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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending May 9, 2004

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May 10, 2004

WEATHER SUMMARY: Storms early in the week gave way to dry conditions during the rest of the week of May 2 through May 8. Rain for the week totaled from mostly traces at Live Oak and Marianna, to over two and a half inches at Tallahassee with Jacksonville, Pensacola and Balm also receiving over two inches. Other localities reported about a quarter to an inch and a half of rain for the week. Temperatures at the major stations averaged from two degrees below normal at Pensacola to three degrees above at Daytona Beach and West Palm Beach. Daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s with several localities recording at least one high in the 90s. Nighttime lows ranged from the 40s to the 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Cotton and peanut planting became very active in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula after soils dried from the early week rains. The moisture boosted growth of corn with most fields in good condition. Most tobacco fields are transplanted in Taylor County. Haymaking is active in the Panhandle. All areas report short to adequate soil moisture supplies with some spots of very short moisture in Santa Rosa, St. Lucie, Charlotte and Broward counties. A few locations in Seminole County have surplus moisture. Dry conditions from mid-week until the end depleted soil moisture in most areas.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition ranges from very poor to good, with most pasture in fair shape. Cooler than normal temperatures midweek slowed growth. Forages emerged following the early-week rains. The feeding of supplemental hay to livestock is still active. In the south, cattle condition ranges from poor to good, with most of the cattle in good condition. Pasture condition is low due to drought. Statewide, cattle are in fair to good condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
Percent				
Very poor	0	5	0	5
Poor	10	20	5	5
Fair	70	65	45	60
Good	20	10	50	30
Excellent	0	0	0	0

PERCENTAGE OF PEANUTS PLANTED TO DATE

This year	20
Last year	21
Five-year Average	30

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
Percent						
Very short	10	15	7	10	15	1
Short	30	45	43	35	50	35
Adequate	59	39	46	54	34	60
Surplus	1	1	4	1	1	4

VEGETABLES: Harvesting is increasing as producers satisfy the Memorial Day demand. Vegetables and non-citrus fruit available include snap beans, blueberries, cabbage, cantaloupes, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, okra, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, tomatoes and watermelons.

CITRUS: Spring-like weather prevailed this week in the citrus belt with daytime high temperatures reaching into the mid and upper 80s and lows into the mid 50s. Growers welcomed rainfall from a low pressure system and several fronts that moved through the state early in the week. With all stations reporting some rainfall, the most occurred in interior areas with coastal stations receiving less. Almost one and a half inches was reported in some areas with other areas receiving less. Cultural practices are continuing including fertilizations, hedging following harvest, and post bloom spray applications. Most fresh fruit packinghouses are packing all available varieties including Valencia oranges, decreasing amounts of colored grapefruit, and Honey tangerines. Processing plants are receiving and processing fruit with weekly volumes of grapefruit declining. Valencia orange harvest is at peak levels, near eight million boxes weekly.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED WEEK ENDED

Crop	Apr 25	May 2	May 9
Navel oranges	2,000	3,000	2,000
Valencia oranges	8,331,000	8,518,000	7,813,000
Grapefruit	1,220,000	835,000	650,000
Honey tangerines	114,000	65,000	45,000
Temples	10,000	5,000	0

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