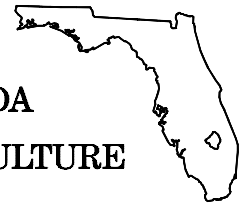




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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending January 27, 2002

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January 28, 2002

WEATHER SUMMARY: Most rainfall was limited to the northern Peninsula and western Panhandle during the week of January 20 through 26. Rain amounts ranged from almost two thirds inch at Pierson to over two inches at Tallahassee with most southern Peninsula areas receiving no measurable rain. Temperatures for the week averaged six to thirteen degrees above normal at the major stations. Most highs were in the 70s and 80s with Pensacola highs in the 60s. Lows were mostly in the 50s and 60s except for the 40s at Tallahassee and 30s at Pensacola.

FIELD CROPS: Producers are starting to work land for spring planting in northern Peninsula localities. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies remain short to mostly adequate. Sugarcane harvesting continues in the Everglades.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		Subsoil	
	Last week	This week	Last week	This week
	Percent			
Very short	0	0	0	0
Short	24	26	34	34
Adequate	76	74	66	66
Surplus	0	0	0	0

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Warmer soil temperatures are boosting the growth of forages in some northern areas while pasture growth remains stagnant in drier localities. Hay supplies are short in some areas. Cattle condition is mostly fair to good with producers feeding supplemental hay as needed.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	Last week	This week	Last week	This week
	Percent			
Very poor	0	5	0	0
Poor	30	35	0	5
Fair	40	25	50	55
Good	30	35	50	40
Excellent	0	0	0	0

CITRUS: Most of the week was unseasonably warm and dry. Daytime temperatures generally were in the mid to upper 80s. The warm weather along with the moist soils from the mid-January rains, are producing varying degrees of feathery new growth on most young and middle-aged citrus trees. This tender new foliage is very vulnerable to frost or freezing temperatures should either arrive prior to spring. Harvesting crews are continuing to move a lot of early and midseason oranges to the processors. Grapefruit, Temples and tangerines are being picked for both fresh and processed utilization. Most of the current tangelos being picked are going to the juice plants.

Caretakers are mowing, chopping and discing cover crops prior to harvesting and for fire protection. Growers are presently removing and burning dead and dying trees. Reset trees are being ordered in most areas and a few have been planted in the warmer locations. Pre-bloom or late winter fertilizations are still being applied.

Crop	Estimated boxes harvested week ended		
	Jan 13	Jan 20	Jan 27
Navel oranges	130,000	112,000	104,000
Early & Mid oranges	8,271,000	7,314,000	7,542,000
All grapefruit	1,005,000	1,126,000	923,000
Early Tangerines	140,000	90,000	50,000
Honey Tangerines	73,000	145,000	178,000
Temples	38,000	79,000	62,000
Tangelos	148,000	160,000	154,000

VEGETABLES: Recent rain and earlier cold weather affected the quality and quantity of some vegetables around Immokalee with some fruit not meeting grade standards. Potato digging is increasing seasonally in southern Peninsula areas. Vegetables available include tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, celery, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, parsley, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, squash, sweet corn and strawberries.

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