

2023-24 California Valencia Orange Objective Measurement Report



California Department of Food and Agriculture

Cooperating with the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pacific Regional Office - California

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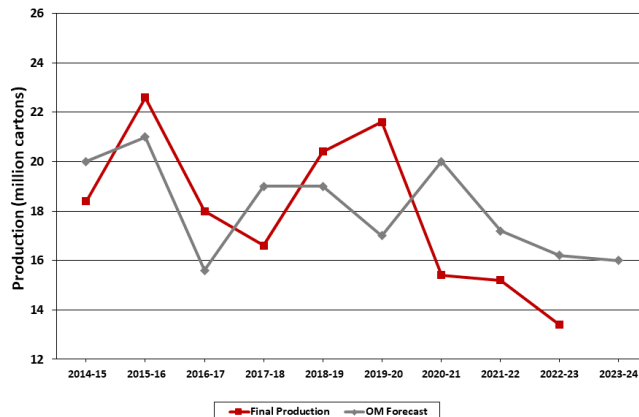
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VALENCIA ORANGE PRODUCTION FORECAST AT 16.0 MILLION CARTONS

The March 2023-24 Valencia orange forecast is 16.0 million cartons. This forecast was based on the results of the 2023-24 Valencia Orange Objective Measurement (O.M.) Survey, which was conducted from January 2 to February 27, 2024. Estimated fruit set per tree, fruit diameter, trees per acre, bearing acreage, and oranges per carton were used in the statistical models estimating production.

Southern and Central California have received significantly more rain than usual over the winter and spring, leading to some groves being flooded. Survey data indicated an average fruit set per tree of 529, a 14% decrease from the previous year and 7% below the five-year average of 567. The average March 1 diameter was 2.433 inches, up 2% from the previous year but 2% below the five-year average of 2.481.

California Valencia Orange Production OM Prediction vs Final



SURVEY SAMPLE

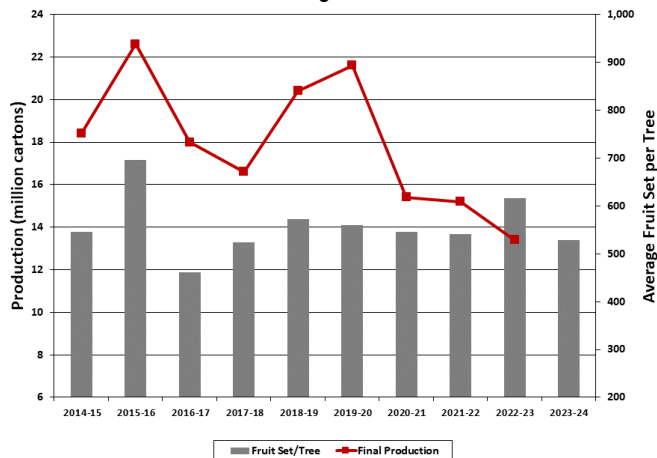
A sample of 375 Valencia orange groves were randomly selected proportional to acreage, county, year planted, and variety representation in the state, with 348 of these groves being utilized in this survey. The sampled groves were primarily in the top Valencia orange producing counties of Tulare, Kern, San Diego, Ventura, and Fresno.

Once a grove was randomly chosen and grower permission was granted, two trees were randomly selected from each grove. For each randomly selected tree, its trunk was measured along with all connected branches. A random number table was then used to select a branch, and then all connected branches from the randomly-selected branch were measured.

This process was repeated until a branch was reached with no significant limbs beyond it. This randomly-selected branch, called the terminal branch, was then closely inspected to count all fruit connected to it, as well as all of the fruit along the path from the trunk to the terminal branch. Since each selected path has a probability of selection associated with it, a probability-based method was then applied to estimate a fruit count for the entire tree.

In the last week of the survey period, fruit diameter measurements were collected on the right quadrant of four trees surrounding the two sampled trees of every third sampled grove. These measurements were used to estimate an average fruit diameter per tree.

California Valencia Orange Production and Set Data



SURVEY HISTORY

A Valencia Orange Objective Measurement Survey was conducted from the 1985-86 to 1993-94 seasons before suspension due to a lack of funding. The survey has been conducted since it was reinstated for the 1999-00 season, with the exception of the 2006-07 season due to a substantial freeze. The data from the first three years after the survey was reinstated were used for research purposes in developing crop-estimating models.

CALIFORNIA VALENCIA ORANGE STATEWIDE DATA

Crop year	Number of sampled groves	Final utilized production (Cartons) ¹	Forecast utilized production (Cartons) ¹	Bearing acres	Average trees per acre	Average set per tree	Average March 1 diameter (Inches)
2008-09	655	24,000,000	30,000,000	45,000	124	435	2.587
2009-10	571	30,000,000	34,000,000	43,000	124	704	2.630
2010-11	534	29,000,000	26,000,000	41,000	124	631	2.546
2011-12	533	25,000,000	28,000,000	40,000	124	611	2.583
2012-13	526	24,000,000	25,000,000	39,000	125	632	2.484
2013-14	500	21,600,000	24,000,000	36,000	124	616	2.570
2014-15	539	18,400,000	20,000,000	34,000	123	545	2.571
2015-16	531	22,600,000	21,000,000	32,000	123	696	2.502
2016-17	498	18,000,000	15,600,000	30,000	124	461	2.552
2017-18	524	16,600,000	19,000,000	29,000	124	524	2.585
2018-19	349	20,400,000	19,000,000	28,000	124	573	2.534
2019-20	346	21,600,000	17,000,000	27,000	124	560	2.471
2020-21	334	15,400,000	20,000,000	26,000	124	545	2.552
2021-22	349	15,200,000	17,200,000	26,000	124	541	2.459
2022-23 ²	340	13,400,000	16,200,000	25,000	124	616	2.391
2023-24	348	---	16,000,000	25,000	124	529	2.433

¹ Cartons have a standard equivalent weight of 40 lbs.

² Final production is subject to revision in the Crop Production report released on April 11, 2024.

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