



Florida Cooperative Extension Service

PACKINGHOUSE NEWSLETTER

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
University of Florida, AREC Lake Alfred



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PACKINGHOUSE NEWSLETTER POLICY

The change in format for Packinghouse Newsletter is one sign of changes in progress. This and future issues are to be printed in Gainesville (ca. 130 miles to the north), and the distribution method is being revised.

When your supply of self addressed stamped envelopes are used your name and address will be placed on an addressograph list in Gainesville. Recipients in the United States, Canada, Mexico and certain other countries need only confirm annually your desire to continue receiving Packinghouse Newsletter. Other readers will be individually notified of the postage required to continue on the mailing list when our mailing privileges are not extended to their county.

The content, goals and sources for Packinghouse Newsletter remain unchanged. Hopefully the new system will soon run smoothly in order to better and more efficiently serve the Florida citrus industry.

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The use of trade names in this publication is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. It is not a guarantee or warranty of the products named and does not signify that they are approved to the exclusion of others of suitable composition.

CARIBFLY FUMIGATION FOR JAPAN

Caribfly larvae having been found in grapefruit shipped to Japan, all citrus (except green lines) exported to Japan will have to be fumigated with EDB until further notice. Fumigation procedures will have to conform to standards agreed upon by the Japanese and United States federal quarantine authorities.

Several committees are working on arrangements for definition of required procedures, provision of adequate fumigation facilities, inspection and certification procedures, etc. We will keep you informed as more definite information becomes available.

W. Grierson, Chairman
IFAS Caribfly Fumigation Committee

CITRUS GROWER RETURNS PER ACRE

The costs involved in the production of Florida citrus have been increasing in recent years. These increases have become even more dramatic as fuel and fertilizer shortages exert an upward pressure on input prices. Rapidly increasing costs have also been prevalent in the pick and haul operation.

As a result of the growing cost-price squeeze, Florida growers have been registering increased concern over returns associated with the production of citrus. As an aid to rational decision making with respect to grove profitability, it is useful to calculate returns on a per acre basis. Such a procedure will allow direct comparison of returns per acre from various blocks or plantings.

In an effort to provide growers with a method for calculating returns per acre, the Economic Research Department, Florida Department of Citrus, has published a report entitled "A Determination of Returns Associated with the Production of Florida Citrus," CIR 74-2, April 1974 (see Available Publications).

The primary objective of this report is to provide information on average dollar returns per acre and rates of return on investment associated with various cost-price conditions. FOB, delivered-in and on-tree prices as well as production costs are varied to provide greater flexibility in the application of results.

A second objective is to outline the procedures involved in determining dollar returns and rates of return on investment such that growers can compute returns on specific groves which may deviate from industry averages.

Gary F. Fairchild
Economic Research Department
Florida Department of Citrus
Gainesville

HARVESTING AND HANDLING-SHIPPING CONTAINERS

The September, 1973 Vegetarian contained an article on unit handling of produce or palletization. The complexity of this problem is brought into focus by Marketing Research Report No. 991 by Donald R. Stokes and Glenn W. Woodley. This publication reports on the number of different containers for fresh fruits and vegetables found in two terminal markets. As an example, there were 35 different size containers for tomatoes, 27 for lettuce, 13 for peppers, 11 for potatoes, 11 for cucumbers, etc. The total number of different size containers was 371. Very few (17%) of the containers could be stacked to utilize as much as 90% of the space on a standard 48 x 40 inch pallet. The problem becomes much greater when several commodities are being stacked on the same pallet as is often done when making up loads at a warehouse for store delivery.

Europe has developed recommended dimensions for containers of perishable products involved in international trade. The container sizes recommended by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development are 40 x 30, 50 x 30, 50 x 40, and 60 x 40 cm (which would be 15 3/4 x 11 3/4, 19 3/4 x 11 3/4, 19 3/4 x 15 3/4, and 23 3/4 x 15 3/4 inches). All of these containers fit the 48 x 40 inch pallet (or the 120 x 100 cm pallet) with over 96% of the surface area utilized. As Stokes and Woodley point out, if the European recommendations gain widespread acceptance, it could create real problems with any export shipments that are in "odd size" containers.

It is also pointed out that restricting the size and type of containers too severely might lead to the following difficulties if improper containers were selected.

- "(1) problems in packing and increased packing cost,
- (2) poorer product protection and
- (3) increased container damage."

However, the possible benefits of proper containers include:

- "(1) Economies in manufacture or fabrication of containers.
- (2) Economies in packing labor.
- (3) Lower inventory investments in packing materials.
- (4) Greater utilization of space in transport vehicles and at all other levels of storage and distribution.
- (5) Reduced costs of handling.
- (6) Improved product protection.
- (7) Reduced container damage."

The produce industry is rapidly approaching the point where it cannot afford the luxury of manually handling individual containers. The first step in palletization should be the adoption of containers which are compatible with the pallet. The second logical step would be to limit the number of container sizes so that different commodities would be in compatible size containers.

Jim Hicks, Univ. of Fla.,
IFAS, THE VEGETARIAN
NEWSLETTER 74-6
June 5, 1974

AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

Available from Dr. W. F. Wardowski, AREC, P. O. Box 1088, Lake Alfred, FL 33850

"Benomyl Residues in Valencia Oranges from Postharvest Applications Containing Emulsified Oil" by G. Eldon Brown. *Phytopathology*, Vol. 64(4):539-542. April 1974.

Available from Dr. Gary F. Fairchild, Economic Research Dept., Fla. Dept. of Citrus, 1107 McCarty Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611

"Return on Investment Associated with the Production of Florida Citrus"--8 page Report Summary (ERR 74-3). April 1974.

"A Determination of Returns Associated with the Production of Florida Citrus"--32 page Full Report (CIR 74-2). April 1974.

Available from T. R. Rejimbai, Jr., The Coca-Cola Company, Foods Division, P. O. Box 368, Plymouth, FL 32768

"Cleaning Efficiency of Brush Washers in Citrus Concentrate Plants" *Proc. Fla. State Hort. Soc.* 85:254-257. 1973.

Available from Agricultural Research Service, USDA, 2120 Camden Road, Orlando, FL 32803

"Cellulase Activity in Separation Zones of Citrus Fruit Treated with Abscisic Acid under Normal and Hypobaric Atmospheres" by G. K. Rasmussen. *Journal ASHS*, Vol. 99(3). May 1974.

Available from Barry Tugwell, South Australian Dept. of Agriculture, Northfield Research Laboratory, G. P. O. Box 1671, Adelaide, S. A. 5001

"Post-harvest Mould Control for Citrus Fruits" by B. L. Tugwell, Dept. of Agr. South Australia. *Extension Bulletin No. 10*. 1974.

Available from The Farm Index, Economic Research Service, Rm. 1459-So., USDA, Washington, D. C. 20250

"Prices, Costs and Margins of Florida Oranges--Fresh and Processed" by Alfred J. Burnes and Joseph C. Podany, *Commodity Economics Division*. ERS-249.

"Periodicals: 1974." Prepared by the Divisions of Information of the Economic Research Service and the Statistical Reporting Service. This catalog briefly describes the content of periodic reports of agricultural statistics and economics published by USDA and tells how to order them. Calendars of release dates are also provided.

Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402--Stock Number 0100-02837, price \$1.45

Marketing Research Report No. 991 by Donald R. Stokes and Glenn W. Woodley.

This newsletter is published monthly at a cost of \$81.85, or 8.2 cents per copy, to give the latest news to the packinghouse industry.

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