

Current forecast update (variation regarding the May forecast):

September 11, 2017

Total orange crop production forecast¹: 374.06 million boxes (increase of 2.63%)

Hamlin, Westin and Rubi: 77.48 million boxes (increase of 13.13%)

Other early season²: 18.02 million boxes (increase of 3.44%)

Pera Rio: 114.52 million boxes (unchanged)

Valencia and Valencia Folha Murcha: 123.04 million boxes (unchanged)

Natal: 41.00 million boxes (unchanged)

Forecast Dates 2017-2018

2nd forecast update: December 11, 2017

3rd forecast update: February 15, 2018

Final estimate: April 10, 2018

Orange production forecast update by sector and variety group – citrus belt

Month	Forecast components				Orange production forecast 2016-2017			Orange production forecast update 2016-2017		
	May / September (strike-through values were presented in May, to their left are their respective values updated in September)				May/2017			September/2017		
Sector and variety group	Bearing trees	Fruits per tree at stripping ³	Fruits forecasted by box	Fruit loss from droppage forecast	By tree	By hectare	Total	By tree	By hectare	Total
	(1,000 trees)	(number)	(number)	(percentage)	(boxes/tree)	(boxes/hectare)	(1,000,000 boxes)	(boxes/tree)	(boxes/hectare)	(1,000,000 boxes)
TOTAL										
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi.....	27,308	972	277 310	10.00 11.00	2.51	1,092	68.49	2.84	1,235	77.48
Other early season ²	7,950	714	251 257	11.30 12.30	2.19	974	17.42	2.27	1,008	18.02
Pera Rio.....	60,235	666	260	17.50	1.90	913	114.52	1.90	913	114.52
Valencia and V.Folha Murcha ⁴	61,181	729	250	23.30	2.01	895	123.04	2.01	895	123.04
Natal.....	18,105	813	250	22.55	2.26	974	41.00	2.26	974	41.00
Average.....	(X)	753	259 265	18.25 18.50	2.09	945	(X)	2.14	970	(X)
Total.....	174,779	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	364.47	(X)	(X)	374.06
NORTH SECTOR										
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi.....	7,494	1,147	277 310	10.00 11.00	2.96	1,259	22.20	3.35	1,423	25.11
Other early season ²	1,910	709	251 257	11.30 12.30	2.18	1,060	4.16	2.25	1,095	4.30
Pera Rio.....	12,398	611	260	17.50	1.74	903	21.61	1.74	903	21.61
Valencia and V.Folha Murcha ⁴	14,317	779	250	23.30	2.15	947	30.77	2.15	947	30.77
Natal.....	3,171	878	250	22.55	2.44	980	7.75	2.44	980	7.75
Average.....	(X)	801	259 265	18.25 18.50	2.20	1,007	(X)	2.28	1,043	(X)
Subtotal.....	39,290	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	86.49	(X)	(X)	89.54
NORTHWEST SECTOR										
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi.....	2,656	823	277 310	10.00 11.00	2.12	924	5.64	2.40	1,045	6.38
Other early season ²	1,444	757	251 257	11.30 12.30	2.32	1,029	3.35	2.40	1,066	3.47
Pera Rio.....	8,320	588	260	17.50	1.68	710	13.96	1.68	710	13.96
Valencia and V.Folha Murcha ⁴	3,809	667	250	23.30	1.84	874	7.01	1.84	874	7.01
Natal.....	1,406	826	250	22.55	2.30	912	3.23	2.30	912	3.23
Average.....	(X)	673	259 265	18.25 18.50	1.88	818	(X)	1.93	839	(X)
Subtotal.....	17,635	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	33.19	(X)	(X)	34.05
CENTRAL SECTOR										
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi.....	7,328	905	277 310	10.00 11.00	2.34	1,015	17.12	2.64	1,148	19.37
Other early season ²	2,870	687	251 257	11.30 12.30	2.11	863	6.05	2.18	893	6.26
Pera Rio.....	17,219	672	260	17.50	1.92	937	33.02	1.92	937	33.02
Valencia and V.Folha Murcha ⁴	17,021	683	250	23.30	1.88	833	32.05	1.88	833	32.05
Natal.....	4,695	795	250	22.55	2.22	891	10.40	2.22	891	10.40
Average.....	(X)	723	259 265	18.25 18.50	2.01	903	(X)	2.06	925	(X)
Subtotal.....	49,133	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	98.64	(X)	(X)	101.10
SOUTH SECTOR										
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi.....	4,954	860	277 310	10.00 11.00	2.22	972	11.00	2.51	1,099	12.44
Other early season ²	0,556	593	251 257	11.30 12.30	1.82	714	1.01	1.88	741	1.05
Pera Rio.....	11,909	699	260	17.50	1.99	931	23.74	1.99	931	23.74
Valencia and V.Folha Murcha ⁴	13,926	741	250	23.30	2.04	848	28.46	2.04	848	28.46
Natal.....	2,871	828	250	22.55	2.31	990	6.62	2.31	990	6.62
Average.....	(X)	748	259 265	18.25 18.50	2.07	903	(X)	2.11	921	(X)
Subtotal.....	34,216	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	70.83	(X)	(X)	72.31
SOUTHWEST SECTOR										
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi.....	4,876	996	277 310	10.00 11.00	2.57	1,158	12.53	2.91	1,310	14.18
Other early season ²	1,170	793	251 257	11.30 12.30	2.44	1,251	2.85	2.52	1,292	2.94
Pera Rio.....	10,389	749	260	17.50	2.13	1,053	22.18	2.13	1,053	22.18
Valencia and V.Folha Murcha ⁴	12,108	741	250	23.30	2.04	995	24.74	2.04	995	24.74
Natal.....	5,962	783	250	22.55	2.18	1,057	13.02	2.18	1,057	13.02
Average.....	(X)	788	259 265	18.25 18.50	2.18	1,056	(X)	2.23	1,080	(X)
Subtotal.....	34,505	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	75.32	(X)	(X)	77.06

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Hamlin, Westin, Rubi, Valencia Americana, Valencia Argentina, Seleta, Pineapple, Pera Rio, Valencia, Valencia Folha Murcha and Natal.

² Valencia Americana, Valencia Argentina, Seleta and Pineapple.

³ Weighted average per stratum bearing trees.

⁴ V. Folha Murcha – Valencia Folha Murcha.

Total orange¹ crop forecast update is 374.06 million of boxes

The orange production forecast update of the São Paulo and West-Southwest of Minas Gerais citrus belt for the 2017-2018 season, published on September 11th, 2017 by Fundecitrus with the cooperation of Markestrat, FEA-RP/USP and FCAV/Unesp² – is 374.06 million boxes, weighing 40.8kg each. This figure corresponds to an increase of 2.63% compared to the forecast published in May/2017 and only the production of the early varieties were updated. The harvest of the other varieties is in its early stage; therefore, the existing data are still not representative for reviewing. Out of the total crop, about 28.67 million boxes are estimated for the Triângulo Mineiro region.

The rain observed in April, May and June/2017 were determinant for the fruit growth. The data provided by the Somar Meteorologia showed that the accumulated rainfall in this period was, on average, 429 mm in the Citrus Belt, 173% higher than the climatological normal (1961 to 1990). In July and August/2017, 33 mm were registered, totaling 462 mm in this five-month crop. The above the average historical rainfall coincides with the main period of the early-variety picking. In mid-July, about 75% of the crop of the varieties Hamlin, Westin and Rubi were already harvested. In August, the harvest of these varieties reached 93% and the one of the other early varieties reached 73%. The effect of the rainfall was observed in the increase of the orange weight compared to the May/2017 expectation and, consequently, a reduction in the number of fruit to reach the weight of 40.8kg box.

The fruit size of the Hamlin, Westin and Rubi varieties is reviewed for 277 fruit/box, whereas the May/2017 forecast, 310 fruit/box were estimated. The other early varieties were updated in 251 fruit/box, against 257 fruit/box which had been initially forecasted. The average size forecasted, considering all the varieties, is of 259 fruit/box, while the figure estimated in May was 265 fruit/box (six fewer fruits).

The fruit loss from droppage of the Hamlin, Westin and Rubi varieties is reviewed for 10.00%, and 11.30% for the other early varieties, which represent a reduction of the percentage point compared to the fruit loss from droppage forecasted in May/2017 in both groups. Compared to the last season, the fruit loss from droppage of the early varieties in percentage terms is similar. Nevertheless, the number of fruits is almost the double. While in the last season the fruit loss from droppage of the Hamlin, Westin and Rubi varieties, for instance, was of 9.40%, which corresponded to 49 fruits/tree, in this season, the 10% rate represents 97 fruits/tree. Therefore, the high number of fruits found on the ground in this season may lead to the false impression that the fruit loss from droppage is above the normal. Nonetheless, there is no evidence concerning this. It is necessary to take into account that the fruit loss from droppage is a fraction of the number of the fruits existing in the tree in April, that is, in the beginning of the crop, and the trees are much more laden with fruit in this season than in the last one. Thus, the average fruit loss from droppage, considering all the varieties, is 18.25%, whereas the figure forecasted for May was 18.50%.

Regarding the mid-season variety, Pera Rio, it is estimated that only 27% of the production has been harvested. Concerning the late varieties, it is estimated that just 8% of the production of the Valencia and Valencia Folha Murcha has been harvested, and 5% of Natal.

The method used for updating is the same one which had been adopted the season before. The information was obtained from the monitoring research conducted on 900 blocks since May, which cease to be visited as their harvest is concluded. The details of this methodology are found in the document “Methodology for the Orange Production Forecast Update” available at www.fundecitrus.com.br. Another source included in this study is the size of fruits received throughout the season by the orange juice companies that are members of Fundecitrus – Citrosuco, Cutrale and Louis Dreyfus – for the purpose of industrial processing. Each processing company provides, under confidentiality, the individual data to an independent consulting firm to ascertain the average size of the fruits processed.

¹ Hamlin, Westin, Rubi, Valencia Americana, Valencia Argentina, Seleta, Pineapple Pera Rio, Valencia, Valencia Folha Murcha and Natal.

² Exact Sciences Department, FCAV/Unesp Jaboticabal.