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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending November 7, 2004

Released 4:00 P.M.

November 8, 2004

**FLORIDA
AGRICULTURE**



WEATHER SUMMARY: Several parts of the western Panhandle, a few eastern Panhandle localities and a few spots along the extreme southeastern coast received significant rains during the week of November 1 through 7. Most rainfall, elsewhere, totaled from none to less than a third inch. Precipitation for the week ranged from one to nearly three inches where heavier rains fell. Temperatures in the major cities averaged from two to seven degrees above normal. Daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s. Most nighttime lows were in the 50s and 60s with several northern and central Peninsula, and some Panhandle areas reporting at least one low in the 40s. Quincy recorded at least one low in the upper 30s.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut harvest is 96 percent complete compared with 99 percent completed by this date last year and the five-year average of 98 percent. Favorable weather conditions in Madison County allowed peanut and cotton picking to be completed. Cooler temperatures early in the morning slowed hay baling in central Peninsula localities. Topsoil and subsoil moisture over most of the State is rated short to adequate. Spots in Broward County remain very short on soil moisture supplies. Soil moisture remained surplus in some areas of Polk, Volusia and Union counties.

PERCENTAGE OF PEANUTS HARVESTED TO DATE

This year	96%
Last year	99%
5 - year average	98%

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	1	0	1	0	0	1
Short	23	20	7	17	5	7
Adequate	75	70	84	62	80	83
Surplus	1	10	8	21	15	9

VEGETABLES: Clear weather allowed central and southern Peninsula producers to advance field work and harvesting. Cold temperatures around Quincy did not last long enough to significantly affect tomatoes; however, tomato picking slowed seasonally as central and southern growers began picking. Other vegetables marketed included snap beans, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, pickles, squash, sweet corn and watermelons with supplies significantly below normal.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Cool temperatures are slowing warm season grass production for hay and grazing. Armyworms are still very active. In the Panhandle, small grain planting for winter grazing con-

tinues. Cooler weather is having positive impact on milk production. Armyworms are very active. In the northern counties, cattle, calves and pasture are in good condition. In the central areas, range is in poor to good condition, with some locations still hurt by excess soil moisture. Cattle are in fair to good condition. In the Southwest, the condition of cattle and range was fair to good. Statewide, the condition of cattle was fair to excellent, with most in fair condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	25	15	0	5
Fair	40	45	55	50
Good	30	39	40	40
Excellent	5	1	5	5

CITRUS: Conditions were hot and dry in the citrus producing areas during most of the week. A record high temperature was reported in Immokalee in the middle of the week, and near record highs were reported in three other stations across the state. For the second week in a row, little to no rain has been the case in all citrus areas. The west coast station reported the most rainfall, accumulating to less than half of an inch for the week. The lack of rain is continuing to cause drying in both the trees and surface soils. Growers are beginning to irrigate to compensate for the lack of precipitation and warm weather over the past few weeks. Limited mowing, chopping and discing of cover crops is going on. Some fall fertilizing, spraying, and herbiciding is also taking place. Fruit growth and maturity appears to be behind normal, with color break showing on all crops of early tangerines, early oranges, some mids, and grapefruit. Still only about half of the fresh fruit packing houses are open with only about three processing plants running. Varieties being packed include early oranges (Navels, Ambersweet, and Hamlins), white and colored grapefruit, Fallglo tangerines and small amounts of Sunburst tangerines.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED WEEK ENDED

Crop	Oct 24	Oct 31	Nov 7
	<i>In thousands of 1 3/5 bu. boxes</i>		
Early & Mid oranges	88	97	122
Navel oranges	69	80	90
Grapefruit	122	163	293
Tangerines	118	103	137
Tangelos	0	2	3

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