

## Packing Meyer Lemons

Four standard packages may be used in which to pack Meyer lemons. They are:—

Case No.	Inside Measurements (in.)
No. 2	8½ x 11½ x 18
No. 6	7 x 7 x 18
No. 7	6 x 9 x 11
No. 9	4½ x 7 x 18

The cases most favoured are Nos. 2 and 6, the other two being seldom used. Cases Nos. 2 and 6 are commonly referred to as the ¾ and ½ bushel, and they appear quite suitable to the trade. The following lists will assist growers to pack fruit in these cases in a uniform manner:—

### STANDARD PACKAGE No. 2. Packed the Wide Way

Style of pack (crosswise)	No. in rows (lengthwise)	No. of layers (depth)	Count	Approximate size (in.)
5-5	4	4	100	2 3/8 x 3 1/8 x 7 1/8
6-5	4	4	110	2 1/2 x 3 1/8 x 7 1/8
6-6	4	4	120	2 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/8
4-4	5	5	120	2 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/8
5-4	5	5	135	2 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/8
5-5	5	5	150	2 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/8
6-5	5	5	165	2 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/8
6-6	5	5	180	2 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/8
6-7	5	5	195	2 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/8
7-7	5	5	210	2 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/8
4-3	6	6	231	1 7/8 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/8
4-3	6	6	252	1 7/8 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/8
4-3	7	6	273	1 7/8 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/8
4-3	7	6	294	1 3/4 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/8

\* Tight pack. † Variation up.

### STANDARD PACKAGE No. 6.

Style of pack (crosswise)	No. in rows (lengthwise)	No. of layers (depth)	Count	Approximate size (in.)
12-1	4	4	48	2 3/8 x 3 1/8 x 7 1/8
12-5	4	4	64	2 1/2 x 3 1/8 x 7 1/8
12-5	4	4	72	2 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/8
12-5	5	4	80	2 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/8
12-2	5	4	90	2 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/8
12-2	6	5	110	2 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/8
12-2	5	5	125	2 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/8
12-2	6	5	150	2 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/8

† Very loose pack. \* Very tight pack.



Left—The 2-1 pack. Centre—The 2-2 pack. Right—The 3-2 pack. [Rendell's Photo Service photo.]

The diagonal pocket-pack system should be used—that is, one so designed that the fruits in one layer are placed in the spaces between the fruits in the layer beneath.

For a uniform pack fruit requires to be evenly sized, and the bottom layer of fruit must be carefully and systematically placed in the case. The lemons should be packed on the cheek, with the nipples of the fruit facing the one way. The fruits at each end of the case should be packed with the nipple pointing in to avoid damaging that protruding portion.

The lists show that there are 3 styles of pack for the No. 6 case—2-1, 2-2, and 3-2.

**2-1 Pack:** This term means that a start is made from one end of the case and a fruit is placed in each corner across the case; a single fruit is then placed partly between the two fruits, then 2, then 1, continued alternately until the layer is completed.

**2-2 Pack:** A start is made from one end of the case; one fruit is placed in the corner and another half-way across. In the second row the first fruit is placed between the 2 in the first row, and the second between the second fruit in the first row and the side of the case. The rows are continued alternately until the layer is completed.

**3-2 Pack:** Start at one end of the case; 3 fruits are placed across, 1 in each corner and 1 between. In the next row the first fruit is placed between the first and second of the first row, and the second fruit between the second and third of the first row. Rows are continued alternately until the layer is completed.

According to the size of fruit and style of pack the same methods are adopted to pack the No. 2 case. Whatever the style of pack, the fruits in the second and subsequent layers are placed in the pockets formed by the

layer beneath. Four or 5 layers are required to fill each case, according to the size of the fruit.

Wrapping the bottom layer is recommended to hold the lemons in position and protect the fruit from the roughness of the bare timber. Some growers use a case liner of plain or corrugated cardboard and also wrap the top and bottom layers of fruit in each package. Fruit packed in this manner invariably withstands transport better, and when opened up on the auction floor presents an attractive and finished appearance, creating a favourable impression on buyers.

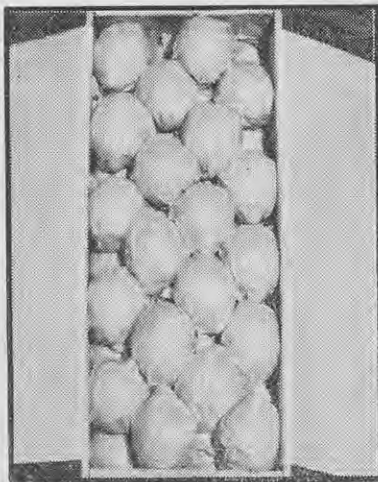
In accordance with the New Zealand Grown Fruit Regulations, 1940, each package should be neatly branded on one end with the following particulars by means of stencils or rubber stamps, the particulars must be in decipherable characters of not less than 3/16 in. block type: On the bottom left-hand corner, the registered mark of the owner of the fruit; on the bottom right-hand corner, the variety of fruit, grade, and count marks. The railing or shipping mark may be stamped or stencilled on the centre of the same end of the package.

## Diseases

The Meyer lemon is subject to the diseases and insect pests which are common to all other citrus fruits. Growers are advised to consult local Orchard Instructors of the Department of Agriculture for information on this aspect.

## References

- "The Citrus Industry," Volume 1, Webber and Batchelor, pages 603 and 604.
- Bulletin No. 96, New Zealand Department of Agriculture, "Lemon Culture in New Zealand," W. K. Dallas.
- Bulletin No. 241, New Zealand Department of Agriculture, "Culture of New Zealand Grapefruit, Orange, and the Mandarin," A. M. W. Greig.



[Rendell's Photo Service photo.]  
A well-packed case of Meyer lemons.