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# WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending August 13, 2000

Released 4:00 P.M.

August 14, 2000

**FLORIDA  
 AGRICULTURE**



**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Scattered storms brought varying amounts of rain during the week of August 6 through 12. Rainfall ranged from traces at Daytona Beach and Ft. Pierce to almost four inches in Tallahassee. Homestead, Dover and Immokalee recorded about two inches while Bradenton reported about three and one-third inches falling. Pensacola reported less than a half inch for the week. Temperatures at the major stations averaged normal to two degrees above. Daytime highs were in the 90s while nighttime lows were in the 70s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Topsoil moisture throughout the State is mostly short to adequate. Rainfall has been scattered. Tobacco harvest and marketing are active. Cotton is in fair to good condition. The sugarcane crop is in good condition. Soybeans are mostly in good condition. Haying is active, weather permitting. Weeds are a problem in some peanut fields. Growers report peanut condition at 3% poor, 43% fair, 41% good, and 13% excellent. Growers reported 89 percent of the peanuts are pegged.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		Subsoil	
	Last week	This week	Last week	This week
Percent				
Very short	0	0	3	7
Short	24	35	37	53
Adequate	73	65	57	40
Surplus	3	0	3	0

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** Statewide, the condition of cattle and pasture improved slightly over the previous week. In the Panhandle and northern counties, pasture condition was unchanged due to dry soil condition. Most stock ponds are low or dry. In the central area, pastures greened up but the condition was unchanged from the previous week. The condition of pastures and cattle improved in the west central counties.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	Last week	This week	Last week	This week
Percent				
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	5	5	5	5
Fair	55	70	60	65
Good	40	25	35	30
Excellent	0	0	0	0

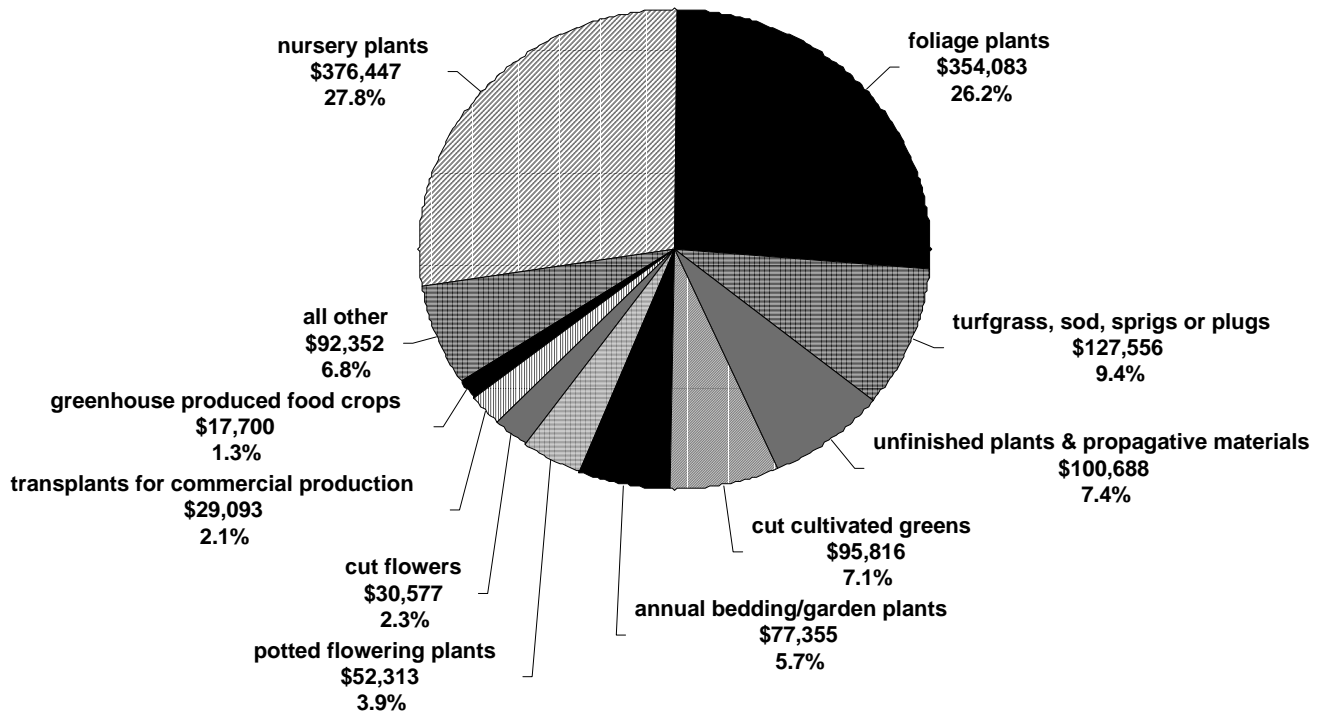
**CITRUS:** There were scattered rains this week with some heavy thunderstorms in virtually all of Florida's citrus growing counties. The west coast area had a few day-long showers and storms that deposited several inches of rain in many groves. Surface moisture levels are generally adequate, however sub-surface moisture, ponds, lakes and streams are still low and need additional rains. There continues to be an abundance of new growth on all ages of trees in all areas. New crop fruit is making very good progress in most well-cared-for groves. Some early bloom grapefruit and Navels have very good sizes for the middle of August. There are only a few trees that have variable bloom fruit and most of those are on trees that were stressed during the winter-spring drought. There are a few fresh squeeze juice operations still running late bloom fruit.

Caretakers are mowing, chopping and discing cover crops that are making good growth with the help of the afternoon rains. Growers are herbiciding, fertilizing and applying their summer sprays. Dead tree removal has been reported in all areas. Burning of grove trash continues in all areas.

**VEGETABLES:** Land preparation for the planting of fall crops remains active with watermelon and pickle planting starting in the West Central area. East Coast producers are planting peppers. Tomato planting continues in the Palmetto-Ruskin region with growers beginning to stake older plants. Dade County producers continue to harvest okra, while Palmetto-Ruskin growers continue to pick summer squash.

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

**1998 CENSUS OF HORTICULTURE SPECIALTIES**  
**Sales dollars (thousands) and percentages**



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