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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending June 9, 2002

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**FLORIDA
 AGRICULTURE**



WEATHER SUMMARY: Afternoon showers brought welcomed rains to many areas and especially to many Panhandle localities during the week of June 2 through June 8. Rain totaled from about a quarter inch at Tallahassee to about four and a third inches at West Palm Beach. Warm temperatures continued during the week with averages ranging from normal at Miami to four degrees above at Jacksonville. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s. Pierson recorded at least one high at 101 degrees. Nighttime lows were in the 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Topsoil and subsoil moisture varies from very short to adequate depending on the amount of rain received recently. Moisture supplies in the Panhandle are mostly short to adequate while supplies in the Big Bend and northern Peninsula areas are mostly very short to short. Southern Peninsula soil moisture is mostly short while central Peninsula supplies are short to adequate. Most cotton and peanut acreage is germinating well with some cotton germinating in three days. Cotton planting is nearing the end with some producers planting after the small grain harvest is finished. Some cotton fields are showing uneven plant growth due to uneven soil moisture supplies. Ninety-five percent of peanuts are planted, slightly above the 93 percent last year but equal to the five-year average. Peanuts are in fair to mostly good condition while cotton and tobacco condition is rated mostly good. Irrigated corn is in good condition. Growers are combating insects in a few cotton and peanut fields. Rainfall delayed some oat harvesting in the Panhandle.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	Percent					
Very short	31	26	16	13	13	26
Short	54	57	59	66	77	53
Adequate	15	17	25	21	10	21
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: The overall condition of pastures in the State worsened, however, the condition was better in many locations following the start of seasonal rains. In the Panhandle, the cattle condition is good while pasture condition is fair. In the northern counties, the drought continues in many areas and fire hazard remains. Cattle condition is fair and pasture is poor. Some supplemental hay feeding continues. In the central area, cattle condition is good and pasture condition is fair following the rains of the previous week. Statewide, cattle condition is mostly fair.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	Percent			
Very poor	5	5	0	0
Poor	30	10	5	5
Fair	50	65	80	75
Good	15	20	15	20
Excellent	0	0	0	0

CITRUS: Finally, there were several good rains and thunderstorms in most areas of Florida's citrus belt. Rainfall amounts varied depending on location. However, the vast majority of groves had almost an inch or more of the much needed moisture. Some coastal groves received up to three inches of rain as the sea breezes were big influences this week. Most trees in the well-cared-for groves are showing an abundance of new growth. New crop fruit continues to make good progress and a lot of the oranges are now golf ball size. Some grapefruit are about baseball size. Valencia harvest is slowing with supplies running out in some areas. Several processors are closed for the season. Grapefruit movement was very slow this week. Most fresh fruit packing houses are closed.

Caretakers are very busy mowing, chopping and discing cover crops. Growers are removing vines that started covering the tops of trees and shading new foliage. Hedging and topping have been reported in harvested groves. Dead tree removal continues at a rapid pace so that growers can replant during the summer rains.

Estimated boxes harvested week ended			
Crop	May 26	Jun 2	Jun 9
Valencia oranges	6,686,000	5,255,000	4,995,000
All grapefruit	361,000	292,000	224,000

VEGETABLES: Rainfall curtailed the harvesting of some crops for a day or two. Tomato harvesting is very active in the Quincy area. Watermelon picking is very active in the northern Peninsula and Panhandle, as weather permits. Supplies of most vegetables are declining rapidly as harvesting moves to northern states. Other vegetables and melons available include potatoes, cantaloupes, okra and very light supplies of squash, cucumbers, eggplant and peppers.

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