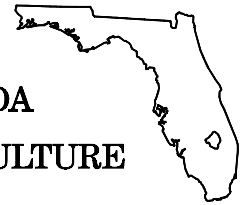




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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending July 4, 2004

Released 4:00 P.M.

July 6, 2004

WEATHER SUMMARY: Daily showers brought abundant rain to many localities during the week of June 27 through July 3. Rainfall ranged from no rain at Lake Alfred to over four inches at Tampa. Most major stations got over one to three inches of rainfall. Fort Lauderdale and Immokalee received less than a quarter inch of precipitation. Despite all of the rainfall temperatures remained average to two degrees above normal with Pensacola and Tallahassee three degrees below normal. Daytime highs were in the 90s in most locations. Most nighttime temperatures were in the high 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Tobacco harvesting is underway in the northern Peninsula and Panhandle area with contract delivery centers scheduled to open on August 3. Hay baling is active in drier localities. Excessive rain in some areas is preventing the timely application of pesticides to peanuts. The condition of peanuts is rated one percent poor, twenty-four percent fair, fifty percent good and twenty-five percent excellent. Abundant rains increased soil moisture in most localities but skipped some areas, leaving soils dry. Most Panhandle soil moisture is rated adequate to surplus while soil moisture in the Peninsula areas vary from short to adequate to surplus, depending on the amount of rain received. St. Lucie and Broward counties continue to report some spots with very short soil moisture.

PERCENTAGE OF PEANUTS HARVESTED TO DATE

This year	70%
Last year	68%
5 - year average	57%

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
<i>Percent</i>						
Very short	5	5	1	5	5	0
Short	15	30	5	20	15	5
Adequate	65	55	52	70	70	54
Surplus	15	10	42	5	10	41

VEGETABLES: Most supplies are declining seasonally with hot temperatures and rainfall bringing most vegetable harvesting to an end. Okra harvesting continues in Dade County. The recent, abundant rains caused significant damage to the Quincy tomato crop. Vegetables and non-citrus fruit available include sweet corn, potatoes, tomatoes, and watermelons.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, grass growth is good due to ample moisture and warm weather. In the northern counties, the condition of the pasture is fair to good with pasture in the Big Bend area fair due to limited soil moisture. In the southwest, the condition of pasture ranges from poor to excellent with most pasture in good condition. Statewide, the condition of the cattle is mostly good.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	5	5	0	0
Fair	30	25	25	25
Good	60	65	70	70
Excellent	5	5	5	5

CITRUS: Contrasting weather patterns prevailed over the citrus areas of the state with generally hot, humid afternoons but varying amounts of rainfall. Thunderstorms developed over wide areas with some receiving heavy, violent storms and others only light rainfall. Most areas received some rainfall, up to 4.3 inches reported at one location. Even though reporting stations may report minimal amounts, areas nearby may receive more because of the widely scattered nature of these fast developing, sometimes intense storms. Some coastal stations reported less than an inch but areas just a few miles inland received much more. Growers in most areas report trees in good condition with a flush of new growth showing in groves that received rainfall. Cultural practices are continuing including fertilizations, hedging, mechanical and chemical weed control, and the resetting of young trees. Some summer sprays are being applied as rainfall permits. Most fresh fruit packinghouses are closed for the season. Valencia orange weekly harvest is declining with only two plants reported open.

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