

## Estimated Average Picking, Roadsiding and Hauling Charges for Florida Citrus, 2010-11 Season

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Florida citrus harvesters were contacted during the Spring-Summer of 2011 to collect Florida citrus harvesting charges (picking, roadsiding and hauling). Harvesting charges for the 2010-11 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"<sup>a</sup> 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 2010-11 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 2010-11 average picking charges for early variety oranges increased about 4% over the 2009-10 charges. The season average picking charges for Valencia oranges increased over 10% with most of the increase occurring toward the end of the season. From May through June, Valencia picking charges increased 21% compared to the 2009-10 season. The increase was due to harvesting labor moving to other crops such as blueberries and melons in Florida and other southeastern United States. Roadsiding charges for oranges had about the same percentage increase as the picking charges.

Average picking and roadsiding charges for the other variety groups (grapefruit, temples/tangelos and tangerines) showed little change over 2009-10 charges. No distinction was reported for hauling charges between citrus varieties. However, with higher fuel prices during the 2010-11 season, the average hauling charges increased about 10% for the hauling distance categories reported.

A comparison of picking, roadsiding and hauling charges from 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 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](http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/economics)

<sup>a</sup>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, 2010-11.

	Fresh Fruit		Processed Fruit	
	Range	Average	Range	Average
	\$/Box	\$/Box	\$/Box	\$/Box
<b><u>Picking Charges:</u></b>				
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	0.84 - 1.25	0.964	0.75 - 1.41	0.918
Valencia Oranges (Season Average)	0.90 - 1.25	0.982	0.85 - 1.63	0.995
Valencia Oranges (Average After May 15)	1.05 - 1.40	1.208	0.95 - 1.63	1.168
Pink/Red Grapefruit	0.65 - 0.84	0.709	0.60 - 0.80	0.686
White/Marsh Grapefruit <sup>a</sup>	0.65 - 0.75	0.691	—	—
Temples/Tangelos	1.00 - 1.54	1.171	0.83 - 1.10	1.111
Tangerines	1.15 - 1.80	1.499	—	—
Add for Spot Picking	0.05 - 0.50	0.100	—	—
	Fresh Fruit		Processed Fruit	
	Range	Average	Range	Average
	\$/Box	\$/Box	\$/Box	\$/Box
<b><u>Roadsiding Charges:</u></b>				
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	0.85 - 1.38	1.053	0.65 - 1.41	0.928
Valencia Oranges (Season Average)	0.71 - 1.27	1.063	0.73 - 1.66	0.973
Valencia Oranges (Average After May 15)	0.93 - 1.26	1.103	0.77 - 1.66	1.168
Pink/Red Grapefruit and White/Marsh Grapefruit <sup>a</sup>	0.72 - 1.28	0.919	0.68 - 1.00	0.850
Temples/Tangelos	0.90 - 2.10	1.281	0.75 - 1.10	0.954
Tangerines	1.00 - 2.14	1.493	—	—
	Fresh Fruit		Processed Fruit	
	All Varieties		All Varieties	
	\$/Box		\$/Box	
<b><u>Hauling Charges:</u></b>				
0 - 30 miles	0.519		0.458	
31 - 50 miles	0.584		0.559	
51 - 80 miles	0.711		0.665	
81 - 100 miles	0.761		0.784	
100 + miles	0.949		0.916	

<sup>a</sup>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 2011.

Table 2. – Estimated average picking, roadsiding, and hauling charges for Florida citrus – 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

	Fresh Fruit					Processed Fruit				
	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11
<u>Picking Charges:</u>	-----\$/Box-----					-----\$/Box-----				
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	1.031	0.960	0.962	0.941	0.964	0.951	0.931	0.883	0.881	0.918
Valencia Oranges (Season Average)	1.054	0.976	0.938	0.886	0.982	0.977	0.956	0.936	0.899	0.995
Valencia Oranges (Average After May 15)	—	1.132	1.063	0.992	1.208	—	1.167	1.035	0.960	1.168
Pink/Red Grapefruit	0.707	0.691	0.690	0.702	0.709	0.640 <sup>a</sup>	0.657 <sup>a</sup>	0.643 <sup>a</sup>	0.694	0.686 <sup>a</sup>
White/Marsh Grapefruit	0.668	0.689	0.679	0.681	0.691	—	—	—	—	—
Temples/Tangelos	1.255	1.156	1.227	1.164	1.171	1.111	1.019	0.958	0.952	1.111
Tangerines	1.443	1.583	1.650	1.385	1.499	—	—	—	—	—
Add for Spot Picking	0.130	0.183	0.183	0.057	0.100	—	—	—	—	—
<u>Roadsiding Charges:</u>	-----\$/Box-----					-----\$/Box-----				
Early and Mid-Season Oranges	1.087	1.037	1.073	1.048	1.053	0.939	0.899	0.891	0.890	0.928
Valencia Oranges (Season Average)	1.105	1.016	1.046	1.016	1.063	0.955	0.904	0.906	0.882	0.973
Valencia Oranges (Average After May 15)	—	1.108	1.081	0.932	1.063	—	1.167	1.035	0.960	1.168
Pink/Red Grapefruit and White/Marsh Grapefruit	0.875 <sup>a</sup>	0.939	0.968	0.911	0.919	0.889 <sup>a</sup>	0.821 <sup>a</sup>	0.839 <sup>a</sup>	0.840	0.850 <sup>a</sup>
Temples/Tangelos	1.218	1.199	1.332	1.271	1.281	1.065	0.940	0.921	0.893	0.954
Tangerines	1.370	1.692	1.600	1.407	1.493	—	—	—	—	—
<u>Hauling Charges:</u>	-----\$/Box-----					-----\$/Box-----				
0 - 30 miles	0.471	0.493	0.543	0.478	0.519	0.436	0.486	0.480	0.476	0.458
31 - 50 miles	0.537	0.553	0.595	0.545	0.584	0.516	0.571	0.545	0.521	0.559
51 - 80 miles	0.672	0.703	0.724	0.632	0.711	0.628	0.654	0.641	0.613	0.665
81 - 100 miles	0.770	0.841	0.831	0.757	0.761	0.721	0.765	0.804	0.734	0.784
100+ miles	0.911	1.183	0.954	0.962	0.949	0.816	0.990	0.916	0.888	0.916

<sup>a</sup>For 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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