

## THE SURVEY

Approximately 1,400 Florida farmers, all believed to be horticultural growers, were mailed questionnaires in the Late Spring and Summer of 1988 regarding the employment of farm workers. The questionnaire focussed upon wage rates paid, demographics of workers employed, and employer views of farm labor market problems. The sample of producers drawn was believed to be representative, although not completely random. Nonrespondents to the first mailing were sent a second request for returning the questionnaire. A copy of the questionnaire is enclosed as Appendix A.

A total of 474 questionnaires were returned for an overall response rate of 34%. Of the total number of respondents, 158 were from ornamental growers or 33% of the total of 474 (Table 3). Unfortunately, 37% of the ornamental respondents did not complete the questionnaire. Many of the "incomplete" responses were from growers who did not employ farm workers directly, were not presently involved with fruit, vegetable, or ornamental industries, did not employ seasonal workers, or were no longer actively involved with farming operations.

Table 3. Number of Respondents by Type of Farm and Completeness of Response to Questionnaire

Type of Farm	Status of Returned Questionnaire		Total
	Completed	Incomplete	
	-----Number-----		
Fruit & Nut	70	82	152
Vegetable & Melon	42	6	48
Ornamental	100	58	158
Mixed	32	0	32
Unknown	0	84	84
Total	244	230	474

Mixed farms are defined to include farms that have fruits and vegetables, fruits and ornamentals, vegetables and ornamentals or all three commodity types.

The substantive results of this report are drawn from the 100 completed questionnaires from ornamental growers, as well as from mixed growers producing foliage and ferns. The respondents of these questionnaires are believed to fairly represent growers of ornamentals, particularly foliage and ferns. There was no attempt to survey labor contractors involved in the ornamentals industries; labor contracting is believed to be of minor importance in these industries.