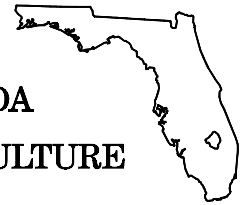




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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending December 5, 2004

Released 4:00 P.M.

December 8, 2004

WEATHER SUMMARY: Most areas experienced drier, cooler weather during the week of November 29 through December 5. Although Jay and West Palm Beach recorded nearly an inch of rain for the week, virtually all other areas reported from none to only traces falling. Temperatures in the major cities averaged from four degrees below normal in Tallahassee to one degree above in Miami and West Palm Beach. Most daytime highs were in the 60s and 70s with Miami averaging daily highs in the 80s. Nighttime lows were in the 40s, 50s and 60s with Tallahassee averaging daily lows in the 30s. Hastings, Jay, Citra and Alachua also recorded at least one low in the 30s.

FIELD CROPS: Sugarcane harvesting in the Everglades is progressing normally. Picking of most cotton acreage is finished in the Panhandle. Gadsden County growers continue to harvest soybeans. Pecans that are being harvested in Jefferson County do not look as good as the earlier crop, since most pecan trees were damaged by past tropical storms. Mostly dry conditions across the State lowered soil moisture supplies. Topsoil moisture in the Panhandle as well as areas throughout the northern and central Peninsula is mostly adequate with some areas reporting short supplies. Soil moisture in the southern Peninsula is mostly short to adequate with scattered pockets of very short moisture supplies. Jackson County reported surplus soil moisture supplies.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
<i>Percent</i>						
Very short	15	0	7	13	0	6
Short	20	15	21	13	15	16
Adequate	52	75	71	60	70	77
Surplus	13	10	1	14	15	1

VEGETABLES: Clear weather allowed growers to keep planting and harvesting on schedule. Harvesting of Romaine lettuce, endive and escarole is underway. Strawberry picking is slowly increasing. Other vegetables available include snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, radishes, squash and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, cool season range is doing well as warm season pasture declines. Small grains and rye grass are approaching grazing height. Bahia pasture is short and in poor condition. Some planting of small grains for forage

continues. Recent rainfall in the Big Bend area was good for forage. In the central and southwest areas, the condition of cattle is fair to excellent, with most in fair condition. Range condition is poor to good, with most in fair condition due to drought. Statewide, the condition of cattle is mostly fair.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	15	30	0	10
Fair	40	35	45	40
Good	45	35	40	45
Excellent	0	0	15	5

CITRUS: All stations in the citrus producing areas reported average temperatures for the week with the coolest weather on Saturday morning, where low readings were in the mid 40s in all areas. Rain was very light across the State with only the northernmost and southernmost stations reporting rainfall, at less than two tenths of an inch in each area. Color continues to improve on early tangerines, early and midseason oranges, and grapefruit. Fall cultural practices include cover crop control, dead tree removal and replacement. The majority of the fresh fruit packing houses and processing plants are running. Varieties being packed include early oranges (Navels and Hamlins), white and colored grapefruit, Sunburst tangerines and increasing amounts of tangelos.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED WEEK ENDED

Crop	Nov 21	Nov 28	Dec 05
In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes			
Early & Mid oranges	1,180	1,784	3,785
Navel oranges	122	103	246
Grapefruit	332	246	339
Tangerines	221	138	218
Tangelos	59	39	112

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