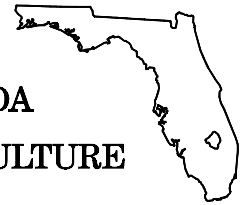




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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending November 14, 2004

Released 4:00 P.M.

November 15, 2004

WEATHER SUMMARY: Favorable weather conditions existed during the week of November 8 through 14 with minimal traces of rainfall in most localities. Temperatures in the major cities hovered within two degrees of normal with daytime highs in the 70s and 80s. Nighttime lows were mostly in the 40s and 50s with areas in Broward, Dade, and West Palm Beach reporting lows in the 60s. Tallahassee recorded at least one nighttime low in the 30s. Cold fronts crossing from the Panhandle and parts of the Peninsula brought minimal amounts of precipitation, ranging from under a tenth of an inch at several localities to over four inches in Pensacola. No rainfall was recorded at West Palm Beach.

FIELD CROPS: Santa Rosa cotton harvesting is about 75 percent finished while cotton growers in Calhoun County are running behind schedule due to storms. Harvesting of cotton and peanuts is nearing completion in Washington County with growers expecting to finish harvesting within the next two weeks. Growers in Madison County continue to harvest cotton. Statewide, peanut harvesting is 98 percent complete compared with 100 percent completed by this date last year and the five-year average of 99 percent. Sugarcane harvesting remains active in the Everglades area. Some northern producers are making the last cutting of hay for the year. From the Panhandle to the southern Peninsula most topsoil and subsoil moisture is rated short to adequate, with a few areas reporting surplus supplies.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Statewide, pasture condition was low due to drought. Seasonal cool nights have slowed warm season forages production dramatically. In the Panhandle and north, winter forage planting continues. However, planting is delayed at some locations as the soil is too dry. Established cool season forages are doing well. In the central areas, pasture condition ranges from poor to good, with most in good condition. In the Southwest, pasture condition ranges from fair to good, with most in fair condition. Statewide, the condition of cattle was fair to good, 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	10	25	0	0
Fair	55	40	25	55
Good	34	30	65	40
Excellent	1	5	10	5

PERCENTAGE OF PEANUTS HARVESTED TO DATE

This year	98%
Last year	100%
5 - year average	99%

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	0	1	0	0	0	0
Short	52	23	15	35	17	11
Adequate	47	75	82	64	62	85
Surplus	1	1	3	1	21	4

VEGETABLES: Harvesting of fall crops continues to increase moderately over the central and southern Peninsula localities as growers begin to meet the Thanksgiving Day demand. Tomato picking is gaining momentum in the Palmetto-Ruskin, Immokalee and East Coast areas while in the Quincy region tomato picking is decreasing. Light supplies of vegetables and fruit include snap beans, cantaloupes, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, pickles, radishes, squash, and watermelons.

CITRUS: Weather conditions were on average cooler than the last three weeks, primarily cooling down towards the beginning of the week and again over the weekend. All weather stations in the citrus producing areas reported small amounts of rainfall, with the most being reported in the northern area at one and a third inches. Rainfall is still needed in the central and southern portions of the State to compensate for the dry weather over the last few weeks. Sizes are continuing to be below normal while fruit maturity levels on early oranges are beginning to advance more quickly than anticipated from earlier indications. Color break is showing on all crops of early tangerines, early oranges, some mids, and grapefruit. Picking of white grapefruit has increased significantly due to the premium prices they are currently bringing. 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 31	Nov 07	Nov 14
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Early & Mid oranges	97	122	160
Navel oranges	80	90	101
Grapefruit	163	293	312
Tangerines	103	137	201
Tangelos	2	3	9

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