

SPECIAL HURRICANE DAMAGE REPORT
AUGUST 26-27, 1964

August 28, 1964

Florida Crop Damage Report

Major damage to crops from hurricane Cleo on August 26-27 was limited to areas near the Coast, according to the Crop Reporting Board. Hardest hit was citrus in the Indian River District. Some vegetables were lost in the Pompano and Fort Pierce areas and limited acreage in the Everglades was damaged. Winds caused considerable lodging of sugarcane in areas east of Lake Okeechobee. Winds reached around 100 miles per hour in many areas. Unlike many hurricanes in the past, rainfall was not excessive ranging in most areas up to 5 inches.

Citrus: The hurricane hit the Indian River District. Damage to trees was not significant. There was practically no limb loss. Whipping by winds caused considerable leaf loss especially in the top portion of trees. Loss of oranges was light--not more than 10 percent. These were generally the larger size fruit. Loss of grapefruit varied widely from grove to grove. Droppage on exposed outside rows was extremely heavy. Losses in groves protected by wind breaks were much lighter. Loss of grapefruit may be from 25 to 40 percent of the crop in the Indian River area. The quantity of larger size grapefruit for early fall shipment will be reduced. Damage to lime trees and loss of fruit in the Dade County area was light.

Avocados: There was some tree damage to avocado trees in the Dade County area. Very few trees were blown over but some heavily laden limbs were broken. Considerable fruit was blown off in the extreme northern portion of the area. Some of this will be salvaged. Losses in the southern portion were very light.

Vegetables: There has been little if any damage to Dade County mature green tomatoes. Young mature green plants above ground in the Pompano and Ft. Pierce areas were damaged. Some fields will be replanted. Older fields not yet thinned afforded protection and were damaged less seriously. Most of the vine ripe acreage in the Pompano area was young and was lost. Replanting is already underway. Celery in the Everglades escaped damage. Some young seed beds were damaged but transplanted acreage shows practically no damage. Sweet corn in the Everglades was seriously damaged. Young plants were cut off and older ones shredded. Some of the acreage will be replanted. Green peppers in the Pompano area were damaged by high winds. A large portion of the acreage will be replanted. Spot replanting of egg plant in Pompano area will be necessary.

Sugarcane: Generally speaking, damage to sugarcane was light. Almost all of the damage was confined to the acreage east of Belle Glade.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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