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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending June 23, 2002

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Rains fell over the central and southern Peninsula throughout the week of June 16 through 22 with some northern Peninsula areas receiving rainfall by the end of the week. Rainfall at the major stations ranged from less than two tenths of an inch at Tallahassee to over nine and a half inches at West Palm Beach. Cloud cover kept temperatures down with weekly temperatures at the major stations averaging two to four degrees below normal. Daytime highs were mostly in the 80s while nighttime lows were mostly in the 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies improved in some northern Peninsula and Big Bend localities that received recent rains, and are rated adequate to short. Moisture supplies remain mostly short to adequate in the Panhandle. Moisture supplies over the central and southern Peninsula vary according to the amount of rain received with supplies rated short to mostly adequate. A few localities receiving daily rains along the Atlantic coast are reporting surplus supplies while a few pockets of very short supplies exist in drier areas of the Peninsula. Peanuts are in fair to mostly good condition with 40 percent of the crop pegged. Last year, 59 percent of peanuts were pegged by this date while the five-year average of peanuts pegged by this date is 40 percent. Peanut growers are combating diseases in some fields. Most cotton is in good condition with blooms starting to show.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	Percent					
Very short	1	2	4	4	10	20
Short	22	55	49	54	45	46
Adequate	70	43	45	35	45	34
Surplus	7	0	2	7	0	0

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Statewide, pasture and range are in slightly better condition than the previous week. Recent rainfall had minimal effect on range condition but lowered fire danger. In the Panhandle, most pastures and hay fields are green and in good condition, but grass growth is still poor in dry locations. In the central counties, pasture condition ranges from very poor to good. Lakes and stock ponds are still low. In the southern Peninsula, pasture is in fair to good condition. Statewide, cattle are mostly in fair to good condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	Percent			
Very poor	5	0	0	0
Poor	10	5	10	5
Fair	50	65	45	70
Good	35	30	45	25
Excellent	0	0	0	0

CITRUS: Rain, rain, welcomed rain fell in all areas of Florida's citrus belt on several days this week. Rainfall accumulations varied from a little more than an inch to more than five inches in some coastal locations. Irrigation systems have finally been turned off for some much needed maintenance following the dry spring. The summer rains have arrived. Virtually all resets and young trees are covered with an abundance of new foliage. All well-cared-for groves look very good too excellent. New crop fruit continues to make excellent progress with good sizes and minimal droppage. Harvest of Valencia oranges was limited this week as most of this late season crop has been picked. Very few processors remain open and only a handful of fresh fruit packers are running. Grapefruit movement is down to the last several thousand boxes.

Caretakers are actively mowing, chopping, and discing cover crops. A few growers are deep plowing and discing to help control excessive moisture problems. Hedging, topping and burning of dead trees and limbs was reported in all areas. Summer fertilizations, sprays and herbicides are being applied.

Estimated boxes harvested week ended			
Crop	Jun 9	Jun 16	Jun 23
Valencia oranges	4,995,000	3,030,000	1,839,000
All grapefruit	224,000	61,000	64,000

VEGETABLES: Okra harvesting continues in Dade County. Watermelon picking is slowing seasonally in some northern Peninsula and Panhandle areas with supplies expected to be available into early July. Tomato harvesting is past the peak in the Quincy area. Potato digging is virtually finished.

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