

# Florida Cooperative Extension Service

## PACKINGHOUSE NEWSLETTER

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Packinghouse Newsletter No. 67

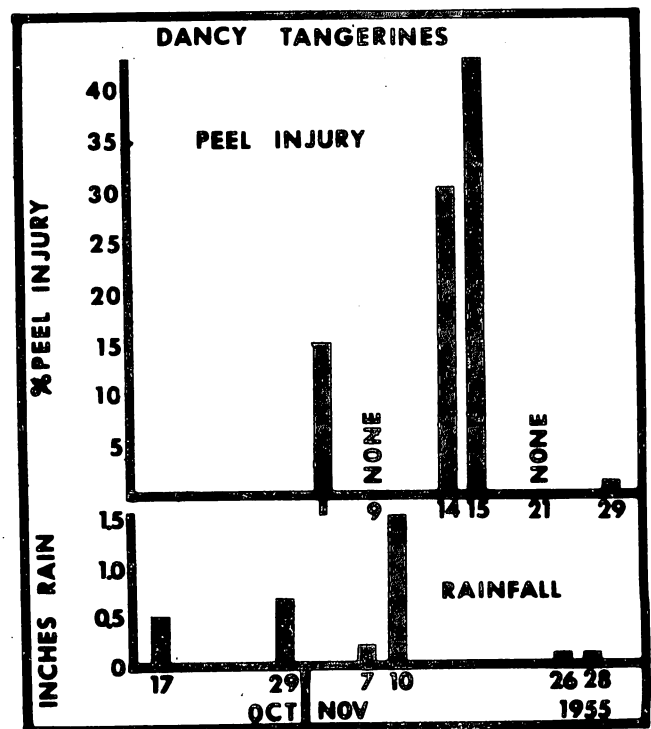
November 25, 1974

Key Word Index Packout, Safety, Tangerines, Water.

### "ZEBRA SKIN" OF TANGERINES

Climatically, this season is very similar to that of 1955-56 in which we first began to understand the hazards due to internal cell rupture occurring when tangerines, grown under relatively dry conditions, take up excessive water from the ground. The summer and early fall of 1955 had been very dry. The accompanying graph shows the rainfall from October 17 to November 17, 1955 together with the losses from peel injuries in six experimental pickings in November. The most striking effect was that of the 1.5 inch rain on November 10. Dancy tangerines picked four days later had 31% loss due to various peel injuries (The distinctive "zebraskin" pattern shows only in tight skinned fruit). The next day, five days after the big rain, losses were up to 44%. By November 21 (11 days after the rain) the conditions had disappeared.

See "Available Publications" for Circular 285 giving instructions based on many seasons of such observations and experiments.



W. Grierson  
 AREC, Lake Alfred

ELIMINATIONS VS. PROFIT

The average packout of commercial Florida citrus over a period of years is about 60%. Most of the remaining 40% is graded out as "eliminations" and sent to processing plants. The percentage packout can mean profit or disaster. The graphs below were prepared for grapefruit and presented at the September Packinghouse Day.

FIGURE 1

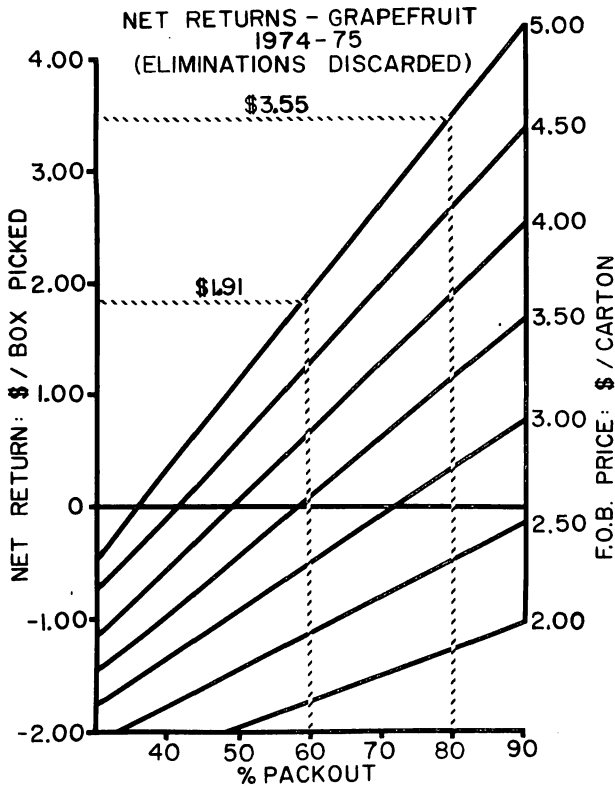
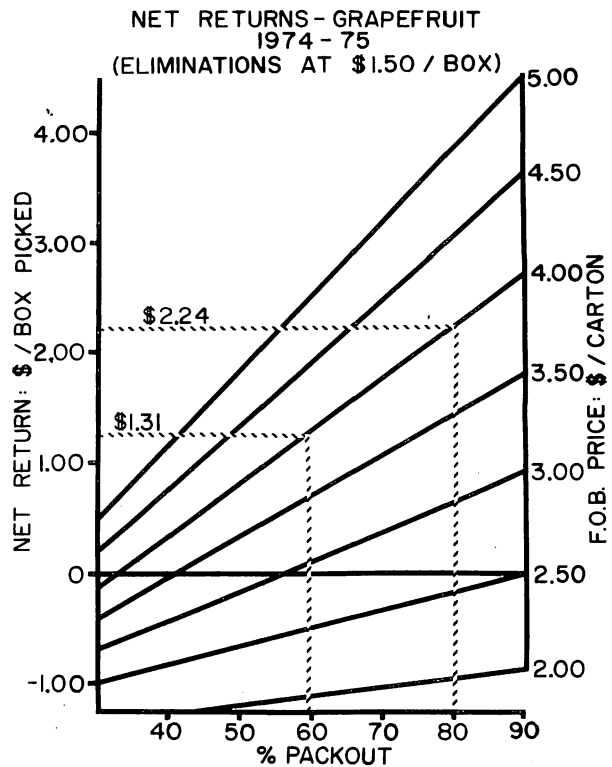


FIGURE 2



Representative very early season values were used to prepare Figure 1 in which it is assumed that high prices (\$5.00 per carton\*) prevail for grapefruit and eliminations are discarded because the processing plants (canneries) are not open. Increasing the packout from 60 to 80% increases the profit per box\* by \$1.64. Each 1% packout gained is worth 8.2¢/box (4.1¢/carton profit).

A little later in the season (Figure 2) prices are presumed to be \$4.00 per carton and, with the canneries operating, eliminations return \$1.50 per box. Increasing the packout from 60 to 80% increases net return per box by \$0.93, or 4.6¢/box (2.3¢/carton for each 1% increase in packout).

\*Note for non-Floridians: Carton = 4/5 bu.  
Box = 2 cartons

Where do you stand? Look at Figure 2 and find the point where your grapefruit percentage packout and F.O.B. price per carton meet. Follow this point to the left and read off your net return - the only figure that really counts.

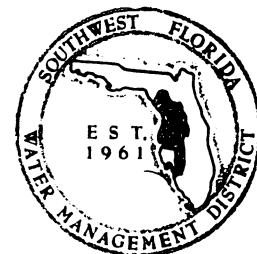
The average packout is still 60%, but recent prices per carton of white grapefruit are \$2.50 and a recent value for grapefruit eliminations is \$1.00. Using these values, the net return is a loss of about .50¢ per box picked. Moral: If your packouts are average, quit; or get your packout above average, pronto.

Will Wardowski  
Extension Service

Bill Grierson  
AREC, Lake Alfred

### WATER REGULATIONS

The Water Resources Act of 1972 regulating the consumptive use of water is being implemented by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (see map). A series of public hearings is being conducted and the target date for implementation is January 1, 1975.



As the regulations are presently written, everyone pumping more than 100,000 gallons per day will have to have a permit. The permit will be granted automatically for anyone pumping less than 365 thousand gallons per acre (13 acre inches) annually. Those pumping more than the 365 thousand gallons will have to get approval of the SWFWMD Governing Board. All irrigated agriculture will be affected by these regulations and you should become familiar with them in order to protect your interests.

A copy of the regulations can be obtained from the SWFWMD, Water Resources Division, Box 457, Brooksville, Florida 33512.

Ed Richards  
Extension Agent - Citrus  
Hillsborough County  
Tampa, Florida

### LIFT TRUCK SAFETY

Some points on lift truck safety from OSHA:

When a powered industrial truck is left unattended, load engaging means shall be fully lowered, controls shut off, and brakes set. Wheels shall be blocked if the truck is parked on an incline.

A powered industrial truck is unattended when the operator is 25 feet or more away from the vehicle which remains in his view, or whenever the operator leaves the vehicle and it is not in his view.

When the operator of an industrial truck is dismounted and within 25 feet of the truck still in his view, the load engaging means shall be fully lowered, controls neutralized, and the brakes set to prevent movement.

Note: In addition to precautions stated above, the operator "(shall) remove the key or connector plug---".

Only approved industrial trucks shall be used in hazardous locations.

(For lifting of personnel) Use of safety platform firmly secured to the lifting carriage and/or forks. Means shall be provided whereby personnel on the platform can shut off power to the truck.

Only loads within the rated capacity of the truck shall be handled.

Other trucks traveling in the same direction at intersection blind spots, or other dangerous locations shall not be passed.

The driver shall be required to slow down and sound horn at cross aisles and other locations where vision is obstructed. If the load being carried obstructs forward view, the driver shall be required to travel with the load trailing.

The driver shall be required to look in the direction of, and keep a clear view of the path of travel.

Under all travel conditions the truck shall be operated at a speed that will permit it to be brought to a stop in a safe manner.

Stunt driving and horseplay shall not be permitted.

The driver shall be required to slow down for wet or slippery floors.

Running over loose objects on roadway surface shall be avoided.

Only stable or safely arranged loads shall be handled. Caution shall be exercised when handling off-center loads which cannot be centered.

Charles A. Coggins, Winter Haven  
John C. Sample, Tallahassee  
Fla. Dept. of Commerce Industrial  
Safety Representatives.

AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

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

"Tangerine Handling" by W. Grierson, A. A. McCornack and F. W. Hayward. Circ. 285. May 1965.

Packinghouse Newsletter Index for issues 1 - 67.

Available from Southwest Florida Water Management District, Water Resources Division, Box 457, Brooksville, FL 33512.

"Regulations Pertaining to The Water Resources Act of 1972"

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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Assoc. Horticulturist