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# WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending June 25, 2000

Released 4:00 P.M.

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**FLORIDA  
 AGRICULTURE**



**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Welcome rains including scattered showers and thunderstorms varied by area over most of the State. Rainfall for the week at the major stations ranged from nearly a quarter of an inch in the West Palm Beach area to over an inch and a half in the Tallahassee area. Some smaller areas reported over five inches of rain. Temperatures during the week at the major stations averaged mostly one degree above normal. Highs were in the 90s while lows were in the upper 60s and 70s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Topsoil moisture throughout the State is very short to short with scattered areas of adequate moisture. Flooding occurred in areas that received excessive amounts of rain. Some farmers in areas that received rain, are replanting poor stands of peanuts. Irrigated tobacco is in good condition. Tobacco harvest is started. The irrigated sugarcane crop is in good condition. Sand land sugarcane is being stressed by drought. The dry land corn crop is lost. Haying is being delayed because of the lack of plant growth. Growers reported peanut condition at 58% poor, 31% fair, and 11% good. Growers reported 22 percent of the peanuts are pegged.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		Subsoil	
	Last week	This week	Last week	This week
	Percent			
Very short	47	38	63	52
Short	37	42	35	41
Adequate	16	20	2	7
Surplus	0	0	0	0

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** Pastures at several locations in the Panhandle received rain which spurred grass growth. In the central counties, pasture and range condition improved at many locations following daily afternoon rains. However, stock ponds and lakes are very low or dried up. In west central counties, pasture growth was up slightly, but the overall condition is still poor to fair due to drought. In the southwest, the pasture condition is fair, and the condition of cattle and calves is fair to good. Statewide, cattle and calves are mostly in poor to fair condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	Last week	This week	Last week	This week
	Percent			
Very poor	25	5	5	5
Poor	60	65	60	25
Fair	15	30	35	65
Good	0	0	0	5
Excellent	0	0	0	0

**CITRUS:** Rains finally came to Florida's citrus belt this week. Virtually all citrus groves received varying amounts of the much

needed moisture. The west coast and isolated other areas received between one and five inches of rain during afternoon showers and thunderstorms. More rain is needed to refill the lakes, ponds and streams that have been badly depleted during this winter and spring's drought. Citrus trees and new crop fruit have shown improvements with the help of the recent moisture. Valencia harvest is continuing to slow as supplies are running out. Grapefruit supplies have nearly been exhausted. Honey tangerine harvest is down to the last few groves of late bloom fruit.

Caretakers are cutting cover crops and herbiciding. Summer sprays and fertilizations are active in all areas. Hedging and topping continue. Some burn permits are now being issued for grove debris and trash.

Crop	Estimated boxes harvested week ended		
	Jun 11	Jun 18	Jun 25
Valencia oranges	4,393,000	4,897,000	2,534,000
All grapefruit	499,000	283,000	107,000
Honey tangerines	16,000	10,000	4,000

**VEGETABLES:** Recent rains continue helping to replenish soil moisture with more needed. Major vegetables available include watermelons, okra, and tomatoes.

**SNAP BEANS:** Harvesting is finished.

**SWEET CORN:** North--Picking is active. Zellwood, Everglades--Harvesting is virtually finished.

**PICKLES:** Harvesting is complete.

**EGGPLANT:** North--Harvesting of a very small supply continues.

**OKRA:** Dade--The crop is in very good condition. Harvesting continues. Good supplies are expected to continue.

**PEPPERS:** Harvesting is finished.

**POTATOES:** North--Harvest is virtually finished.

**SQUASH:** Harvesting is finished.

**TOMATOES:** Quincy--Harvest is active. Quality is mostly good. Palmetto-Ruskin--Harvesting is virtually finished.

**CHEERRY TOMATOES:** The season is finished.

**PLUM TOMATOES:** Quincy--Picking is active. Quality is good. Palmetto-Ruskin, Southwest--Harvesting is finished.

**WATERMELONS:** North and Panhandle--Picking is active with a decreasing volume being harvested. Quality is mostly good. West Central--Harvesting is virtually complete.

In cooperation with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service whose county directors participate in supplying field information.

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