WEATHER SUMMARY: Cloudy skies helped keep most temperatures below normal at the major stations during the week of June 24 through 30. Temperatures averaged normal to four degrees below at the major stations. Most daytime highs were in the 80s while nighttime lows were in the 60s and 70s. Alachua and Pierson recorded at least one low in the 50s. Spotty showers continued to replenish soil moisture supplies in many Panhandle and Peninsula localities. Rainfall for the week ranged from a little over a tenth inch at Apopka and Avalon to almost four and a half inches at Homestead and Miami.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, pasture and cattle are in good condition following rain that boosted grass growth. In the north counties, recent rains have been great for pastures but have delayed haying. Pastures in the central area are in fair condition as rains have only been hit and miss. Some locations which received heavy rain also had damaging hail. The rainfall helped pond and stream levels. In the west central area, the pasture grass is growing following plenty of rain. The condition of cattle improved over previous weeks. In the southwest, the rainfall has been spotty and the pasture condition is mostly fair. Statewide, the cattle condition is mostly fair.

CITRUS: All areas of Florida’s citrus belt received rain this week. The lower east coast and the upper west coast had locations with standing water in groves and ponding on dirt grove roads. Lakes, streams and water reservoirs are showing the beginnings of refilling following nearly three years of below average rainfall. Trees of all ages in well-cared-for groves have an abundance of new growth. New crop fruit continues to make good progress. There is only limited June bloom showing, generally on trees that have been stressed by the spring drought. Valencia harvest slowed considerably this week as only limited supplies remain to be picked. Movement of white and colored grapefruit is down to the last few hundred thousand boxes. There are only a few processors and fresh fruit packers still open.

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Mostly dry conditions during July 2000 allowed producers to prepare land for fall crop planting. Palmetto-Ruskin and East Coast growers started to plant tomatoes as Quincy growers finished in late July. Rainfall during July ranged from about two and a three inches at Pensacola to about nine and three fourths inches at Melbourne with mostly good quality available.

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

Vietnam oranges 3,861,000 3,293,000 959,000
All grapefruit 210,000 118,000 13,000
Miami Beach to almost twenty-seven inches at Jacksonville Beach. Several localities recorded above normal rains during September. Temperatures for September ranged from highs in the 70s, 80s and 90s to lows in the 60s and 70s. Tallahassee and Pensacola recorded at least one low in the 50s during September. September temperatures averaged from two degrees below normal at Pensacola to two degrees above at Sanford and St. Petersburg. A tropical disturbance passing through the Florida Straits in early October brought heavy rains and strong winds to some southern and central Peninsula localities. Heavy rains flooded some Dade County fields with snap beans suffering significant loss, while the rainfall and gusty winds increased bloom loss and fruit drop for tomatoes in the Immokalee and East Coast areas. This system brought significant amounts of rain to Vero Beach, West Palm Beach, Loxahatchee, Ft. Lauderdale, Homestead, and Tavernier with monthly totals ranging from six to thirteen inches. Elsewhere, October rainfall was limited to an inch and a third or less except for three to four inches reported in St. Augustine and Canal Point. Live Oak reported no measurable rain for the month and St. Leo recorded only traces. October rainfall was mostly from an inch to over three inches below normal. Temperatures during October were mostly one to four degrees below normal. October minimum low temperatures were in the 50s, 60s and 70s with the Crestview airport recording at least one low at 49 degrees. Harvesting of many fall vegetable crops was very active by the end of October.

Cool, dry weather continued into November. Temperatures at the major stations averaged normal to three degrees below. Most low temperatures were in the 50s, 60s and 70s while most high temperatures averaged in the 60s, 70s and 80s. Jacksonville, Pensacola and Tallahassee recorded at least one low in the 20s. November rainfall totals ranged from none at Ft. Myers to over eight inches at Pensacola. The clear weather throughout most of November allowed planting and harvesting of vegetables to stay on schedule. Dry conditions persisted during December with rains at the major stations totaling from traces at Belle Glade and Melbourne to about six inches at Miami, Ft. Lauderdale and Milligan with Niceville reporting over seven inches during the month. Homestead recorded from two to fifteen inches, nearly all on only one day in early December. These heavy showers destroyed the winter potato crop in Dade County. Frost and freezing temperatures dipped into some central Peninsula localities after mid-December with most temperatures averaging one to two degrees below normal for the month. December temperatures ranged from lows in the 30s, 40s and 50s, to highs in the 60s and 70s. Freezing temperatures reached the southern Peninsula as the New Year arrived with lowest readings recorded on New Year’s Eve, New Year’s Day and late in the first week of 2001. Some Homestead and Immokalee crops not protected by freeze covers or irrigation suffered significant damage from this freeze. Strawberry growers around Dover, Plant City and first week of 2001. Some Homestead and Immokalee crops not protected by freeze covers or irrigation suffered significant damage from this freeze. Strawberry growers around Dover, Plant City and some areas. The remains of Tropical Storm Allison over the Panhandle and northern Peninsula regions about mid-June brought significant rains with Tallahassee recording over ten inches. Daytime highs soared into the mid-to-upper 90s throughout June.

Floral City ran overhead irrigation to save plants and immature fruit from this freeze. Strawberry growers around Dover, Plant City and some areas. The remains of Tropical Storm Allison over the Panhandle and northern Peninsula regions about mid-June brought significant rains with Tallahassee recording over ten inches. Daytime highs soared into the mid-to-upper 90s throughout June.