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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending July 11, 2004

Released 4:00 P.M.

July 12, 2004

**FLORIDA
 AGRICULTURE**



WEATHER SUMMARY: Hot temperatures with light rain prevailed during the week of July 4 through 10. Temperatures at the major stations were normal to two degrees above average. Daytime highs were in the 90s. Nighttime temperatures varied from low the 60s to the mid 70s. Miami recorded at least one nighttime low at 78 degrees. Several localities recorded traces of rain for the week while others received over two inches. Rain totaled from no precipitation at Tampa and Marianna to over 4 inches at Daytona Beach and Tallahassee.

FIELD CROPS: The scattered rains left some areas dry in the Panhandle, the Big Bend area and some inland localities of the central and southern Peninsula. Drier conditions in Jackson County allowed field work to make good progress. Excessive rains in Washington and Gadsden counties continued to lower the quality of cut hay with harvesting delayed. The rainfall is advancing the growth of hay with abundant amounts available in some areas. Peanut condition improved slightly and is rated one percent poor, twenty-four percent fair, forty-five percent good and thirty percent excellent. Soil moisture supplies declined slightly due to the lack of rain in scattered localities. A few spots in the Panhandle reported surplus soil moisture while some localities along the southeastern Peninsula coast reported very short soil moisture.

County. Excessive rain in some Panhandle localities is lowering the quality and quantity of vegetables available for the local market.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture is growing well as soil moisture and temperature are very good. Pasture in the central area is good. Pasture in the south is suffering from drought. Statewide, the condition of cattle is fair to excellent with most in good condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	5	5	0	0
Fair	20	30	20	25
Good	65	60	70	70
Excellent	10	5	10	5

PERCENTAGE OF PEANUTS HARVESTED TO DATE

This year	80%
Last year	79%
5 - year average	70%

CITRUS: Variable weather patterns continued over the citrus areas of the state but with hot, humid afternoons prevailing. Thunderstorms developed over wide areas with some receiving heavy, violent storms and others only light rainfall. Most areas have not received even average rainfall amounts for the last three months, however it seems to rain when it is most needed. Many areas received some rainfall, up to 3.3 inches reported at one location. Even though reporting stations may report minimal amounts, areas nearby may receive more because of the widely scattered nature of these fast developing, sometimes intense storms. Some coastal stations reported less than an inch but areas just a few miles inland received much more. Growers in most areas report trees in good condition with a flush of new growth showing in groves that received rainfall. Cultural practices are continuing including fertilizations, hedging, mechanical and chemical weed control, and the resetting of young trees. Some summer sprays are being applied as rainfall permits. Fresh fruit packing houses are closed for the season. Valencia orange harvest is complete with only fresh squeezed plants reported open.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
<i>Percent</i>						
Very short	5	5	1	5	5	0
Short	15	15	15	25	20	5
Adequate	70	65	68	65	70	76
Surplus	10	15	16	5	5	19

VEGETABLES: Producers continue to market light supplies of sweet corn, watermelons and tomatoes. Okra harvesting continues in Dade

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