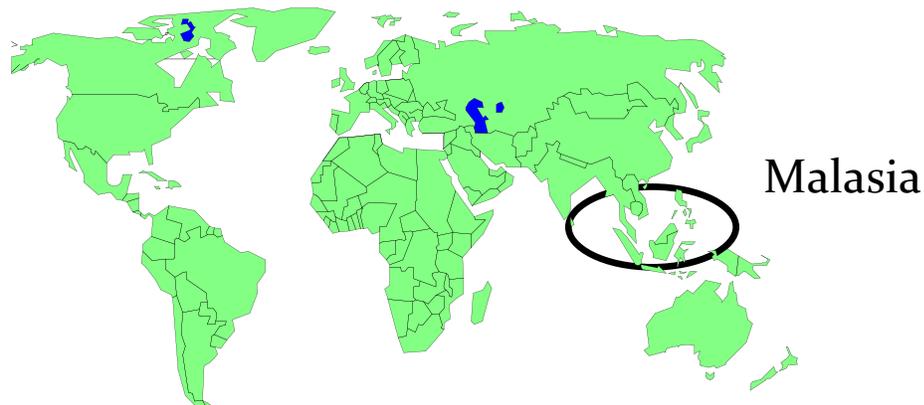




The Historic Citrus Trail

- Oranges originated 20 million years ago in what is now Malaysia in Southeast Asia.



- More than 2,000 years ago, ancient Greeks, then Romans, prized them as food for their mythological gods. They referred to them as "golden apples."
- In ancient times, oranges traveled with explorers to China, where emperors and peasants enjoyed them. In one Chinese dialect, the word for "orange" means gold.
- Traders and explorers brought them to the Middle East, Africa and Japan.
- From there they spread throughout Europe, becoming popular trees in the gardens of royalty. They were popular due to their fragrance; the fruit itself was bitter.
- The first oranges came to America in 1493 when Columbus brought them to the island of Hispaniola, known today as Haiti.
- Sailors became aware that citrus could prevent the disease scurvy (caused by a lack of vitamin C). The British navy mandated that citrus be carried aboard all naval ships. From this, the British sailors became known as limeys.
- The history of citrus in Florida is more than 400 years old; orange seeds were brought to St. Augustine with the early Spaniards in the 1500s.



- Grapefruit were first taken from the West Indies to Florida, to the Tampa area, in 1823 by a French Count Philippe Odet.
- Today, citrus fruits are grown in 30 counties all over central and southern Florida, from near Orlando in central Florida, south to the Everglades.
- Consumers from around the world buy citrus from Florida. In the United States, 70 percent of American oranges and 80 percent of American orange juice comes from Florida. Florida is second in the world in citrus production.
- Florida is number one in the world in the production of grapefruit, exporting more than 50 percent of its grapefruit.

• Today, many other parts of the world grow significant amounts of citrus fruit.

- ⇒ First - Brazil
- ⇒ Second - United States
- ⇒ Third - Mexico
- ⇒ Fourth- Spain
- ⇒ Fifth - China
- ⇒ Sixth - India
- ⇒ Seventh- Italy
- ⇒ Eighth- Iran
- ⇒ Ninth - Egypt
- ⇒ Tenth - Pakistan



- The production of citrus, including, the jobs and businesses that support the citrus industry (such as transportation, equipment, supplies and sales), bring Florida's economy over \$9 billion of the total agricultural economic impact of \$100 billion.
- The United States produces citrus in Florida, California, Arizona, and Texas.