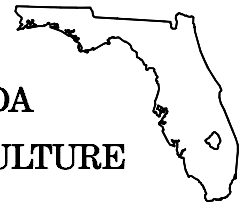




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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending June 22, 2003

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June 23, 2003

WEATHER SUMMARY: Abundant rainfall during the latter part of the week of June 15 through 21 slowed most fieldwork. Official rainfall totals ranged from about an inch and a quarter at Jacksonville to over twelve inches at Bradenton. Unofficial reports included 15 inches in Manatee County (which flooded all flat woods soils) and 10 inches in Charlotte County. Some areas in southern Polk County flooded. Cloud cover kept most daily high temperatures in the 80s with nearly all localities recording at least one high in the 90s. Nighttime lows were mostly in the 70s with several areas reporting at least one low in the 60s.

FIELD CROPS: Topsoil and subsoil moisture are mostly adequate to surplus with a few spots in the southeastern Peninsula and along the central Atlantic coast reporting very short or short supplies. Peanuts are in mostly good to excellent condition with a small acreage reportedly in only poor to fair condition. Forty percent of peanuts are pegged compared with 36 percent pegged by this date last year. The five-year average of pegging by this date is 40 percent. Peanuts in Panhandle counties are in excellent condition; some growers are shortening the spraying schedules due to excessive rain. In Gilchrist County, the crop is in good condition with some peanuts planted under irrigation pivots behind corn silage. Excessive rain and wet fields are becoming major problems in the Panhandle with planting of some crops not yet completed. In some cases, a week or more will be needed to dry out fields for equipment to get in. Herbicide and fungicide treatments are delayed in some peanut and cotton fields. In Columbia County, tobacco harvesting is active although frequent rain is slowing the harvest of lower leaves. Silage crops are making good progress. Some crops are requiring additional fertilizer due to higher than normal rainfall. Hay fields are making good growth. Haying is active in some northern counties and will start soon in Marion County. Some cotton is blooming. In Washington County, the corn crop looks great, and cotton, beans and hay are performing well. Web worms invaded some pecan trees in Union County.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	Percent					
Very short	1	0	1	1	0	5
Short	4	5	27	4	5	53
Adequate	55	80	66	60	85	36
Surplus	40	15	6	35	10	6

VEGETABLES: Plentiful rains curtailed most picking with growers harvesting supplies for the July 4th holiday demand. Watermelon shipments are active in Jefferson County. Melon harvesting is about eighty percent complete in Columbia County. Vegetables and non-citrus fruit available include cantaloupes,

eggplant, okra, potatoes, tomatoes, and watermelons. Cucumber and pepper picking are nearing the end.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Pasture condition is down statewide due to standing water from heavy rains of the last two weeks. In the northern counties, haying is active when weather permits. Disease and insect pressure is increasing. Statewide, cattle are generally in good condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	Percent			
Very poor	5	0	0	0
Poor	15	0	0	0
Fair	5	10	10	10
Good	65	85	80	85
Excellent	10	5	10	5

CITRUS: Tropical moisture from the Gulf and sea breezes from the east coast provided abundant moisture for all citrus growing areas. The recent rains have produced a lot of new growth on trees of all ages. Most young trees are virtually loaded with new foliage and little green fruit. All new crop fruit is responding favorably with good sizes for mid-June. Fruit droppage is minimal as most trees have adjusted to the size crop they can carry for next fruit season. Caretakers have shut off their irrigation equipment and are servicing most working parts for the fall dry periods. Harvest of Valencia oranges is down to the final few hundred thousand boxes. Most of the larger processing plants have closed for the season. Only a handful of small fresh fruit packing houses are still running a few special orders.

Caretakers are mowing, chopping and discing cover crops that have made very good growth with the help of the recent rains. Growers are cutting out vines that are trying to cover the tops of trees and shade out the new crop of fruit. There is a tremendous amount of dead and dying trees being cut out, pushed out and burned. Summer sprays are actively being applied to most crops being grown for fresh utilization. New resets are generally only going in older groves. The second herbicides are being applied where weeds are making aggressive growth. Summer fertilizations continue.

Crop	Estimated boxes harvested week ended		
	Jun 8	Jun 15	Jun 22
Valencia oranges	4,296,000	2,366,000	1,136,000
All grapefruit	26,000	10,000	3,000
Honey tangerines	4,000	4,000	3,000

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