2026-2027 ORANGE CROP FORECAST UPDATE FOR THE SÃO PAULO AND WEST-SOUTHWEST MINAS GERAIS CITRUS BELT - SEPTEMBER/2026

Forecast update (variation in the May forecast): September, 10 2026

Total orange crop production forecast: 263.15 million boxes (3.1% increase)
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi: 50.73 million boxes (7.1% increase)
Other early season: 19.74 million boxes (2.5% increase)
Pera: 87.31 million boxes (4.9% increase)
Valencia and Folha Murcha: 80.71 million boxes (unchanged)
Natal: 24.66 million boxes (unchanged)

Publication Schedule 2026-2027
2nd Crop forecast update: December 10, 2026
3rd Crop forecast update: February 10, 2027
Final crop forecast: April 09, 2027

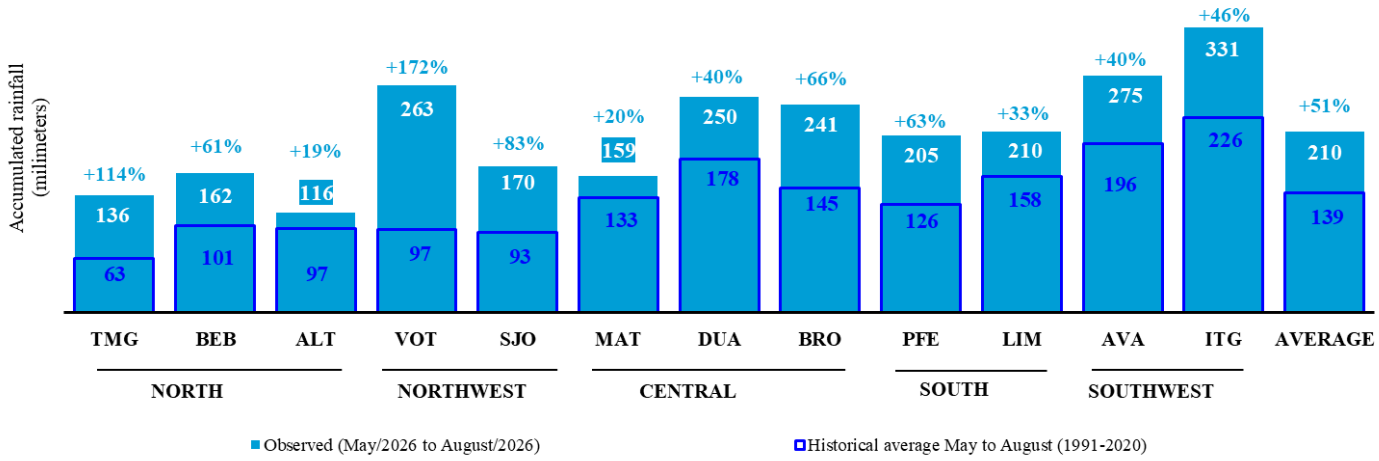
Table 1 – Orange crop forecast update by sector and variety group – citrus belt

Month	Forecast components				Crop forecast 2026-2027			Crop forecast update 2026-2027		
	May/2026 and September/2026 (strike-through values were presented in May, to their left are their respective values updated in September)				May/2026			September/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....	28,332.86	660	268 ~~289~~	19.4 ~~18.4~~	1.67	783	47.38	1.79	838	50.73
Other early.....	13,247.84	508	243 ~~251~~	21.0 ~~20.0~~	1.45	793	19.25	1.49	814	19.74
Pera….....	66,911.82	453	243 ~~255~~	22.4 ~~22.0~~	1.24	648	83.20	1.30	680	87.31
Valencia and Folha Murcha	57,191.83	517	239	27.3	1.41	698	80.71	1.41	698	80.71
Natal.....	18,682.49	513	241	30.9	1.32	661	24.66	1.32	661	24.66
Total.....	**184,366.84**	**514**	**246 ~~255~~**	**24.1 ~~23.7~~**	**1.38**	**697**	**255.20**	**1.43**	**719**	**263.15**
NORTH SECTOR										
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi....	7,237.75	731	262 ~~275~~	15.0	2.02	902	14.64	2.14	953	15.47
Other early.....	3,360.06	606	233 ~~250~~	20.5 ~~18.5~~	1.77	961	5.96	1.86	1,006	6.24
Pera….....	14,676.04	483	233 ~~245~~	22.5 ~~18.9~~	1.43	746	20.95	1.45	756	21.24
Valencia and Folha Murcha	14,311.53	590	228 ~~226~~	24.5 ~~23.4~~	1.79	860	25.62	1.75	841	25.04
Natal.....	3,238.49	433	230	20.1 ~~26.2~~	1.24	550	4.02	1.35	596	4.36
Subtotal.....	**42,823.87**	**567**	**237 ~~244~~**	**21.3 ~~20.0~~**	**1.66**	**812**	**71.19**	**1.69**	**825**	**72.35**
NORTHWEST SECTOR										
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi....	1,856.11	730	256 ~~276~~	15.2 ~~12.5~~	2.07	919	3.85	2.18	965	4.04
Other early.....	2,640.45	422	227 ~~245~~	16.4 ~~16.5~~	1.29	748	3.41	1.40	810	3.69
Pera….....	8,879.15	500	231 ~~242~~	15.3 ~~17.5~~	1.52	704	13.51	1.65	764	14.66
Valencia and Folha Murcha	2,945.85	508	231 ~~230~~	18.0 ~~24.3~~	1.50	684	4.41	1.62	739	4.76
Natal.....	1,313.52	534	232 ~~235~~	15.0 ~~25.3~~	1.52	731	1.99	1.75	845	2.30
Subtotal.....	**17,635.08**	**516**	**234 ~~245~~**	**15.8 ~~18.4~~**	**1.54**	**733**	**27.17**	**1.67**	**794**	**29.45**
CENTRAL SECTOR										
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi....	8,018.18	584	262 ~~295~~	20.7 ~~15.5~~	1.50	760	12.01	1.59	808	12.77
Other early.....	4,376.69	488	241 ~~251~~	23.8 ~~20.2~~	1.39	751	6.09	1.39	749	6.07
Pera….....	19,204.24	426	246 ~~251~~	26.9 ~~19.5~~	1.22	655	23.43	1.14	612	21.90
Valencia and Folha Murcha	16,356.10	466	238 ~~242~~	28.6 ~~26.2~~	1.27	659	20.81	1.25	649	20.48
Natal.....	4,762.06	565	247 ~~235~~	34.3 ~~29.0~~	1.53	734	7.27	1.34	646	6.40
Subtotal.....	**52,717.27**	**480**	**246 ~~255~~**	**26.8 ~~21.8~~**	**1.32**	**688**	**69.61**	**1.28**	**668**	**67.62**
SOUTH SECTOR										
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi....	4,938.29	606	281 ~~300~~	25.9 ~~26.5~~	1.33	643	6.56	1.44	697	7.11
Other early.....	606.32	331	267 ~~265~~	36.0 ~~29.3~~	0.79	452	0.48	0.71	405	0.43
Pera….....	12,328.62	401	248 ~~282~~	29.2 ~~30.5~~	0.88	486	10.88	1.03	568	12.71
Valencia and Folha Murcha	9,369.48	525	243 ~~251~~	34.8 ~~35.5~~	1.21	558	11.31	1.26	583	11.82
Natal.....	3,450.49	434	247 ~~256~~	35.8 ~~37.0~~	0.95	570	3.29	1.01	603	3.48
Subtotal.....	**30,693.20**	**474**	**253 ~~272~~**	**31.2 ~~32.0~~**	**1.06**	**545**	**32.52**	**1.16**	**596**	**35.55**
SOUTHWEST SECTOR										
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi....	6,282.53	695	277 ~~296~~	20.2 ~~21.9~~	1.64	733	10.32	1.81	806	11.34
Other early.....	2,264.32	549	274 ~~256~~	18.8 ~~24.0~~	1.46	764	3.31	1.46	764	3.31
Pera….....	11,823.77	477	256 ~~260~~	15.3 ~~25.5~~	1.22	627	14.43	1.42	730	16.80
Valencia and Folha Murcha	14,208.87	498	252 ~~245~~	26.0 ~~28.2~~	1.31	674	18.56	1.31	676	18.61
Natal.....	5,917.93	557	240 ~~245~~	33.9 ~~32.8~~	1.37	699	8.09	1.37	701	8.12
Subtotal.....	**40,497.42**	**534**	**258 ~~260~~**	**22.8 ~~26.7~~**	**1.35**	**679**	**54.71**	**1.44**	**723**	**58.18**

Total orange production[1] is updated at 263.15 million boxes

The first update of the 2026-2027 orange crop forecast for the São Paulo and West-Southwest Minas Gerais citrus belt, published on September 10, 2026, by Fundecitrus, carried out in cooperation with professor (retired) from FCAV/Unesp[2], is 263.15 million boxes of 40.8 kg (90-pound box). Compared with the May estimate, the crop season is projected to yield 7.95 million more boxes, or +3.1%, due to a higher projected fruit weight for early- and mid-season varieties, despite an increase in the projected fruit drop rate for these varieties. It is also estimated that approximately 27.14 million boxes will be harvested in the Triângulo Mineiro region.

According to data from Climatempo Meteorologia, the accumulated rainfall in the citrus belt from May to August 2026 reached an average of 210 millimeters, 51% above the historical mark (1991–2020). Rainfall in May and August was close to historical numbers, while June and July recorded significantly higher precipitation levels. As shown in Graph 1, all regions recorded cumulative rainfall above their historical averages during the period, particularly Votuporanga (+172%), Triângulo Mineiro (+114%), and São José do Rio Preto (+83%). Brotas, Porto Ferreira, Bebedouro, Itapetininga, Duartina, and Avaré recorded accumulated rainfall ranging from 66% to 40% above the historical average, while Limeira (+33%), Matão (+20%), and Altinópolis (+19%) recorded levels closer to their historical marks.



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

As in the previous season, the harvest is progressing more slowly than usual, with only 27% of the crop harvested by mid-August. This slower pace is associated with prioritizing fruit harvesting at the optimal stage of maturity to ensure high-quality juice, as well as with the high proportion of fruit from the second bloom. However, this pattern has been more pronounced in the current season, with harvesting activity increasing only in August, which resulted in fruit remaining on the trees for a longer period during the heavy winter rainfall. By mid-August, 85% of the Hamlin, Westin, and Rubi early-season varieties had been harvested, compared with 65% of the other early-season varieties and 16% of the Pera variety. Among the late-season varieties, 1.2% of the Valencia and Folha Murcha crop had been harvested, while the figure for Natal was 0.1%.

The heavy rainfall recorded from May to August, combined with the slower pace of harvesting, favored fruit weight gain in the early- and mid-season varieties. Given the increased fruit weight of these varieties and the unchanged projection for the late-season varieties, due to the low percentage harvested to date, the estimated average fruit weight for the crop was also revised upward. Accordingly, the May estimate of 255 fruits per box (160 grams / 5.64 oz per fruit) was revised to 246 fruits per box (166 grams / 5.85 oz per fruit).

For the Hamlin, Westin, and Rubi varieties, the number of oranges required to fill a box is revised from 289 fruits per box (141 grams / 4.98 oz per fruit) to 268 fruits per box (152 grams / 5.37 oz per fruit). For the other early-season varieties, the number decreases from 251 fruits per box (163 grams / 5.73 oz per fruit) to 243 fruits per box (168 grams / 5.92 oz per fruit). For Pera, the projection changes from 255 fruits per box (160 grams / 5.64 oz per fruit) to 243 fruits per box (168 grams / 5.92 oz per fruit). For Valencia and Folha Murcha, the estimate remains unchanged at 239 fruits per box (171 grams / 6.02 oz per fruit), as does the estimate for Natal, at 241 fruits per box (169 grams / 5.97 oz per fruit). Fruit 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 and their respective values updated in September 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……..	262 ~~275~~	256 ~~276~~	262 ~~295~~	281 ~~300~~	277 ~~296~~	**268 ~~289~~**
Other earlies.....	233 ~~250~~	227 ~~245~~	241 ~~251~~	267 ~~265~~	274 ~~256~~	**243 ~~251~~**
Pera….....	233 ~~245~~	231 ~~242~~	246 ~~251~~	248 ~~282~~	256 ~~260~~	**243 ~~255~~**
Valencia and Folha Murcha….....	228 ~~226~~	231 ~~230~~	238 ~~242~~	243 ~~251~~	252 ~~245~~	**239**
Natal.....	230	232 ~~235~~	247 ~~235~~	247 ~~256~~	240 ~~245~~	**241**
Total.....	**237** ~~244~~	**234** ~~245~~	**246** ~~255~~	**253** ~~272~~	**258** ~~260~~	**246** ~~255~~

[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, combined with high pest and disease pressure, the premature fruit drop rate has increased compared with the same period in previous years. The increasing severity of greening, along with the incidence of leprosis and citrus canker at levels above historical averages, intensified fruit drop, particularly in August, when a large proportion of the fruit was still on the trees due to the slower pace of harvesting. This increase was observed primarily in early- and mid-season varieties.

Initially projected at 23.7% in the May estimate, the fruit drop rate is revised to 24.1%. By variety, the fruit drop rate for Hamlin, Westin, and Rubi increases to 19.4%, representing an increase of 1.0 percentage point from the initial estimate. For the other early-season varieties, the rate is revised to 21.0%, an increase of 1.0 percentage point. For Pera, the rate rises to 22.4%, an increase of 0.4 percentage point. The fruit drop rate for Valencia and Folha Murcha remains unchanged at 27.3%, as does the rate for Natal, at 30.9%. By sector, fruit drop rates are higher in areas with a high incidence of greening, such as the South, Central, and Southwest sectors. Fruit drop rates by sector and variety are detailed in Table 3.

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

Group of varieties	Sector (hatched values were presented in May and their respective values updated in September are on the left)					
	North	Northwest	Central	South	Southwest	Total
	(percentual)	(percentual)	(percentual)	(percentual)	(percentual)	(percentual)
Hamlin, Westin and Rubi……..	15.0	15.2 ~~12.5~~	20.7 ~~15.5~~	25.9 ~~26.5~~	20.2 ~~21.9~~	**19.4 ~~18.4~~**
Other earlies.....	20.5 ~~18.5~~	16.4 ~~16.5~~	23.8 ~~20.2~~	36.0 ~~29.3~~	18.8 ~~24.0~~	**21.0 ~~20.0~~**
Pera….....	22.5 ~~18.9~~	15.3 ~~17.5~~	26.9 ~~19.5~~	29.2 ~~30.5~~	15.3 ~~25.5~~	**22.4 ~~22.0~~**
Valencia and Folha Murcha….....	24.5 ~~23.4~~	18.0 ~~24.3~~	28.6 ~~26.2~~	34.8 ~~35.5~~	26.0 ~~28.2~~	**27.3**
Natal.....	20.1 ~~26.2~~	15.0 ~~25.3~~	34.3 ~~29.0~~	35.8 ~~37.0~~	33.9 ~~32.8~~	**30.9**
Total.....	**21.3** ~~20.0~~	**15.8** ~~18.4~~	**26.8** ~~21.8~~	**31.2** ~~32.0~~	**22.8** ~~26.7~~	**24.1** ~~23.7~~

[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.

This estimate was projected based on the available data and will continue to be updated as the harvest progresses. The next update is set to be released on December 10th.

The method used for the update is the same adopted in the previous crop season, complemented by the fruit-stripping method at harvest. 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.

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