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# WEATHER & CROP NEWS



Week ending September 9, 2001

Released 4:00 P.M.

September 10, 2001

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Almost daily showers brought significant rains to many Peninsula localities during the week of September 2 through 8. Rainfall for the week ranged from about an inch at Bradenton to almost seven inches at Ona and Umatilla. Temperatures averaged within a degree of normal at the major stations. Lows were in the 60s and 70s while highs were in 80s and 90s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Frequent showers replenished soil moisture in many areas. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies are mostly short to adequate with some scattered localities reporting surplus supplies. Peanut condition is rated 4 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 51 percent good and 19 percent excellent. Peanut digging is gaining momentum. Tobacco harvesting is almost finished. Haymaking is active. Cotton picking is getting underway with a few bolls beginning to rot due to too much rain. Sugarcane remains in good condition.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		Subsoil	
	Last week	This week	Last week	This week
	Percent			
Very short	4	0	2	0
Short	40	24	31	30
Adequate	56	63	67	65
Surplus	0	13	0	5

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle, pasture condition is fair to excellent with many locations in fair condition due to dry soil. In the north counties, there is some land preparation for winter forage planting. In the central areas half the pastures look better following good recent showers. Lakes, ponds and streams are still well below normal. The west central pastures are good to excellent. In the southwest and southern counties, pasture condition is fair to good. Statewide, cattle and calves are mostly in good condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	Last week	This week	Last week	This week
	Percent			
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	5	5	5	0
Fair	30	40	20	20
Good	60	45	70	70
Excellent	5	10	5	10

**CITRUS:** Most of this week there were clouds, rains and thunderstorms throughout Florida's citrus belt. Rainfall accumulations generally were in the two to five inch range depending on location. Some groves were so wet at times that caretakers had to restrict entry due to ponding and general flooding of the dirt roads. There were also occasional high winds which might have caused some fruit scarring but otherwise did not cause serious damage. New growth continues in abundance due to the recent tropical weather. New crop fruit in well-cared-for groves is making very good progress. Testing of Navels, grapefruit, Fallglo tangerines and Ambersweet oranges for early shipments is active in all areas. A few fresh fruit packing houses have fruit in the degreening rooms. Volume packing of these early shipments is still a few weeks away.

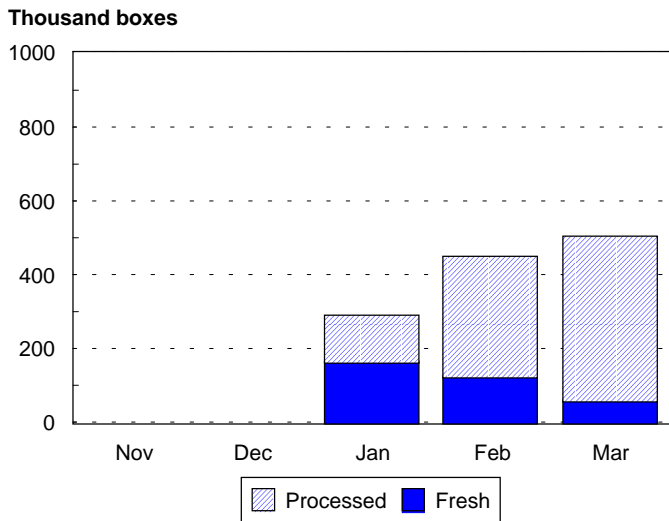
Caretakers are mowing, chopping and discing cover crops that have grown tall and out of control with the help of all the recent rains. Growers are pumping out excessive water where there are ditches and canals to handle the problem. There is some deep plowing of grove middles to remove the water from the trees' roots. Herbicides, sprays and fertilizers are being applied between the afternoon rains.

**VEGETABLES:** Afternoon showers boosted growth and development of recent plantings in central and southern Peninsula areas with the planting of fall crops increasing. Bell peppers and squash are in fair to good condition, and cucumbers, eggplant, cherry tomatoes, plum tomatoes and hot peppers are in fair condition in the Southwest region. The continued hot weather around Immokalee is causing stress to round tomatoes, especially younger plants. Sweet corn is in good to excellent condition in the Everglades region with oldest plants about six inches high. Cucumber planting is increasing around Zellwood. Eggplant planting started in Dade County with the crop rated in good condition. Okra harvesting is active with dry conditions around Homestead stressing plants. Eggplant, peppers, and round tomatoes are in mostly good condition in the East Coast region. Quincy tomatoes are in good condition.

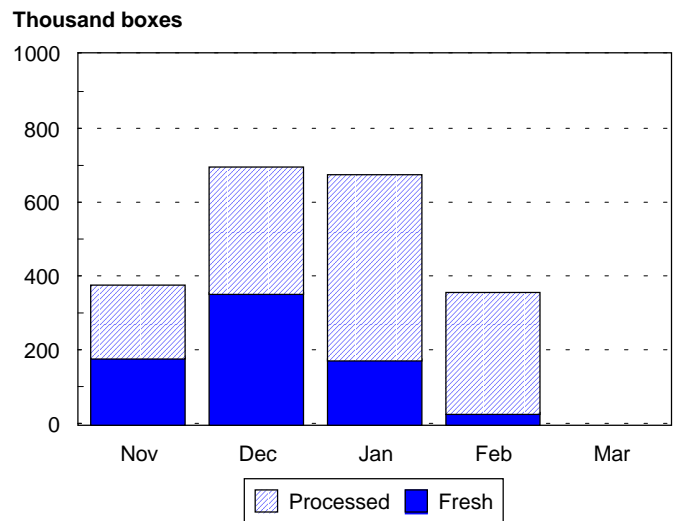
In cooperation with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service whose county directors participate in supplying field information.

MONTHLY UTILIZATION OF SELECTED CITRUS 2000-2001 SEASON

Temples

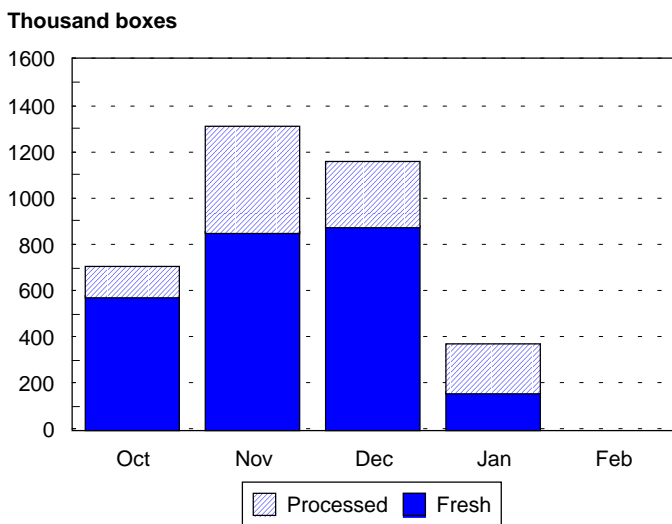


Tangelos

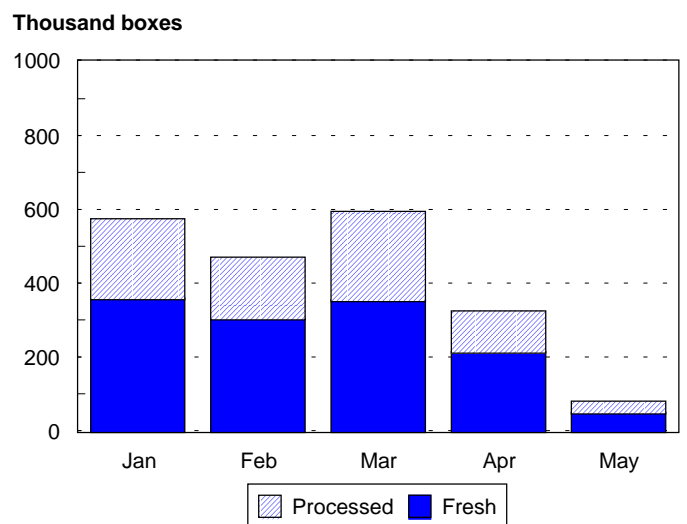


MONTHLY UTILIZATION OF SELECTED CITRUS 2000-2001 SEASON

Early Tangerines



Honey Tangerines



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