WEATHER & CROP NEWS
Week ending November 9, 2003  Released 4:00 P.M. November 10, 2003

WEATHER SUMMARY: Warm, wet weather continued during the week of November 2 through 8. Temperatures in the major cities averaged three to twelve degrees above normal. Daytime highs were in the 80s. Nighttime lows were in the 60s and 70s with a few northern and central Peninsula and a few Panhandle localities reporting at least one low in the 50s. Rainfall ranged from traces in some northern and central Peninsula and some Panhandle areas, to over six inches in Miami. Rain for the week totaled over five inches in Dover, Homestead, Ft. Lauderdale and West Palm Beach.

FIELD CROPS: Santa Rosa cotton harvesting is about 85 percent finished while picking in Calhoun County is nearing completion. Cotton picking is active in Jefferson County and pecan harvesting is beginning. Gadsden County peanut digging is finished while some Jackson County harvesting was interrupted by rainfall. Statewide, peanut harvesting is 99 percent finished compared with 97 percent completed by this date last year and the five-year average of 98 percent. Sugarcane harvesting remains active in the Everglades area. Soil moisture increased in the areas that received abundant rains with most supplies, statewide, rated adequate. Areas reporting surplus moisture include Dade, Okeechobee, St. Lucie and Jackson counties. Several localities scattered statewide reported short but increasing moisture supplies. A small area along the southeastern coast continues to report very short soil moisture.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, the planting of small grain winter pasture is active, with most already planted. The pasture condition is mostly good. In the northern area, early planted rye is showing severe leaf spot. The pasture condition is mostly fair. In the central and southern areas, most range and pasture is in good condition. Statewide, the condition of the cattle is mostly good.

VEGETABLES: Producers are harvesting to help meet the Thanksgiving Day demand. Tomato picking is gaining momentum in the Palmetto-Ruskin, Immokalee and East Coast areas. Tomato harvesting around Quincy is starting to slow. Other vegetables and fruits available include snap beans, cantaloupes, sweet corn, cucumbers, pickles, eggplant, okra, peppers, squash and watermelons.

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