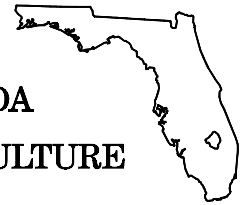




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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending January 2, 2005

Released 4:00 P.M.

January 4, 2005

WEATHER SUMMARY: Field work progressed normally due to dry and mostly warm conditions during December 27 through January 1. Most stations recorded no rainfall. Tallahassee received over one inch of rainfall for the week. Fort Lauderdale received the most precipitation with one and half inches. Temperatures for the week hovered around normal to two degrees below normal in the major cities. Daytime highs were in the 60s and 70s. Lows were mostly in the 40s and 50s with the exceptions of a few localities reporting nighttime lows in the 30s. Jacksonville recorded at least one low in the 20s.

FIELD CROPS: Sugarcane harvesting continued in the Everglades area. Dry conditions depleted most soil moisture supplies. Statewide, soil moisture supplies are rated short to mostly adequate. However, due to prior rainfall, some soil moisture is rated surplus for spots of Jackson, Union, Hernando, Osceola and Okeechobee counties. In some coastal areas of the southeastern Peninsula, soil moisture remains very short.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	1	1	1	1	1	1
Short	34	9	4	29	14	4
Adequate	55	75	50	65	80	50
Surplus	10	15	45	5	5	45

VEGETABLES: The warm, dry weather allowed planting and harvesting to proceed at a normal pace with most growers taking a break to welcome in the New Year near the end of the week. Vegetables and noncitrus fruit marketed during the week include snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, peppers, radishes, strawberries, squash, and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was poor to good with cool temperatures slowing small grain forage growth. In the central and southwest Peninsula, pasture was poor to fair due to drought. Statewide, condition of the cattle is poor to fair with most cattle in fair condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	40	30	10	5
Fair	50	55	65	55
Good	10	15	20	35
Excellent	0	0	5	5

CITRUS: Very limited rainfall occurred in the citrus producing areas with the most being reported on the east coast at about one-quarter of an inch. Some growers are irrigating in the sand hill groves to maintain surface moisture levels. Limited herbiciding and fertilizing is also taking place. Warmer temperatures prevailed throughout the week, reaching the high 70s during the day, and getting only down to the mid 40s at night. Cover crop control and dead tree removal and replacement continues. Most of the early and mid oranges are going to processing plants, while fresh fruit packing houses are still running early oranges (Navels and Hamlins), white and colored grapefruit, Sunburst tangerines, tangelos and small amounts of Honey tangerines and Temples.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED WEEK ENDED

Crop	Dec 19	Dec 26	Jan 2
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early & Mid oranges	5,221	4,004	4,221
Navel oranges	200	61	41
Grapefruit	487	367	346
Tangelos	84	39	80
Sunburst tangerines	235	122	111
Honey tangerines	1	6	20
Temples	0	0	7

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