

Citrus Industry Magazine – UF/IFAS SWFREC Citrus Mechanical Harvesting Program “What’s Shakin” column

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Citrus harvesters manually pick fruit into tubs or bins. When full, these containers weight between 800 and 1,000 pounds. In the 1950s, the fruit handling operations within a grove were mechanized, reducing handling and hauling labor by at least two thirds. Petersen Industries, Inc. introduced the “Lightning Loader” in 1957 and this equipment still handles nearly 80% of all citrus harvested in Florida today. The loader is also known as a “goat” for its ability to be used in all terrains. The YouTube link below shows a fully loaded goat transferring round oranges into a bulk trailer destined for a juice processing plant.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PmQ_ftTjV4