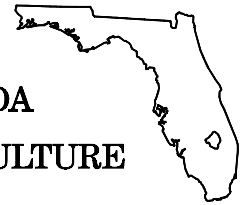




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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending July 25, 2004

Released 4:00 P.M.

July 27, 2004

WEATHER SUMMARY: Scattered rains continued during the week of July 18 through 24. Daily high temperatures were mostly in the upper 80s and lower 90s with a few cities reporting in the upper 90s. Most low temperatures were in the high 60s and low 70s. Average temperatures were normal in some of the major stations while Daytona Beach, Orlando, Tampa and West Palm Beach were one to two degrees below normal. Tampa received more than seven and a half inches of rain whereas other stations reported having less than a tenth of an inch to over four inches. Some Peninsula and a few Panhandle localities recorded no measurable rain for the week.

FIELD CROPS: The scattered rains left some areas dry in the Panhandle and Peninsula. Dryer conditions in Jefferson County allowed producers to make progress on cutting hay. Soil moisture conditions improved in drier areas of the central and northern Peninsula. Peanuts are in mostly good to excellent condition with some tomato wilt virus showing up in Jackson County. Peanuts are 93% pegged compared with 89 percent last year and the five-year average of 86 percent. Peanut condition is rated 20% fair, 50% good, and 30% excellent. Some parts of the Panhandle are reporting worm pressure in cotton.

PERCENTAGE OF PEANUTS PEGGED TO DATE

This year	93%
Last year	89%
5 - year average	86%

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	1	5	1	1	5	0
Short	19	10	8	19	20	5
Adequate	60	83	69	70	73	80
Surplus	20	2	22	10	2	15

VEGETABLES: Field preparation for fall crop planting remains active. Okra harvesting continues in Dade County. Harvesting of vegetables for local markets is active.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture and cattle are in fair to excellent condition. Pasture is mostly in good shape with good growth following timely showers. In the central areas, cattle are in good condition and pasture is in excellent condition. High heat and plenty of moisture have pasture growing really well. In the southwest, pasture condition varies from fair to excellent, depending on recent rainfall. Some areas received good rainfall while other areas are far below normal. Statewide, most cattle are in good condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	0	10	0	0
Fair	25	5	20	15
Good	50	80	70	80
Excellent	25	5	10	5

CITRUS: Variable weather continued over the citrus areas of the state with hot, humid afternoons. High temperatures were in the low and mid 90s all week. Thunderstorms developed over wide areas with some receiving heavy, violent storms and others only light rainfall. Most areas are deficient in rainfall amounts for the last three months. Many areas received some rainfall with the west coast areas receiving heavy amounts from a slow moving storm system early in the week. 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. East coast stations reported less than an inch but areas just a few miles inland received more. Growers in most areas report trees in good condition with a flush of new growth showing. Cultural practices continue including fertilizations, hedging, mechanical and chemical weed control, and resetting of young trees. Summer sprays are being applied to crops designated for fresh use as rainfall permits.

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