692	1.600	1.407	—	—	—	—	1.027
Hauling Charges:	-----\$/Box-----					-----\$/Box-----				
0 - 30 miles	0.459	0.471	0.493	0.543	0.478	0.428	0.436	0.486	0.480	0.476
31 - 50 miles	0.561	0.537	0.553	0.595	0.545	0.498	0.516	0.571	0.545	0.521
51 - 80 miles	0.697	0.672	0.703	0.724	0.632	0.632	0.628	0.654	0.641	0.613
81 - 100 miles	0.792	0.770	0.841	0.831	0.757	0.735	0.721	0.765	0.804	0.734
100+ miles	0.989	0.911	1.183	0.954	0.962	0.840	0.816	0.990	0.916	0.888

^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 2010.