



Florida Agricultural Statistics Service
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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending July 16, 2000

Released 4:00 P.M.

July 17, 2000

**FLORIDA
 AGRICULTURE**



WEATHER SUMMARY: Scattered showers and thunderstorms around the State dropped varying amounts of rain during the week of July 8 through July 15. Rainfall at the major stations ranged from a trace at Pensacola to nearly four inches at Tampa. Dry conditions continued across most of the northern Peninsula and western Panhandle. Temperatures averaged normal and above at all major stations. Daytime highs were in the 90s with Pensacola and Tallahassee reaching 102. Night-time lows were mostly in the lower 70s with Daytona Beach and Jacksonville lows in the upper 60s.

FIELD CROPS: Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies are mostly short to adequate across the State with scattered areas of very short supplies. Scattered rains and showers improved moisture supplies in some areas, while other areas remained dry. Some producers are making their first cutting of hay. Growers continue to harvest tobacco with some areas reporting late harvesting. Markets are set to open on August 1. Most cotton is in fair to good condition. Sugarcane and soybeans are in mostly good condition. Peanut condition is rated at 2% very poor, 4% poor, 84% fair, and 8% good. Growers report that 65% of the peanuts are pegged.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		Subsoil	
	Last week	This week	Last week	This week
Percent				
Very short	1	14	14	14
Short	66	43	55	47
Adequate	28	43	25	39
Surplus	5	0	6	0

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Pasture improved somewhat from the previous week. In the Panhandle and northern Peninsula counties, pasture condition improved slightly in some areas but declined in others. Lightning started numerous fires in the drought stricken areas. Most stock ponds are still dry. In

the central area, pastures greened up following rains, but there was only slight grass growth. Some hay cutting started. Statewide, cattle and calves were mostly in fair condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	Last week	This week	Last week	This week
Percent				
Very poor	0	0	5	0
Poor	10	10	10	10
Fair	80	70	65	75
Good	10	20	20	15
Excellent	0	0	0	0

CITRUS: Normal summer weather finally started during the past few weeks. There are few days without rain and then it will rain for a few days. The west coast, lower interior, and the lower east coast received the most rain this week, with Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota receiving three to five inches of the needed moisture. Ponds, lakes and streams are slowly refilling following the lengthy six month drought. There is an abundance of new growth showing on trees of all ages. Some of the new growth has produced a little late bloom. There are occasional smaller groves that were stressed this past spring that are now in full, open bloom. New crop fruit continues to make good progress in well-cared-for groves. Harvest of Valencia oranges is just about over for this season as major processors are closed. Very few grapefruit remain to be picked. There are a few fresh squeeze juice plants that will remain open most of the summer.

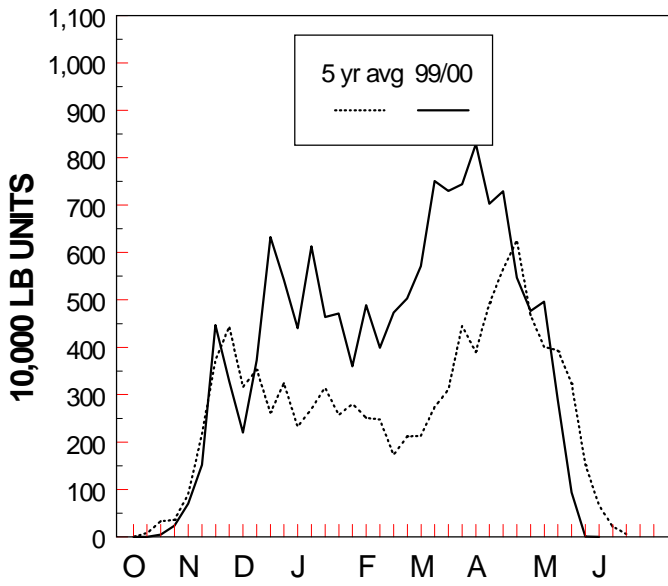
Caretakers are very busy cutting cover crops and herbiciding. Summer copper and oil sprays are being applied in virtually all citrus counties. General fertilizations and hedging and topping continue along with burning of grove debris.

VEGETABLES: Okra harvesting continues in Dade County.

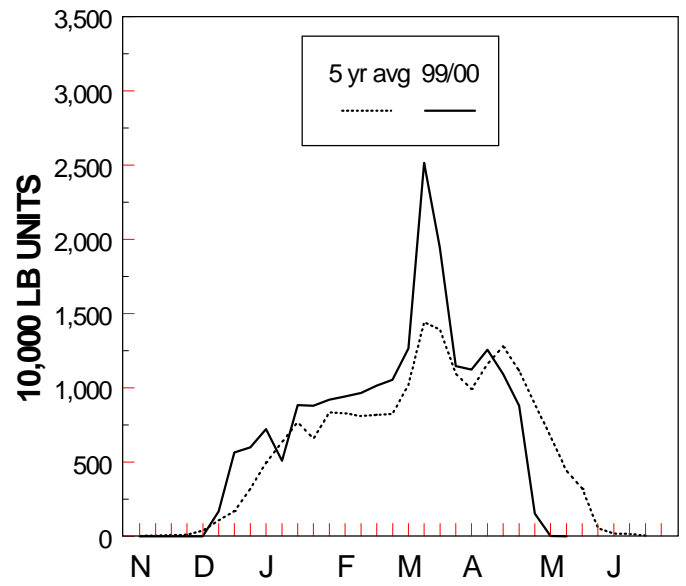
In cooperation with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service whose county directors participate in supplying field information.

Weekly shipments of selected vegetables, 1999-00
and five year average (1993-94 through 1998-99)

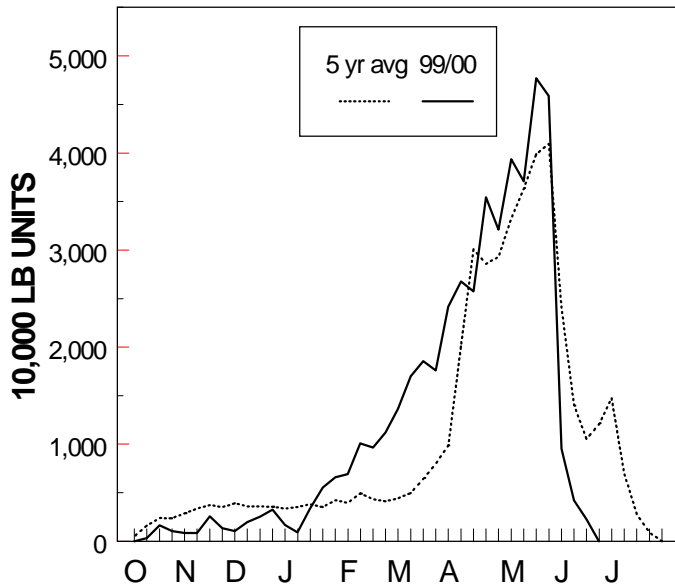
SNAP BEANS



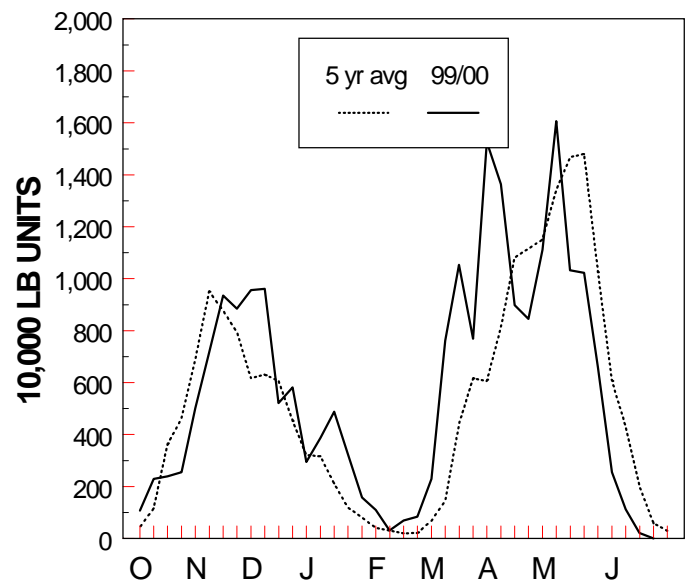
CABBAGE



SWEET CORN



CUCUMBERS



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