

CITRUS HARVESTING AND UTILIZATION EFFECTS ON PRODUCTION: AN INTRODUCTION TO BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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This was a symposium, with invited speakers, conceived and organized by Drs. L. G. Albrigo, L. K. Jackson and J. P. Syvertsen along with R. Bryant. Our objective was to identify operational impediments between Florida citrus growers, harvesters and processors/packers. Inviting speakers included researchers, growers and processors who were asked to discuss important constraints in their segment of the Citrus Industry. These included the effects harvest timing on fruit quality in the grove, harvesting issues, load allocations and

processing concerns associated with not from concentrate juice. The following seven presentations summarize the current state of such constraints in the Florida Citrus Industry. For example, as available processing and storage capacity continues to decrease, growers and harvesters are being asked to extend the harvesting season later each year. This can result in losses of yield and fruit quality in both the current season and the following year. Mechanical harvesting, changes in load allocations, improved varieties and quality prediction, may provide solutions to some constraints and a more consistent and higher quality product can be delivered to the consumer. Our goal was not only to provide an open forum for discussions between the often disconnected parts of our Citrus Industry, but to take the first steps towards developing solutions to reduce constraints and facilitate profitable changes for everyone involved.

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