2025-2026 ORANGE CROP FORECAST UPDATE FOR THE SÃO PAULO AND WEST-SOUTHWEST MINAS GERAIS CITRUS BELT
APRIL/2026

Forecast update (variation in the February forecast): **April, 10 2026**

Total orange crop production forecast: 292.94 million boxes (0.1% increase)
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi: 46.23 million boxes (unchanged)
Other early season: 17.65 million boxes (unchanged)
Pera: 87.44 million boxes (0.2% decrease)
Valencia and Folha Murcha: 104.53 million boxes (0.3% increase)
Natal: 37.09 million boxes (0.8% increase)

The orange production forecast of the 2026-2027 season will be released at 10:00 a.m. (BRT, GTO -3:00) on May 08, 2026

Table 1 – Orange crop forecast update by sector and variety group – citrus belt

Month	Forecast components				Crop forecast 2025-2026			Crop forecast update 2025-2026		
	February/2026 and April/2026 (strike-through values were presented in February, to their left are their respective values updated in April)				February/2026			April/2026		
Sector and variety group	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree at stripping	Fruit estimated per box	Estimated drop rate	Per tree	Per hectare	Total	Per tree	Per hectare	Total
	(1,000 trees)	(number)	(number)	(percentage)	(boxes/ tree)	(boxes/ hectare)	(1,000,000 boxes)	(boxes/ tree)	(boxes/ hectare)	(1,000,000 boxes)
CITRUS BELT										
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi....	27,322.37	692	305	16.9	1.69	795	46.23	1.69	795	46.23
Other early.....	12,477.78	526	272	18.5	1.41	771	17.65	1.41	771	17.65
Pera….....	67,129.82	498	268 ~~267~~	22.0	1.31	679	87.65	1.30	677	87.44
Valencia and Folha Murcha	56,767.51	695	251 ~~253~~	26.0 ~~25.6~~	1.84	912	104.27	1.84	914	104.53
Natal.....	19,013.25	753	247 ~~250~~	28.8 ~~28.5~~	1.94	976	36.80	1.95	983	37.09
Total.....	**182,710.73**	**617**	**266** ~~**267**~~	**23.2** ~~**23.0**~~	**1.60**	**808**	**292.60**	**1.60**	**809**	**292.94**
NORTH SECTOR										
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi....	6,695.54	642	309 ~~304~~	15.5 ~~16.0~~	1.59	691	10.62	1.58	687	10.55
Other early.....	3,098.88	394	283 ~~283~~	12.0 ~~11.0~~	1.11	607	3.45	1.10	600	3.41
Pera….....	15,002.13	466	256 ~~250~~	26.7 ~~26.9~~	1.22	652	18.25	1.19	639	17.91
Valencia and Folha Murcha	13,818.66	747	233 ~~241~~	16.7 ~~14.0~~	2.38	1,130	32.95	2.39	1,131	32.96
Natal.....	3,254.20	712	220 ~~233~~	22.2 ~~20.1~~	2.18	973	7.11	2.25	1,003	7.33
Subtotal.....	**41,869.41**	**601**	**254** ~~**256**~~	**19.6** ~~**18.3**~~	**1.73**	**846**	**72.38**	**1.72**	**844**	**72.16**
NORTHWEST SECTOR										
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi....	1,610.87	570	280 ~~276~~	7.8 ~~7.7~~	1.71	697	2.75	1.68	687	2.71
Other early.....	2,356.53	435	255 ~~246~~	19.3 ~~18.7~~	1.29	753	3.04	1.23	721	2.91
Pera….....	8,272.51	335	240 ~~231~~	17.2 ~~16.4~~	1.08	476	8.95	1.03	455	8.55
Valencia and Folha Murcha	2,666.32	536	251 ~~241~~	22.0 ~~20.0~~	1.59	723	4.24	1.49	677	3.97
Natal.....	1,439.05	418	239 ~~233~~	13.6 ~~12.0~~	1.41	775	2.03	1.36	745	1.95
Subtotal.....	**16,345.28**	**413**	**250** ~~**242**~~	**16.9** ~~**15.9**~~	**1.29**	**596**	**21.01**	**1.23**	**570**	**20.09**
CENTRAL SECTOR										
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi....	7,433.62	682	310 ~~314~~	22.1	1.51	766	11.25	1.54	779	11.43
Other early.....	4,346.47	617	273 ~~279~~	19.2 ~~20.0~~	1.59	860	6.90	1.64	888	7.13
Pera….....	19,386.95	495	260 ~~263~~	17.9 ~~17.6~~	1.38	754	26.84	1.40	762	27.11
Valencia and Folha Murcha	16,393.87	605	249 ~~250~~	25.5 ~~28.6~~	1.55	798	25.34	1.62	835	26.50
Natal.....	5,114.10	691	250 ~~253~~	25.3 ~~28.9~~	1.74	891	8.89	1.85	947	9.45
Subtotal.....	**52,675.01**	**585**	**265** ~~**267**~~	**22.0** ~~**23.4**~~	**1.50**	**792**	**79.22**	**1.55**	**816**	**81.62**
SOUTH SECTOR										
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi....	5,039.47	638	313 ~~314~~	19.9 ~~19.3~~	1.47	718	7.39	1.46	717	7.38
Other early.....	494.31	421	294 ~~307~~	17.5 ~~17.1~~	1.01	502	0.50	1.05	522	0.52
Pera….....	12,493.76	506	295 ~~291~~	23.8 ~~24.2~~	1.18	626	14.70	1.17	622	14.61
Valencia and Folha Murcha	9,776.21	678	270 ~~268~~	35.3 ~~36.0~~	1.45	685	14.16	1.45	686	14.19
Natal.....	3,421.75	660	253 ~~247~~	39.5 ~~35.6~~	1.54	886	5.27	1.41	812	4.83
Subtotal.....	**31,225.50**	**597**	**284** ~~**282**~~	**29.1** ~~**28.9**~~	**1.35**	**684**	**42.02**	**1.33**	**676**	**41.53**
SOUTHWEST SECTOR										
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi....	6,542.87	825	298 ~~296~~	12.9 ~~12.8~~	2.17	1,024	14.22	2.16	1,020	14.16
Other early.....	2,181.59	654	271 ~~265~~	22.3 ~~22.2~~	1.72	906	3.76	1.69	886	3.68
Pera….....	11,974.47	647	277 ~~281~~	23.1 ~~23.2~~	1.58	816	18.91	1.61	831	19.26
Valencia and Folha Murcha	14,112.45	790	259 ~~260~~	30.0 ~~28.1~~	1.95	1,027	27.58	1.91	1,002	26.91
Natal.....	5,784.15	968	255 ~~258~~	31.1 ~~30.6~~	2.33	1,138	13.50	2.34	1,140	13.53
Subtotal.....	**40,595.53**	**771**	**270** ~~**271**~~	**25.2** ~~**24.4**~~	**1.92**	**975**	**77.97**	**1.91**	**970**	**77.54**

Total orange production[1] for the 2025-2026 crop season ended at 292.94 million boxes

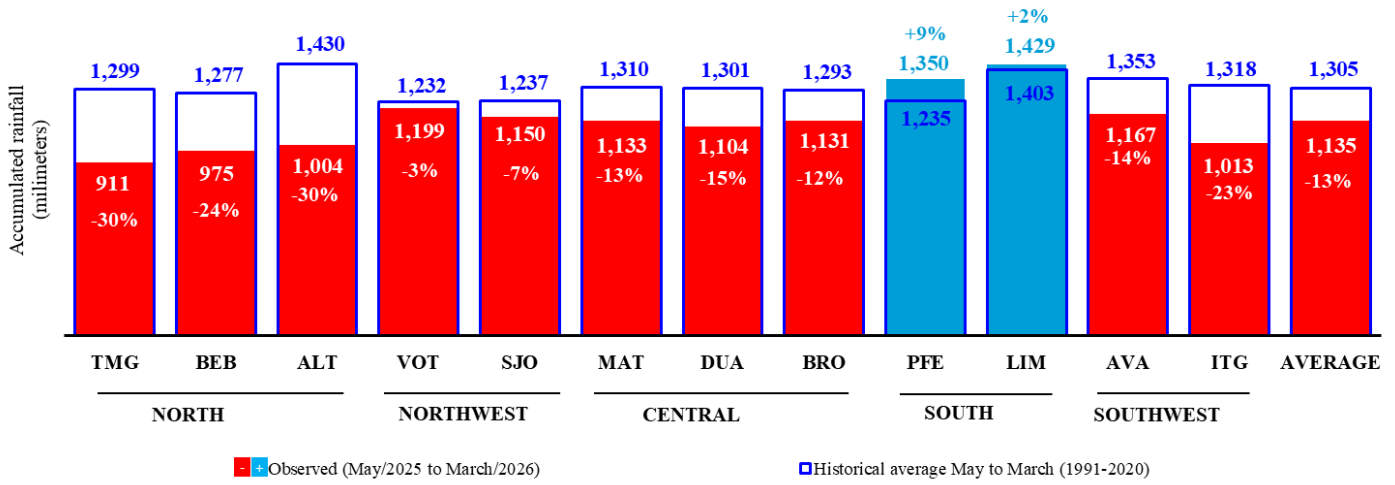
The 2025-2026 orange crop for the São Paulo and West-Southwest Minas Gerais citrus belt, published on April 10, 2026 by Fundecitrus, carried out in cooperation with full professor (retired) from FCAV/Unesp[2], concluded with 292.94 million boxes of 40.8 kg each (90 lbs), divided as follows:

- 46.23 million boxes of the Hamlin, Westin and Rubi early-season varieties;
- 17.65 million boxes of the Valencia Americana, Seleta, Pineapple and Alvorada early-season varieties;
- 87.44 million boxes of the Pera mid-season variety;
- 104.53 million boxes of the Valencia and Folha Murcha late-season varieties;
- 37.09 million boxes of the Natal late-season variety.

Of the total, about 25.69 million boxes were produced in the Triângulo Mineiro region.

Production this season was 26.9% higher compared to the previous crop, which reached 230.87 million boxes, and 6.9% lower than the initial forecast released in May 2025. Climatic and phytosanitary factors, within the context of a more delayed harvest, contributed to higher fruit drop rates and to reduced fruit weight compared to the initial forecast. The 2025-2026 crop was marked by a later harvest pace compared to previous crop seasons due to the high proportion of second-bloom fruit and to harvesting at optimal maturity. In this context, most of the Pera variety was expected to be harvested after the onset of heavier spring rains; however, nearly half of its production was harvested under dry conditions, as rainfall only intensified midway through October. Moreover, below-average rainfall throughout the period also adversely impacted the weight of the late varieties Valencia, Folha Murcha, and Natal, which were harvested through mid-January and did not reach the expected weight of the initial forecast. Furthermore, the premature fruit drop rate in this crop reached the highest level observed over the past 11 crop seasons, driven by increased greening severity, higher incidence of citrus leprosis, water deficit, and the occurrence of strong wind gusts throughout the production cycle.

The average accumulated rainfall in the citrus belt from May 2025 to March 2026 totaled 1,135 millimeters, representing a 13% deficit compared to the historical average (1991–2020), according to Climatempo Meteorologia. The South sector, which includes the regions of Porto Ferreira and Limeira, was the only one to record rainfall volumes above the historical average, with increases of 9% and 2%, respectively. The Northwest sector recorded rainfall levels close to, but still below, the historical average, with deficits of 3% in the Votuporanga region and 7% in the São José do Rio Preto region. Regions in the Central sector, including Brotas, Matão, and Duartina, recorded deficits of 12%, 13%, and 15%, respectively. In the Southwest sector, the regions of Avaré and Itapetininga registered rainfall volumes 14% and 23% below the historical average, respectively. Finally, the North sector recorded the largest deficits, with 24% less rainfall in Bebedouro and 30% less in Altinópolis and in the Triângulo Mineiro.



Graph 1 – Accumulated rainfall from May 2025 to March 2026 in the Citrus Belt regions
Source: Fundecitrus, based on data from Climatempo Meteorologia

With the later harvest pace, approximately 25% of the Valencia and Folha Murcha varieties and around 23% of the Natal variety remained unharvested from mid-January through the end of March. This remaining volume benefited from rainfall in the first months of 2026 which, although still below the historical average, slightly favored fruit growth compared to the size projected in the updated forecast of February 10, 2026. In the Valencia and Folha Murcha group, the number of fruits per box went from 253 (161 grams/5.68 oz per fruit) to 251 fruits per box (162 grams/5.71 oz per fruit), while for the Natal variety, the figure changed from 250 fruits per box (163 grams/5.75 oz per fruit) to 247 fruits per box (165 grams/5.82 oz per fruit). On the other hand, the Pera variety showed a mild decrease in average fruit weight, as it did not benefit from these rainfall events, since it had already been largely harvested. As a result, the number of fruits per box observed in April reached 268 fruits (152 grams/5.36 oz per fruit), that is, 1 fruit more than the February forecast, which indicated 267 fruits per box (153 grams/5.40 oz per fruit).

Considering the average fruit size across all varieties and comparing it with the initial forecast of May 2025, the number of oranges required to fill a 40.8-kg box increased from 258 (158 grams/5.57 oz per fruit) to 266 fruits (153 grams/5.40 oz per fruit). The early variety group—Hamlin, Westin, and Rubi—maintained the projected average size, closing the crop season with 305 fruits per box (134 grams/4.72 oz per fruit). For the other early varieties, the number of fruits per box increased from 259 (158 grams/5.57 oz per fruit) to 272 (150 grams/5.29 oz per fruit). The mid-season variety Pera showed an increase from 265 fruits per box (154 grams/5.43 oz per fruit) to 268 fruits per box (152 grams/5.36 oz per fruit) compared to the initial forecast. In the late variety group—Valencia and Folha Murcha—the average size changed from 235 (174 grams/6.14 oz per fruit) to 251 fruits per box (162 grams/5.71 oz per fruit) at the end of the season. The Natal variety showed a variation from 242 fruits per box (169 grams/5.96 oz per fruit) to 247 fruits per box (165 grams/5.82 oz per fruit) in this closing forecast. Sizes by sector and variety are presented in Table 2.

Table 2 – Average fruit size, as pieces of fruit per box, by sector and variety[3]

Group of varieties	Sector (hatched values were presented in May 2025 and their respective values updated in April 2026 are on the left)					
	North	Northwest	Central	South	Southwest	Total
	(Fruits per box)	(Fruits per box)	(Fruits per box)	(Fruits per box)	(Fruits per box)	(Fruits per box)
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi……..	309 ~~303~~	280 ~~296~~	310 ~~304~~	313 ~~310~~	298 ~~306~~	305
Other earlies.....	283 ~~250~~	255 ~~251~~	273 ~~255~~	294 ~~277~~	271 ~~277~~	272 ~~259~~
Pera….....	256 ~~254~~	240 ~~259~~	260 ~~269~~	295 ~~274~~	277 ~~263~~	268 ~~265~~
Valencia and Folha Murcha….....	233 ~~221~~	251 ~~234~~	249 ~~243~~	270 ~~248~~	259 ~~233~~	251 ~~235~~
Natal.....	220 ~~229~~	239 ~~252~~	250 ~~245~~	253 ~~251~~	255 ~~240~~	247 ~~242~~
Total.....	**254** ~~**246**~~	**250** ~~**257**~~	**265** ~~**262**~~	**284** ~~**268**~~	**270** ~~**256**~~	**266** ~~**258**~~

[3] The precision of the overall average of the citrus belt is higher than that of the sectors, or variety groups, due to the larger sample size.

With the later harvest, the fruits were exposed for a longer period to climatic and phytosanitary events, which increases the likelihood of fruit drop, especially in late varieties. The Valencia and Folha Murcha varieties recorded an increase in drop rate, totaling 26.0% and corresponding to 0.4 percentage point above the level projected in the February updated forecast, while the Natal variety recorded a drop rate of 28.8%, 0.3 percentage points higher than the February updated forecast.

In general, the cumulative fruit drop rate, measured since the beginning of the crop season, increased to 23.2% in the citrus belt, representing an increase of 3.2 percentage points compared to the projection released in May 2025. The margin of error is 1.07 percentage point, plus or minus, at a 95% confidence level. The final drop rate for the Hamlin, Westin, and Rubi group was 16.9%, with a margin of error of ± 2.1 percentage points. The other early varieties recorded a drop rate of 18.5%, with a margin of error of ± 2.15 percentage points. The Pera variety registered a drop rate of 22.0%, with a margin of error of ± 2.94 percentage points. The highest drop rates were observed in the late varieties, with the Valencia and Folha Murcha group reaching 26.0% with a margin of error of ± 2.21 percentage points, whereas the Natal variety recorded a drop rate of 28.8% with a margin of error of ± 2.39 percentage points.

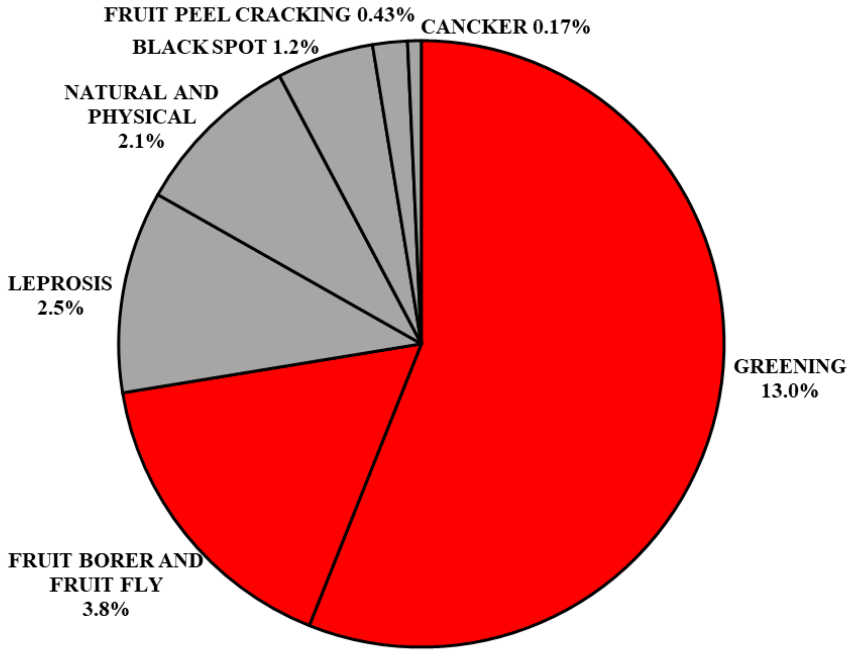
Table 3 – Average drop rates by sector and variety[4]

Group of varieties	Sector (hatched values were presented in May 2025 and their respective values updated in April 2026 are on the left)					
	North	Northwest	Central	South	Southwest	Total
	(percentual)	(percentual)	(percentual)	(percentual)	(percentual)	(percentual)
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi……..	15.5 ~~10.3~~	7.8 ~~12.8~~	22.1 ~~12.0~~	19.9 ~~12.9~~	12.9 ~~9.2~~	16.9 ~~11.0~~
Other earlies.....	12.0 ~~8.9~~	19.3 ~~16.0~~	19.2 ~~12.6~~	17.5 ~~18.0~~	22.3 ~~12.5~~	18.5 ~~12.6~~
Pera….....	26.7 ~~16.7~~	17.2 ~~14.5~~	17.9 ~~24.2~~	23.8 ~~21.9~~	23.1 ~~18.2~~	22.0 ~~20.0~~
Valencia and Folha Murcha….....	16.7 ~~22.0~~	22.0 ~~24.0~~	25.5 ~~25.6~~	35.3 ~~25.8~~	30.0 ~~22.9~~	26.0 ~~23.9~~
Natal.....	22.2 ~~16.4~~	13.6 ~~24.0~~	25.3 ~~23.3~~	39.5 ~~27.1~~	31.1 ~~27.0~~	28.8 ~~24.3~~
Total.....	**19.6** ~~**17.4**~~	**16.9** ~~**17.4**~~	**22.0** ~~**21.5**~~	**29.1** ~~**22.3**~~	**25.2** ~~**19.6**~~	**23.2** ~~**20.0**~~

[4] The precision of the overall average of the citrus belt is higher than that of the sectors, or variety groups, due to the larger sample size.

Production losses resulting from premature fruit drop were estimated at approximately 88.49 million boxes. This volume is deducted from the total production forecast by considering the premature fruit drop rate in the calculations. Greening was the main cause of this loss in the crop season, accounting for 13.00% (of the total 23.2%), which is equivalent to 49.59 million boxes and approximately 56% of the total drop rate. The next key causes, accounting for 3.8%, are the citrus fruit borer and fruit flies, which jointly account for an estimated

loss of 14.49 million boxes. Citrus leprosis showed a higher contribution to fruit drop compared to previous years, ranking third, with 2.50% and 9.54 million boxes. Subsequently, natural and mechanical drop accounted for 2.10% and 8.01 million boxes. Other causes, totaling 6.86 million boxes lost, include black spot in fifth place with 1.2%, peel splitting in sixth with 0.43%, and citrus canker in last position with 0.17%, as presented in Graph 2.



Graph 2 – Causes that made up the average rate of fruit drop in the 2025-2026 crop, highlighting greening, and fruit borer and fruit fly
Source: Fundecitrus

The method used for the update is the same adopted in the previous crop season. Information was obtained from the monitoring survey started in May on 1,200 plots that are no longer visited when fruit harvest is complete. Other data used in this study is size of fruit received throughout the crop season by orange juice companies associated to Fundecitrus – Citrosuco, Cutrale and Louis Dreyfus – for industrial processing. Each processing company supplies individual data under confidentiality for the calculation of the average size of processed fruit.

2026-2027 crop forecast

The orange crop forecast and tree inventory will be released on **May 8, 2026, at 10 a.m. (BRT, GMT -3:00)**, in a face-to-face event at Fundecitrus – with simultaneous broadcast and translation to English on the institution's YouTube channel.

[1] Hamlin, Westin, Rubi, Valencia Americana, Seleta, Pineapple, Alvorada, Pera, Valencia, Folha Murcha and Natal.
[2] Department of Exact Sciences, FCAV/Unesp Jaboticabal Campus.