

# Arizona Citrus Trends

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# CITRUS OUTLOOK '12 – '13

Three new sales of lemons occurred this past year in Yuma, Arizona. Previously the sales ranged from \$15,000 to \$23,000 per acre on the mesa and are now in the \$12,000 to \$18,000 per acre range. The real estate prices indicate a reversal in the highest & best use from residential development back to agriculture (primarily citrus if on mesa). The reversal/shift is not all bad in that we have found the bottom of the market as supported by agriculture. In January of 2011 Yuma experienced a severe freeze. Most of the crop was lost for the fall of 2011. This year's crop yield is at from 70% to 80% of "normal". Utilization is up significantly- strong demand for juice. Commodity prices are good with the typical grower expecting to net back something like \$5/F.B. or say netting back between \$800 to \$1,500 per acre after growing expenses (\$5 x 500FB = \$2,500; \$2,500 – 1,200 = \$1,300 net). The primary market for Yuma is fresh lemons and not the juice market like Florida. Worth noting, Yuma experienced another cold spell in early January of 2013- appears the trees and crops are okay.

Minneolas are expected to have a light crop with typical commodity prices- say 150FB/Ac. Demand for grapefruit is has been fair to good with past freezes in Texas and Florida. A significant amount of Medjool dates are being planted in the Yuma area- approaching 10,000 acres. Prices have been good for Medjool dates, but the future supply is increasing significantly.

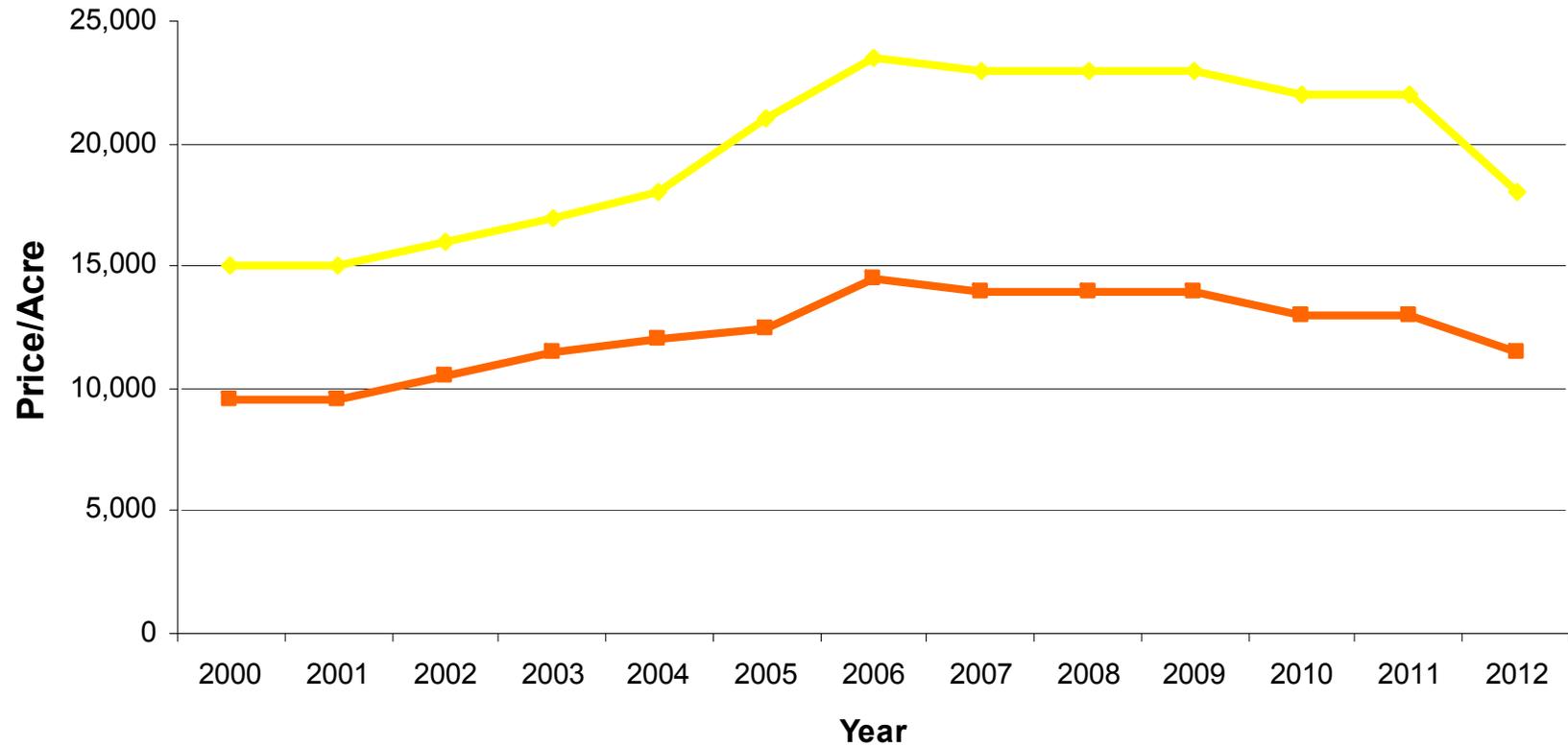
The **Asian Citrus Psyllid** or **Citrus Greening Disease** is the newest to impact the citrus industry. Citrus Greening was first found in Florida in 1998. No infected groves have been found in the Yuma area to date. The insect carrying the disease, citrus psyllid has been found but not the disease (nearest case 800 miles away in Guadalajara, Mexico). The disease is characterized by blotchy mottle on the leaves, alters the fruit taste, and in some cases the fruit tends to "green back-up" after partially maturing/coloring. The disease is transmitted by the Psyllid and/or by grafting infected trees. Previously nursery stock (young citrus trees) could not be transported and sold outside the quarantine area. Those **restrictions have been lifted**.

Since the mid 1990's a significant amount of acreage has been removed in District III (desert- Yuma, Phoenix, & Coachella Valley), partly because of disease but also because of aging groves and urbanization. "**Macrophylla Decline**" and "**Coniopohera**" are being named as the cause of accelerating the decline in older lemons. Macrophylla Decline is described as an incompatibility between Macrophylla rootstock and the bud- particularly Frost New Cellar (Frost New Cellar budded to the rootstock/Macrophylla). Other varieties of lemons do not seem to have experienced the "decline" (tree declines at say 27 yrs of age while others go to say 35 years). Coniopohera is a wind-borne disease. In actuality, two new strains of the disease have been found, **Antrodia** and the other too new to have a name. This wind-borne (may also be transmitted via mechanical tree trimmers) disease affects the limbs of the trees causing premature limb breakage. If caught in time, Coniopohera can be minimized- cut limbs with chain saw. Macrophylla rootstock is still being planted because of its early fruit and high yields. Rough lemon rootstock produces a lower yield but lasts a lot longer. Two varieties of lemons exist, Lisbon and Eureka.

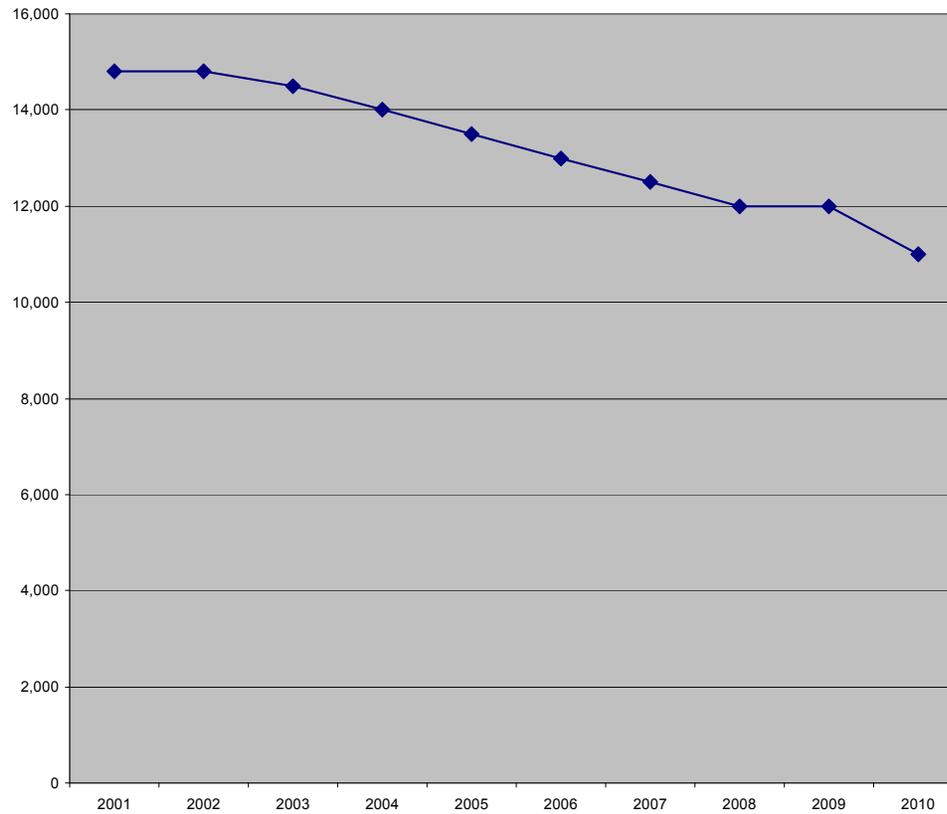


# Yuma Mesa

Chart compiled by S. Halver



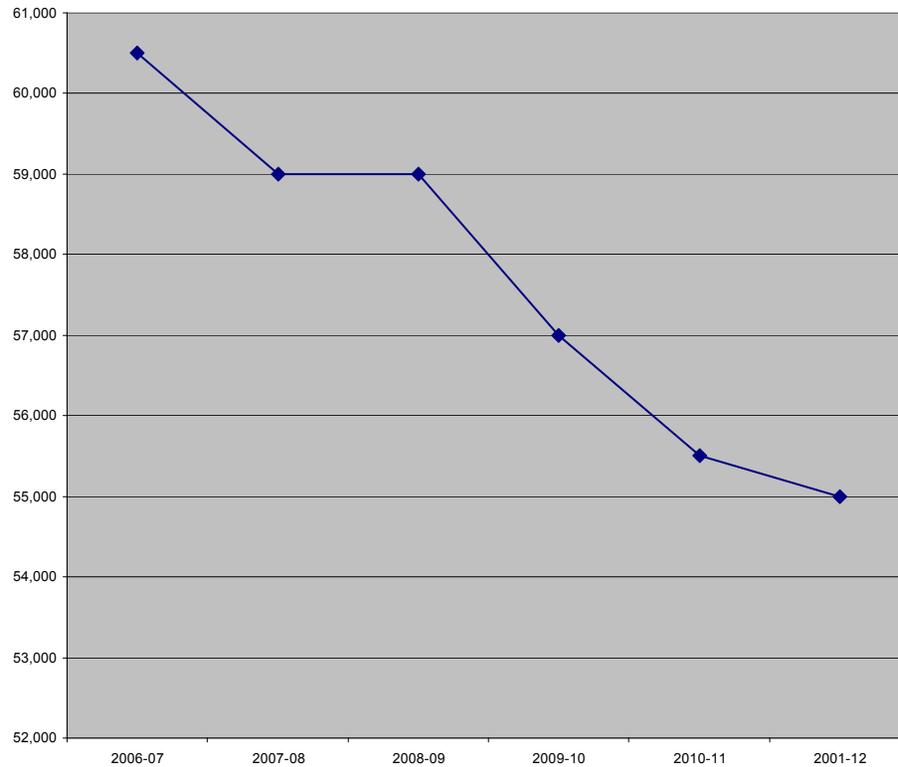
# Lemon Acreage - Arizona



Year	Acres
1994-95	16,100
2000-01	14,800
2001-02	14,800
2002-03	14,500
2003-04	13,500
2004-05	13,000
2005-06	12,500
2006-07	12,000
2007-08	12,000
2008-09	11,000



# Lemon Acreage – United States



Year	Acres
2006-07	60,500
2007-08	59,000
2008-09	59,000
2009-10	57,000
2010-11	55,500
2011-12	55,000



# Bearing Acres of Oranges – United States

