



Florida Agricultural Statistics Service
 1222 Woodward Street
 Orlando, Florida 32803
 407 / 648-6013

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl>



WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending June 2, 2002

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June 5, 2002

WEATHER SUMMARY: The clash of the sea breezes brought afternoon showers to many Peninsula localities during the week of May 26 through June 1. Rainfall totaled from traces to nearly three inches with Homestead reporting almost six inches falling during the week. Cooler temperatures early in the week gave way to very warm weather at the end. Temperatures at the major stations averaged normal to one degree below. Daytime highs were mostly in the 80s and 90s with many highs soaring to the mid 90s by Sunday, June 2. Nighttime lows were mostly in the 60s and 70s with several Peninsula localities recording at least one low in the 50s during the first part of the week.

FIELD CROPS: The scattered storms left some areas dry. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies are rated mostly short to very short. Some northern Peninsula localities, especially in the Big Bend region reported very short moisture supplies while most southern Peninsula moisture is short. Soil moisture in the Panhandle is short to adequate. Eighty percent of peanuts are planted compared with 85 percent a year ago and the five year average of 89 percent. Cotton planting is active.

CITRUS: There were numerous rain showers and thunderstorms in most areas of the citrus belt the last half of the week. Coastal breezes from both the east and west coasts contributed to the much needed rains. Rainfall amounts were one to three inches with isolated growing areas getting four to five inches. Caretakers shut down their irrigation systems where they received the heaviest rains. Summer flushes of new growth are showing in virtually all well-cared-for groves. New crop fruit continues to make good progress as most trees have finished dropping the fruit they cannot carry for the next crop year. Harvest of Valencia oranges is slowing with supplies getting depleted in some areas. Some processors are limiting deliveries and are only running a few days a week. Grapefruit movement is basically limited to the lower east coast where a few fresh fruit packing houses and processors are still running.

Caretakers are mowing, chopping and discing cover crops and removing vines. The weeds are making rapid growth with the help of the recent rains. Hedging and topping continues in harvested groves. Dead trees are being pushed, cut out and burned. New trees are being planted in all areas where supplies are available. Summer sprays and fertilizations are active all areas.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	Percent					
Very short	26	8	27	13	12	26
Short	57	76	66	77	76	66
Adequate	17	16	7	10	12	8
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimated boxes harvested week ended			
Crop	May 19	May 26	Jun 2
Valencia oranges	7,386,000	5,498,000	5,255,000
All grapefruit	656,000	360,000	292,000

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Pasture condition in the Panhandle is rated mostly fair while most Big Bend and northern Peninsula pastures vary from very poor to fair. Central and southern Peninsula pastures are mostly fair with pockets of poor pastures where recent rain missed and good pastures where abundant rains fell recently. Cattle are in mostly fair condition with ranchers feeding supplemental hay in drier areas.

VEGETABLES: Watermelon harvesting is increasing in some northern areas. Other vegetables and melons available include tomatoes, peppers, cantaloupes, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, potatoes, radishes, squash and sweet corn.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	Percent			
Very poor	5	5	5	5
Poor	10	40	5	5
Fair	75	45	80	85
Good	10	10	10	5
Excellent	0	0	0	0

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