WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending October 29, 2000

WEATHER SUMMARY: Mostly dry conditions continued during the week of October 22 through 28. Although isolated showers dropped from traces in several localities to almost an inch of rain at Hastings, most stations recorded no measurable rain for the week. Temperatures at the major stations mostly averaged from two degrees below normal to one degree above. Daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s while nighttime lows were in the 50s at Jacksonville and Tallahassee, the 60s in most central Peninsula localities, and the 70s at Miami.

FIELD CROPS: Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies are mostly short across the State with scattered areas of very short or adequate supplies. Most areas remain dry. Growers continue to harvest cotton, sugarcane, and soybeans. Ninety percent of the peanuts for nuts are reported harvested.

VEGETABLES: Irrigation continues to increase as mostly dry conditions persist. Dade County growers began to plant potatoes and pick squash. Southwestern producers started to pick tomatoes. Growers are marketing snap beans, cucumbers, pickles, peppers, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelons and okra.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Statewide, pasture conditions are poor to good. Pastures in the north and Panhandle are in worse condition due to drought, wind, and cooler weather. Dry weather is holding back conventional cool season forage planting. Some ranchers are doing no-till seeding. In the central counties, the pastures look greener than the previous week, but actual growth has slowed as soil moisture is barely adequate. In the southwest, the pasture condition is good. Statewide, the condition of cattle and calves is mostly fair to good, slightly less than the previous week.

SWEET CORN: Zellwood--Picking is gaining momentum. Harvesting of a light volume is expected to begin by mid-November. Tasseling is increasing. Workers are applying fertilizer, cultivating, and preparing land for planting. Dade--Planting is being delayed until late November. Everglades--The crop is in mostly good to fair condition. Harvesting is getting underway. Planting continues with fair to good germination.

CABBAGE: West Central--The crop is in good condition. Harvesting is slow. Dade--Crop condition is good. Planting remains active. Zellwood--The crop is in good condition. Harvesting is expected to begin over the next seven to ten days.

CUCUMBERS, Fresh Market: West Central--Crop condition is rated fair to good. Harvesting is gaining momentum. Quality is fair to good. Sizes are medium and large. Color is good. Southwestern--The crop is in fair to good condition. Harvesting is gaining momentum. East Coast--The crop is mostly good condition. Strong winds blew vines and slowed pollenation by bees early in the week. Harvesting is getting underway. Planting continues with fair to good germination.

PICKLES: Zellwood--Picking is active. Quality and yield are good. West Central--Crop condition is fair to good. Picking is increasing. Quality is fair to good. Color is good.

EGGPLANT: West Central--The crop is in fair to good condition. Cutting is gaining momentum. Quality is fair to good. Sizes are medium to large. East Coast--Crop condition is good. Cutting continues with good quality and color available. Regular grades are mostly fancy with a light supply of specialty varieties available. Southwest--The crop is in fair to good condition. Planting continues. Dade--Crop condition is good.

Citrus: There were only a few scattered showers this week most of which fell on both coasts. Rain is needed in all areas as growers are irrigating to maintain good tree condition and to help increase fruit sizes. There is still some fruit droppage as a result of the heavy rains that fell last week. A few showers fell in the first of October. Some of the young trees of Hamlins, Navels, grapefruit and early tangerines have very good to excellent on-tree color break. Most of the fresh fruit packers and shippers are moving all types of early fruit. Several processing plants are open and taking packing house eliminations.

Caretakers are mowing, chopping and discing cover crops. Clean-up sprays continue on many fresh fruit crops. Dead trees are being pushed and burned in all areas. Fall herbicides are nearly completed along with vine removal.

Estimated boxes harvested week ended

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Oct 15</th>
<th>Oct 22</th>
<th>Oct 29</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Navel oranges</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>108,000</td>
<td>137,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early &amp; Mid oranges</td>
<td>91,000</td>
<td>143,000</td>
<td>220,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>All grapefruit</td>
<td>260,000</td>
<td>391,000</td>
<td>397,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangerines</td>
<td>124,000</td>
<td>116,000</td>
<td>80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-Early Citrus Fruit</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Florida Agricultural Statistics Service
1222 Woodward Street
Orlando, Florida 32803
407/648-6013
http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl

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

U.S. Department of Agriculture Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services University of Florida
National Agricultural Statistics Service Division of Marketing and Development Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
ENDIVE/ESCAROLE: Everglades—The crop is in good condition.

LETTUCE: Everglades—The crop is in good condition.

OKRA: Dade—The crop is in very good condition. Harvesting is active.

BELL PEPPERS: Southwest—Crop condition is fair to good. Planting continues. East Coast—Harvesting is active with crown picks yielding mostly good quality, color and sizes. Transplanting is active. Workers are drenching recent transplants to ensure an adequate moisture supply. Other field activities include land leveling and laying plastic.

HOT PEPPERS: East Coast—Harvesting continues. Southwest—The crop is in fair to good condition. Harvesting is gaining momentum. Quality is fair to good. Fruit setting ranges from poor to good. Picking of a very light volume is active. Quality is fair. Yield is below normal. Southwest—The crop is in fair to good condition. Picking started. Transplanting continues. Dade—Crop condition is good. Planting is increasing.

POTATOES: West Central—Crop condition is fair to good. Dade—Planting started. Southwest—Planting is increasing seasonally.

RADISHES: Everglades, Lake Placid—Harvesting is expected to begin in early November.

SQUASH: Dade—Harvesting started. Southwest—Crop condition is fair to good. Planting remains active. Harvesting is gaining momentum. West Central—Crop condition remains fair to good. U-Pic harvesting is gaining momentum. Quality is good. Sizes are variable. East Coast—Plant growth is good. Strong winds slowed pollination by bees early in the week.

STRAWBERRIES: Plant City—Crop condition is good. Transplanting is virtually finished. Palmetto-Ruskin—The crop is in good condition. Picking is expected to begin in early November.

TOMATOES: Quincy—Harvesting remains active. Quality is mostly good. East Coast—Crop condition is fair to mostly good. Harvesting is gaining momentum. Quality is mostly good. Sizes are variable. Dade—Crop condition is fair to mostly good. East Coast—Crop condition is mostly good. Quality is mostly good. Planting started. Transplanting is steady. U-Pic harvesting is gaining momentum. Picking is ongoing with large quality available. Quality is fair to good. Size is fair to good.

CHERRY TOMATOES: Palmetto-Ruskin—Condition is fair to good. Harvesting is increasing seasonally. Quality is fair to good. Southwest—The crop is in fair to good condition. Planting remains active.

PLUM TOMATOES: Palmetto-Ruskin—Crop condition is fair to good. Picking started with fair quality available. Sizes are normal. Color is fair to good. Southwest—The crop is in fair to good condition. Transplanting is steady.

WATERMELONS: Palmetto-Ruskin—Condition is fair to good. Harvesting is mostly steady. Quality is fair to good. Sizes are small and medium with a few large sizes available. Color is fair. Southwest—The crop is in fair to good condition.