Reducing Risks in Agriculture: Adapting to Seasonal Climate Variability

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CAMI – Pest and Disease Modeling
April 4–5, 2011
Barbados



Outline

- Quick introduction to Florida's climate and agriculture
- Drivers of climate variability in Florida
- Impacts of climate variability on Florida's agricultural industry
- Strategic versus tactical decisions: Adapting to seasonal climate variability
- Introduction to AgroClimate
- Exercises
- Our vision for the future of the University of Florida
 Climate Extension program

Florida

Area: 151,670 km²
Population: ~17 M
Latitude: 25-30 N
Longitude: 80-87 W
Elevation: 0-105 m



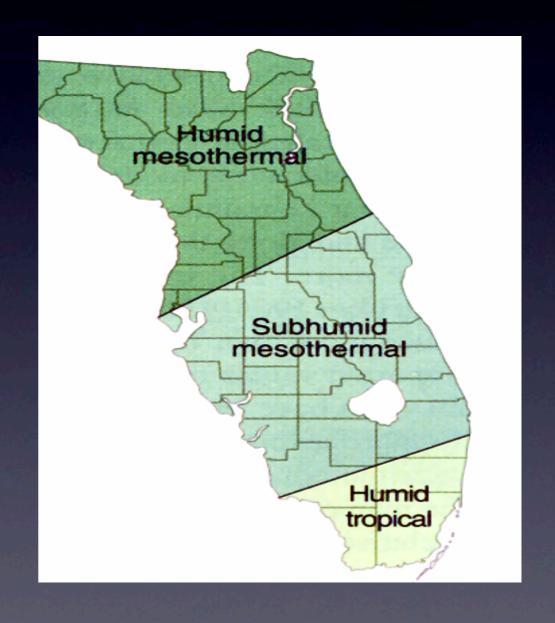
Barbados Lat: I3N - Long: 59W

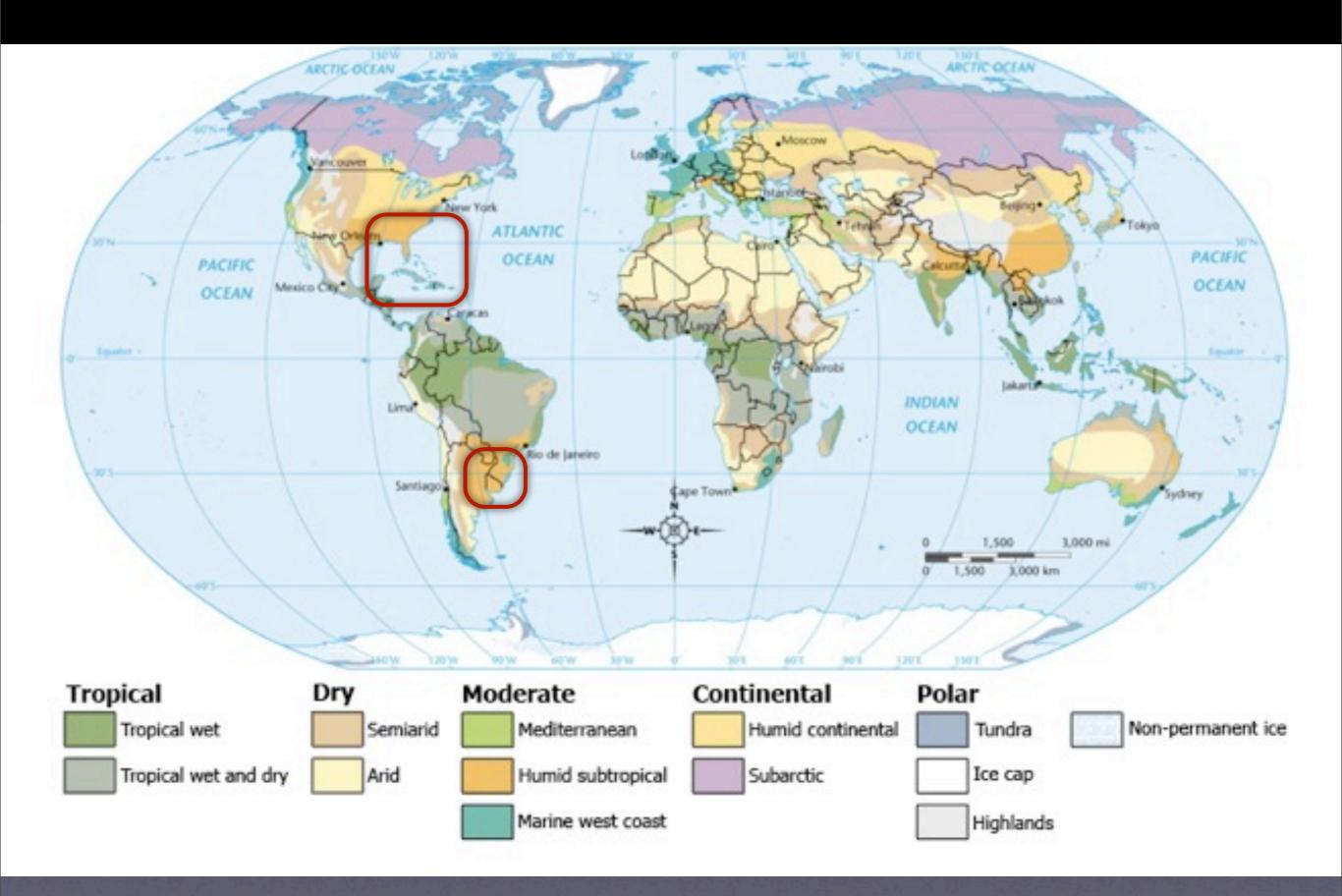


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Climate of Florida

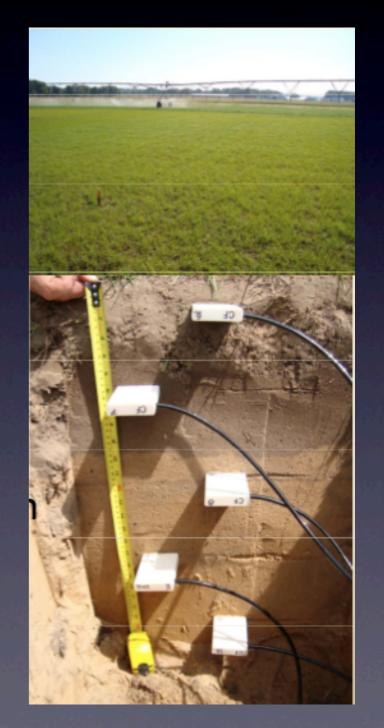
- Humid subtropical, with hot and humid summers, mild winters
- Southern portion more like a tropical savannah with well defined wet and dry seasons
- A good analog is southern Brazil, South Africa





Climate: Florida's most important physical resource!

- Monthly average temperature:
 - Min: 10-20 C
 - Max: 27-30 C
- Average rainfall: I300-I500 mm
- Mild winters have turned to great advantage since most of the state is covered by infertile sandy soils!



Agribusiness in Florida (Census 2008)

- 47,500 commercial farms
- Florida ranked first in the U.S. in the value of production of oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, sugarcane, squash, watermelons, sweet corn, fresh-market snap beans, fresh-market tomatoes, and fresh-market cucumbers
- Florida ranked second in the value of production of strawberries, bell peppers, and cucumbers





SOIL
CLAY
SAND
MUCK
CORAL

FLORIDA'S COMMODITIES at a glance



LIVESTOCK: beef cattle, dairy cattle, horses, poulty, swine, bees



CITRUS: oranges, lemons, times, grapefruit, kumquats, tangelos, tangerines



SHELLFISH: Shrimp, lobster, clams, scallops, crabs



FIELD CROPS: cotton, corn, peanuts, hay, soybeans, sugarcane, tobacco, wheat, pecans



SEAFOOD: Flounder, grouper, cobie, mahi mahi, amberjack, snapper, tuna



FRUIT: Asian pear, atemoya, avocado, bananas, blackberries, canistel, cantaloupe, carambola, grapes, guava, honeydew, longan, lyches, mango, mamey sapote, monstera, papaya, passion fruit, peaches, persimmons, strawberries, watermelon



FOREST INDUSTRY



ALLIGATOR



VEGETABLES: beans, boniato, broccoli, cabbage, carrotts, cauliflower, celery, Chinese cabbage, collard greens, oucumbers, eggplant, endive/escarole, lettuce, mushrooms, okra, onions, parsley, peas, peppers, potatoes, radishes, romaine, spinach, squash, sweet com, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, turnips, turnip greens, watercress, yucca



ORNAMENTAL FISH



NURSERY: trees, shrubs, potted plants, foliage, cut foliage, landscape plants, woody ornamentals, bedding plants, interior plants, garden centers, turf grass, sod, bulbs, hydroponic plants, mounted plants, plugs, seedlings, topiary trees.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services



Climate Variability in the Southeast U.S.A.

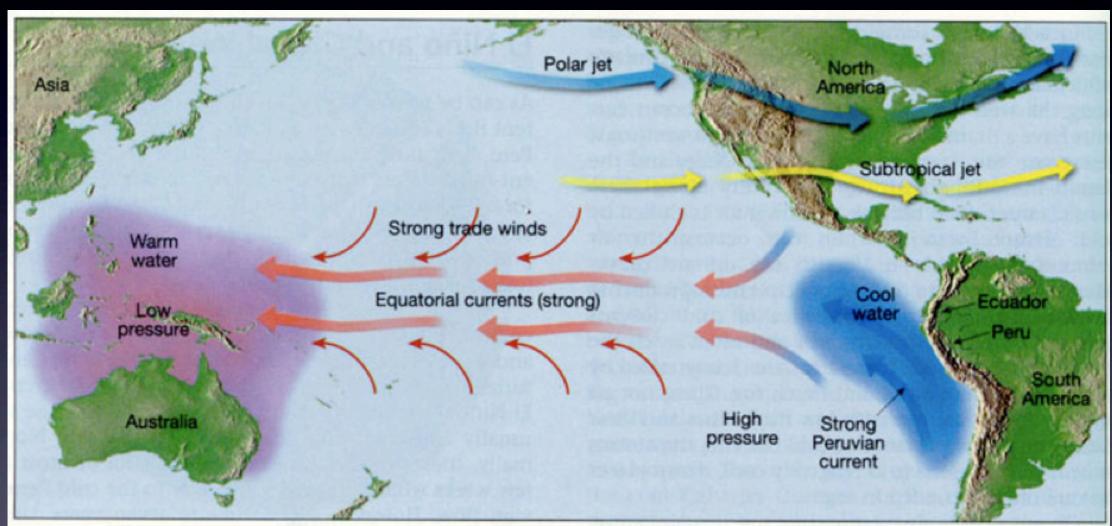


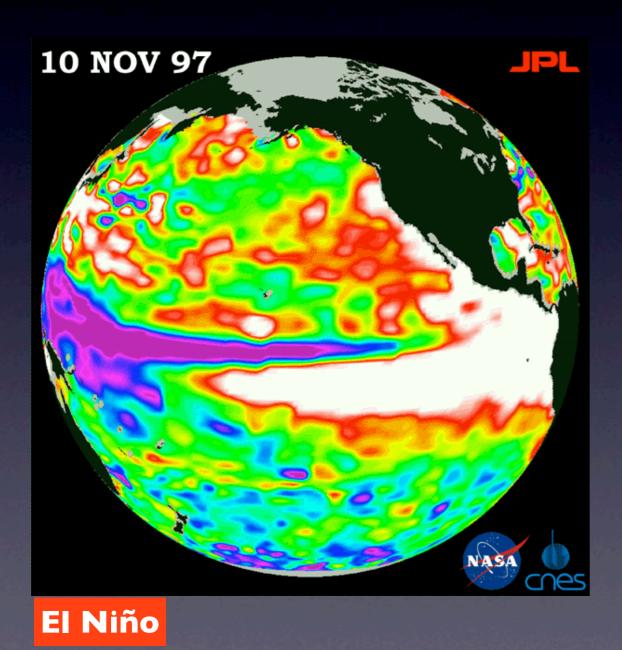
Fig.6 Normally, the trade winds and strong equatorial currents flow toward the west.

At the same time, an intense Peruvian current causes upwelling of cold water along the west coast of South America.

Normal Conditions in the Tropical Pacific Ocean

El Niño - Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

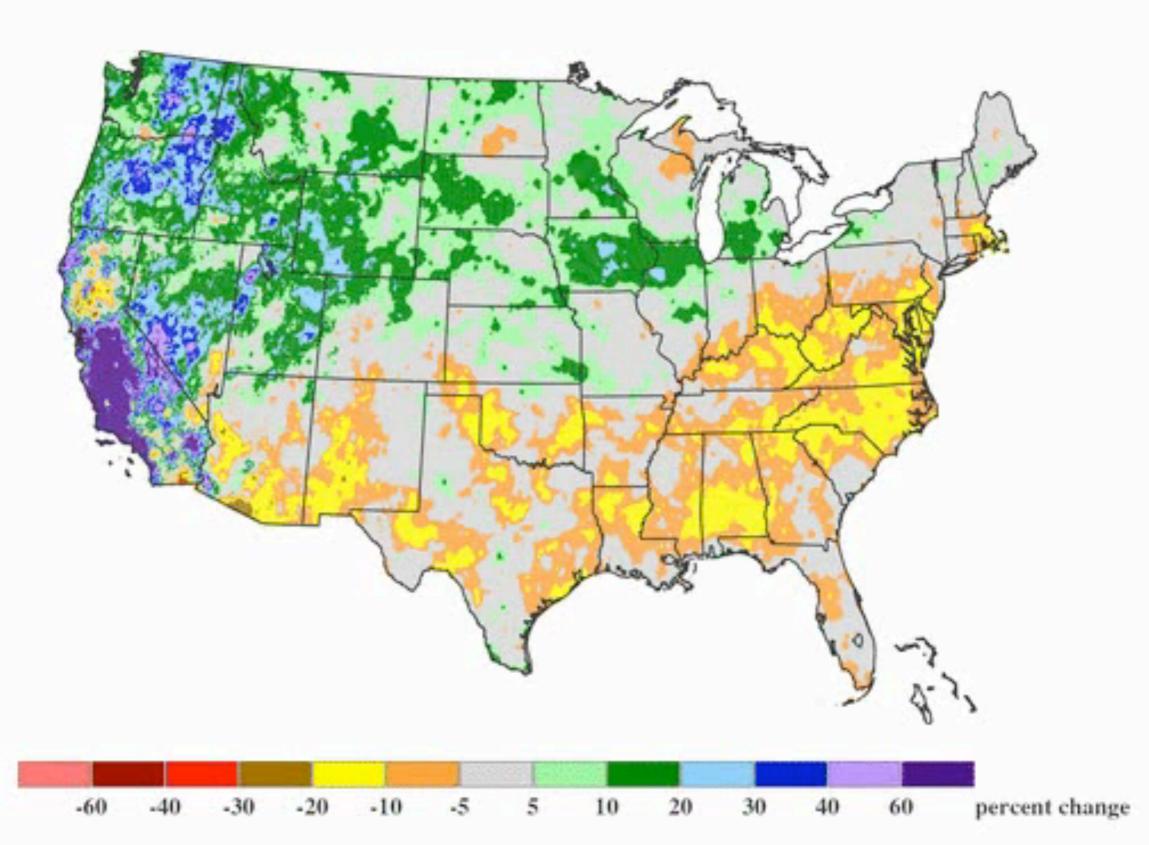
The El Niño / La Niña cycle is the predominant mode of year to year climate variability in the Southeast U.S.



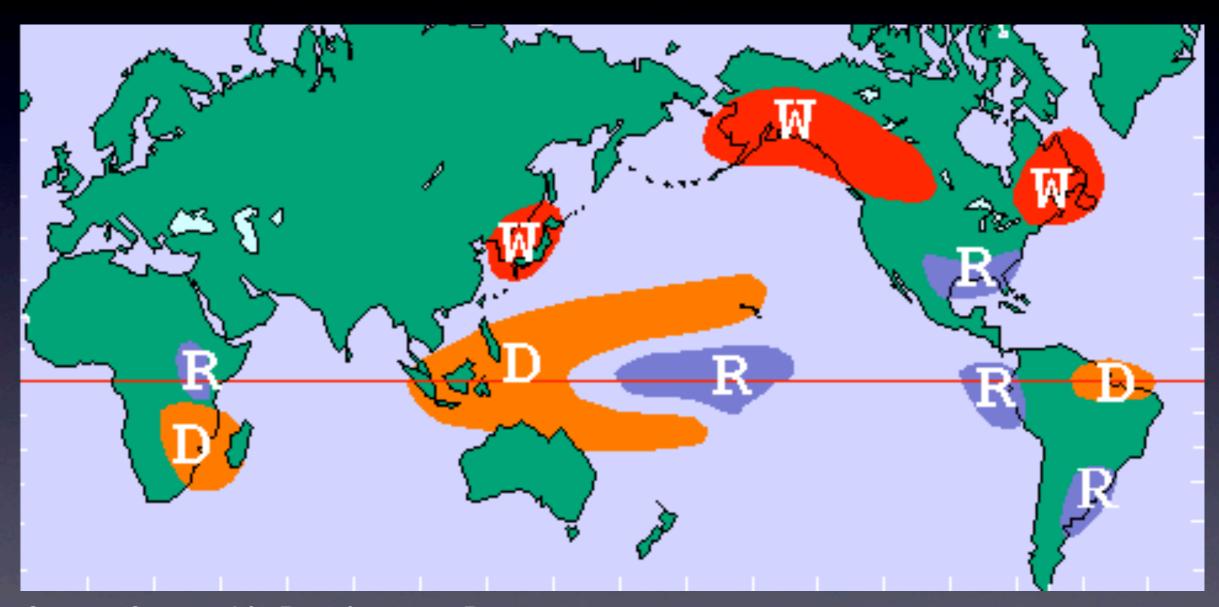
- Warmer than normal sea surface temperature (SST) across the eastern tropical Pacific
- Wetter and cooler winter and springs in the Southeast U.S.
- Fewer Atlantic hurricanes

El Niño



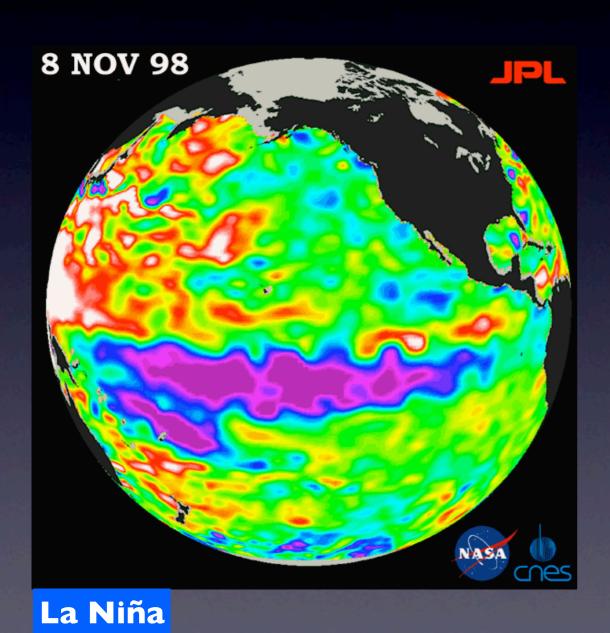


El Niño - Global impacts



Source: Sustainable Development Department UN - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Climate Variability in the SE La Niña

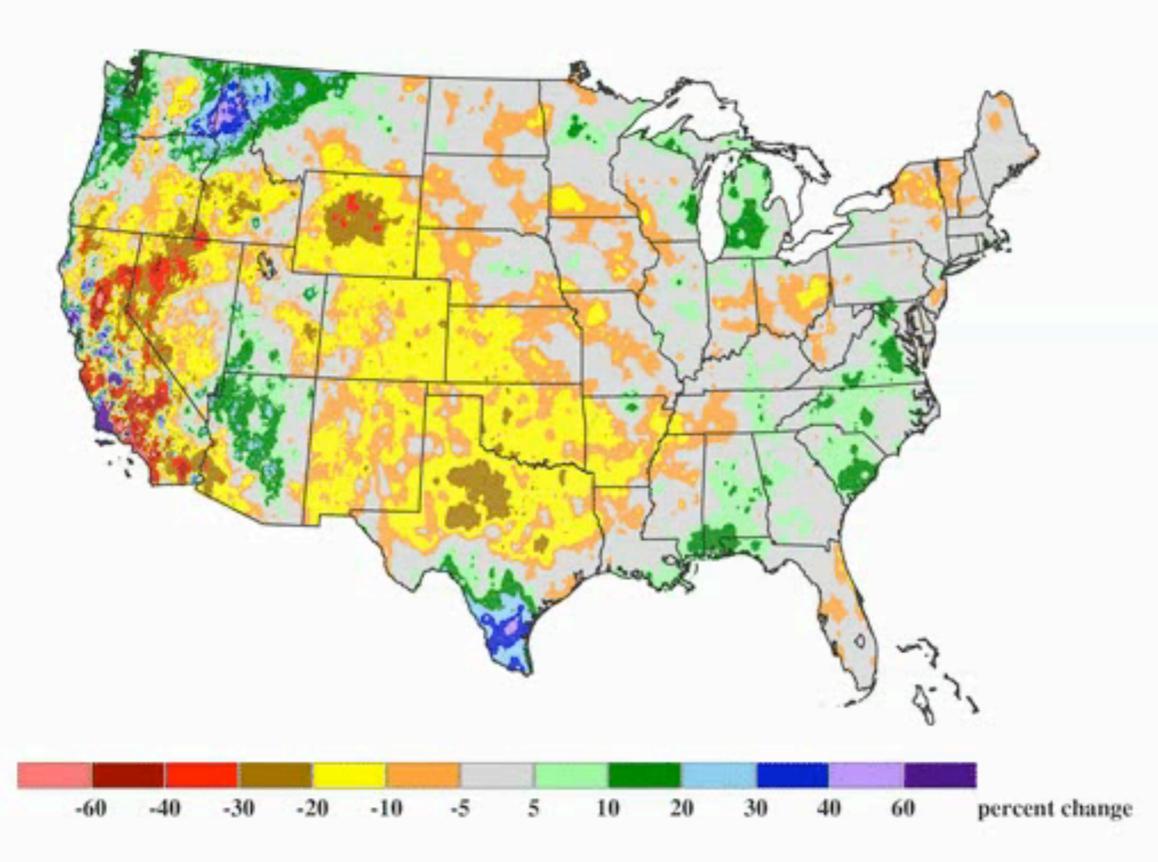


- Below average sea surface temperature (SST) across the eastern tropical Pacific
- Warmer and drier winter and springs
- More active hurricane season

Neutral years: SST across the eastern tropical Pacific within +- 0.5 C

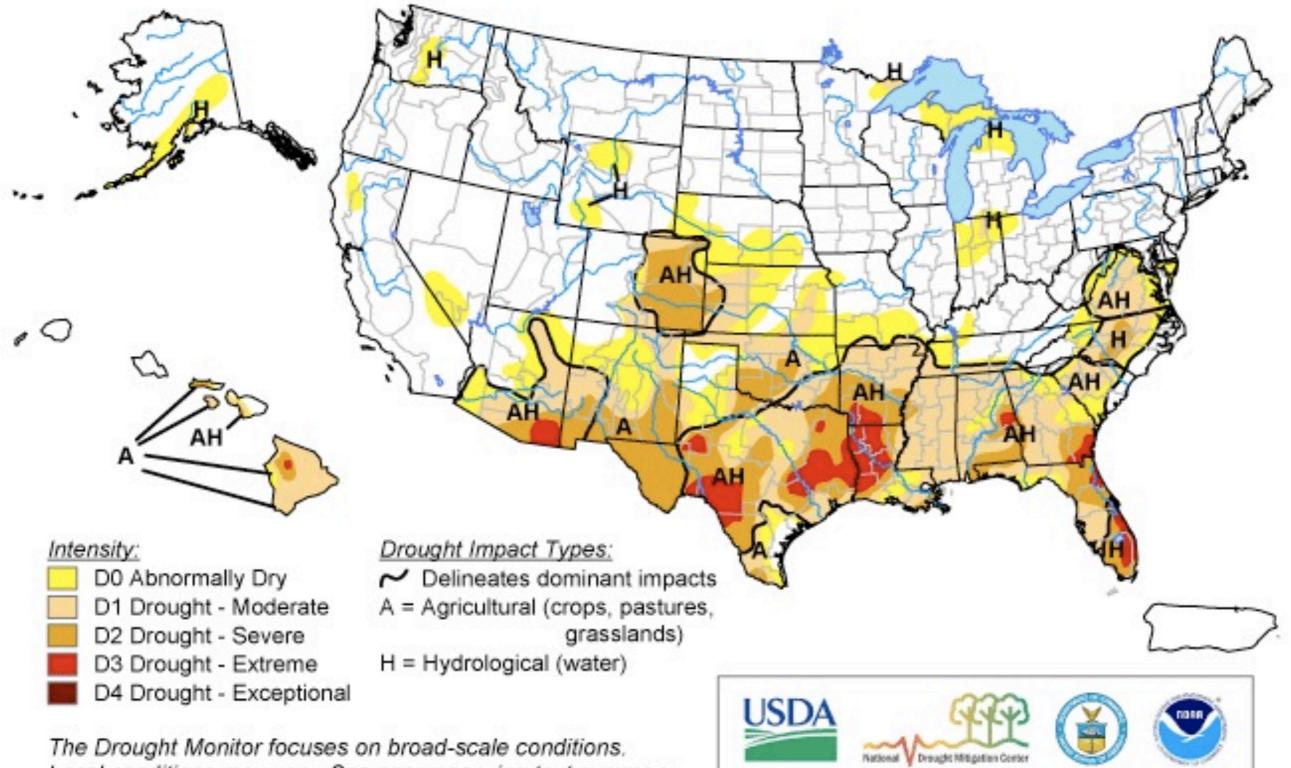
La Niña





U.S. Drought Monitor

March 8, 2011



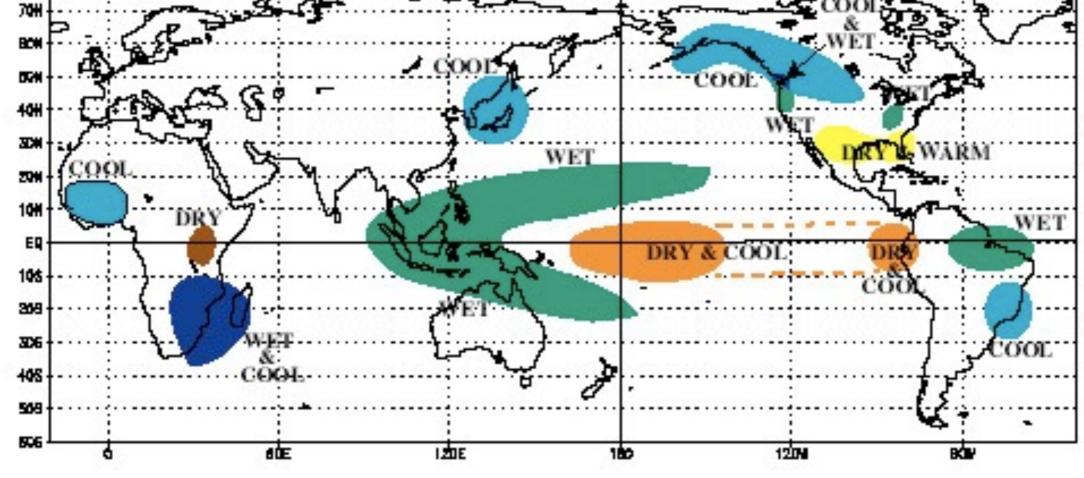
Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Released Thursday, March 10, 2011 Author: Laura Edwards, Western Regional Climate Center

http://drought.unl.edu/dm

La Niña - Global Impacts

COLD EPISODE RELATIONSHIPS DECEMBER - FEBRUARY



Source: The International Research Institute for Climate and Society - IRI

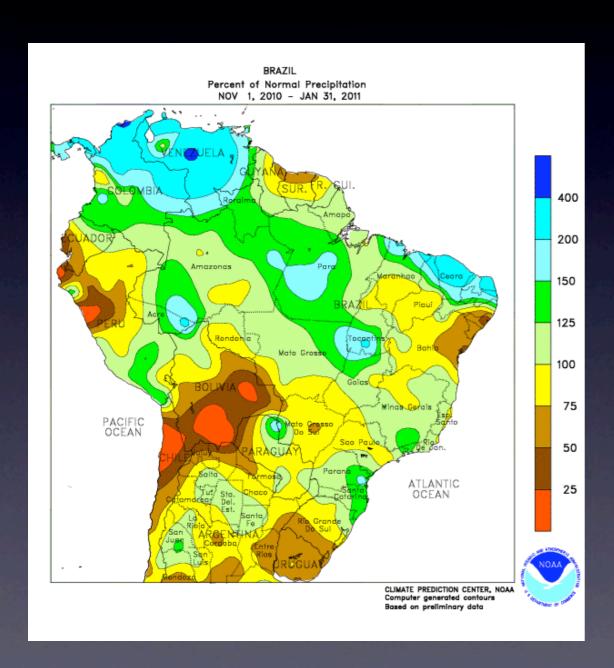
La Niña 2010-11 Recent Floods in Australia

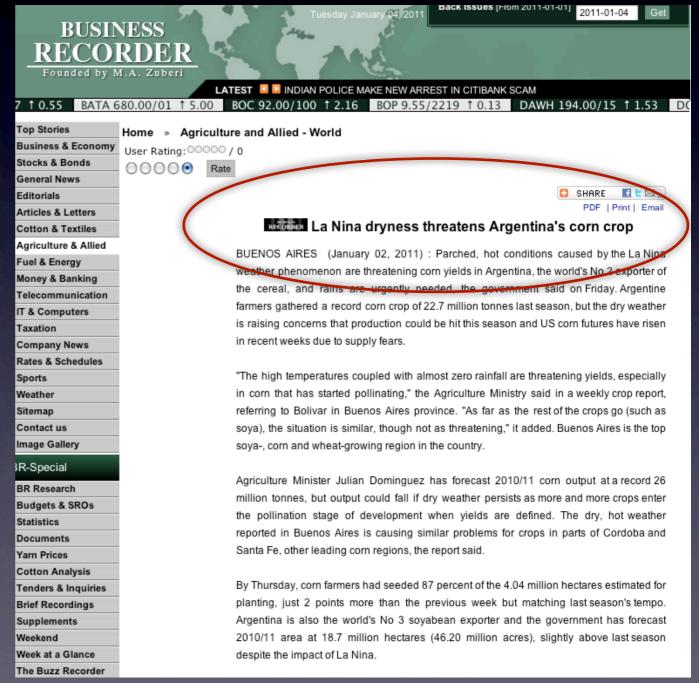
 Thousands of Brisbane residents were stockpiling food and stacking sandbags or fleeing their homes as the worst floodwaters to hit Queensland for 50 years surged towards Australia's third largest city (January 11, 2011)



Source: The Guardian, January 11, 2011

La Niña 2010-11 South America Rainfall

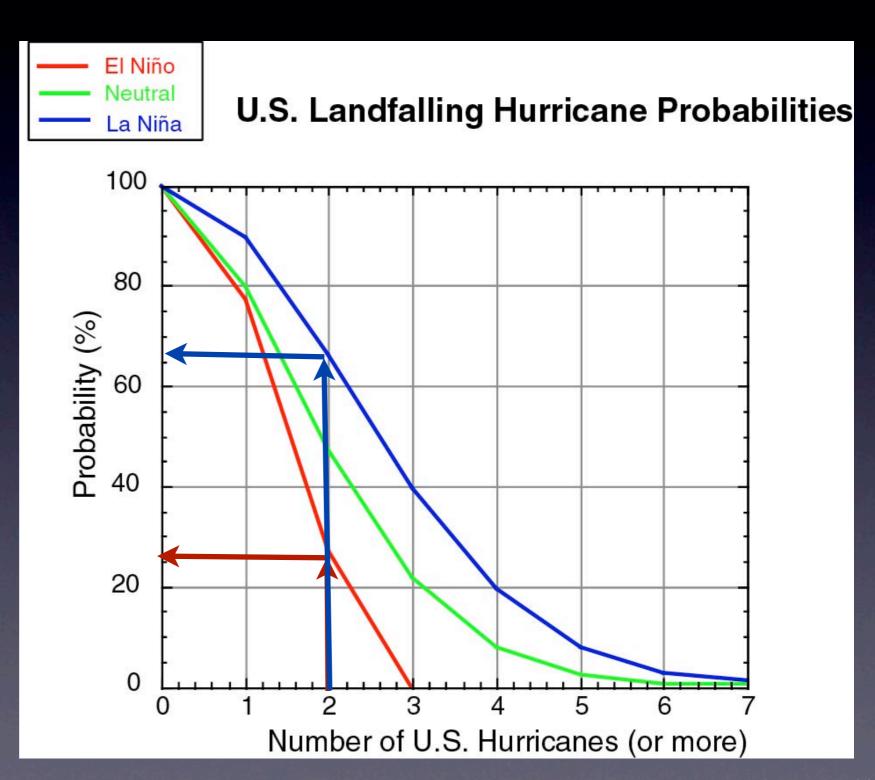




Argentina Corn Crop

ENSO and Hurricanes

 Probability of a more active Atlantic hurricane season is higher during La Niña and neutral events

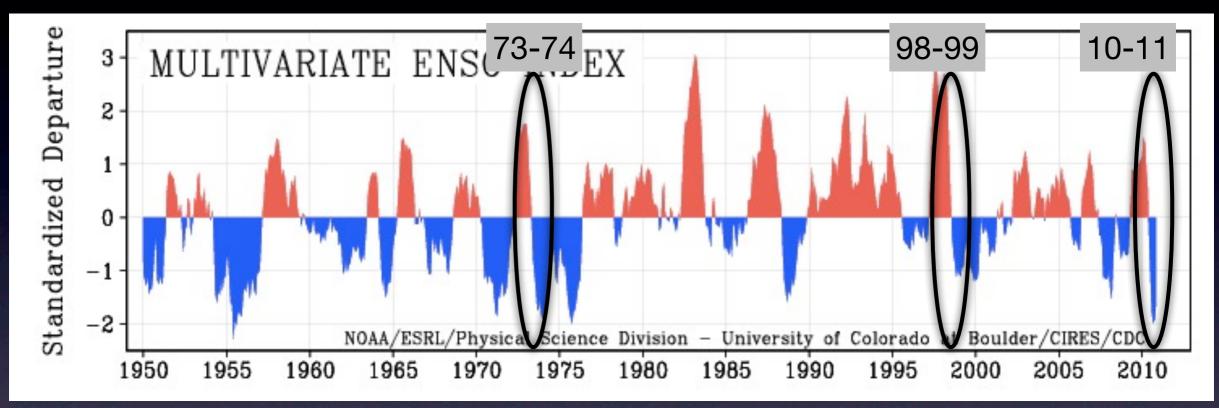


2010 Hurricane Season

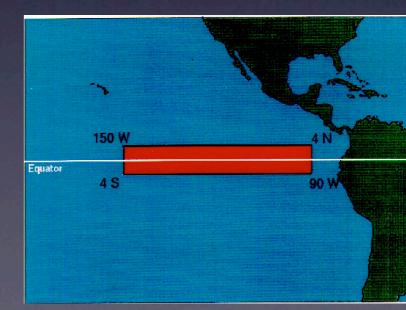
- Above average
 hurricane season with
 19 named storms
 (second to 2005
 since 1950), 12
 classified as
 hurricanes
- No direct US impacts



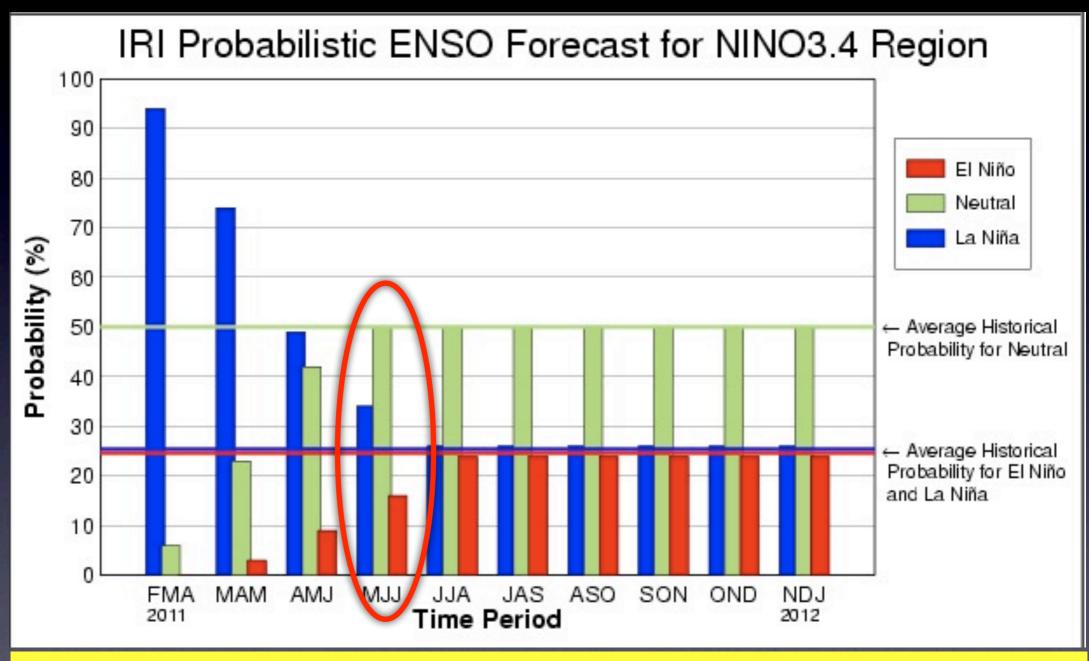
MONITORING ENSO Multivariate ENSO Index



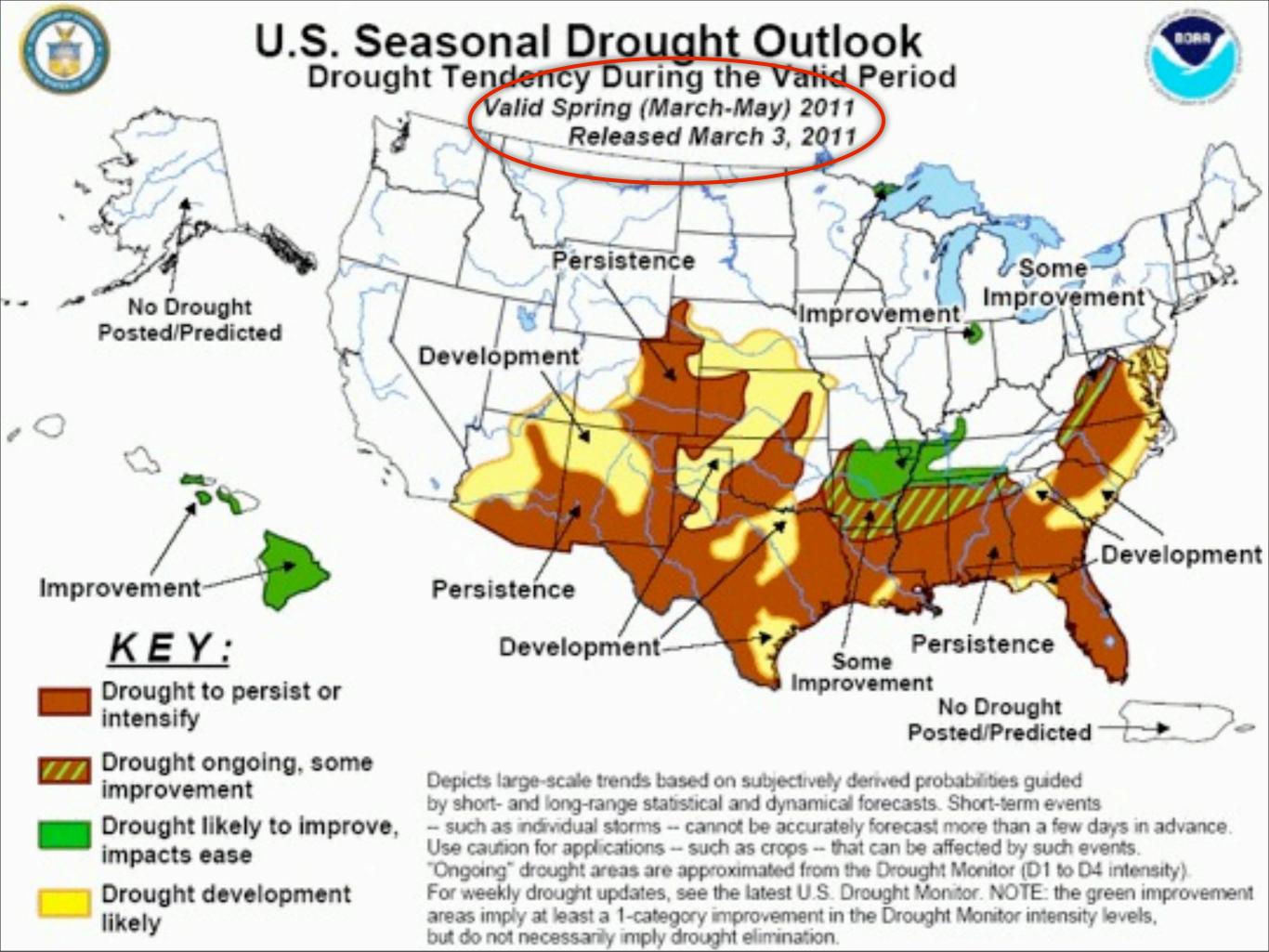
 MEI takes into account not only sea surface temperature (SST) but also sea-level pressure, surface wind, air temperature, and cloudiness



ENSO Forecast



La Niña is expected to last until May-June 2011



Impacts on Agriculture &

Adapting to Climate Variability

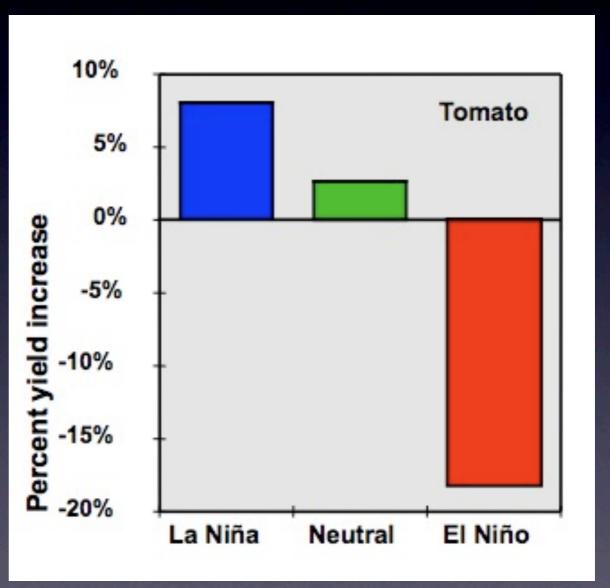


Winter Vegetables Yield

Yield Differences (%)

- Lower yields for winter
 vegetables have been observed during El Niño years
- Higher yields during La Niña

Potential adaptation strategies?



Hansen et al. 1998. El Nino – Southern Oscillation Influences on Florida Crop Yields

Disease Pressure Botrytis - Plant City, FL



Pre-harvest



Potential adaptation strategies?

Post-harvest

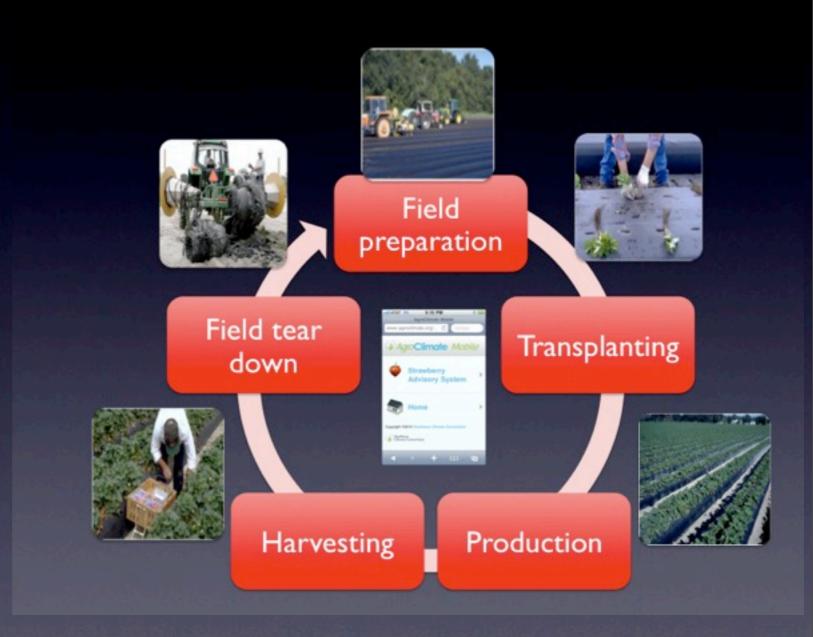
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Phase	Low	Avg	High
Neutral	29%	34%	37%
El Niño	8%	23%	69%
La Niña	61%	32%	7%

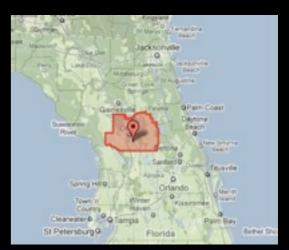
Number of years with low, average, and high disease pressure (Fraisse et al., preliminary results)

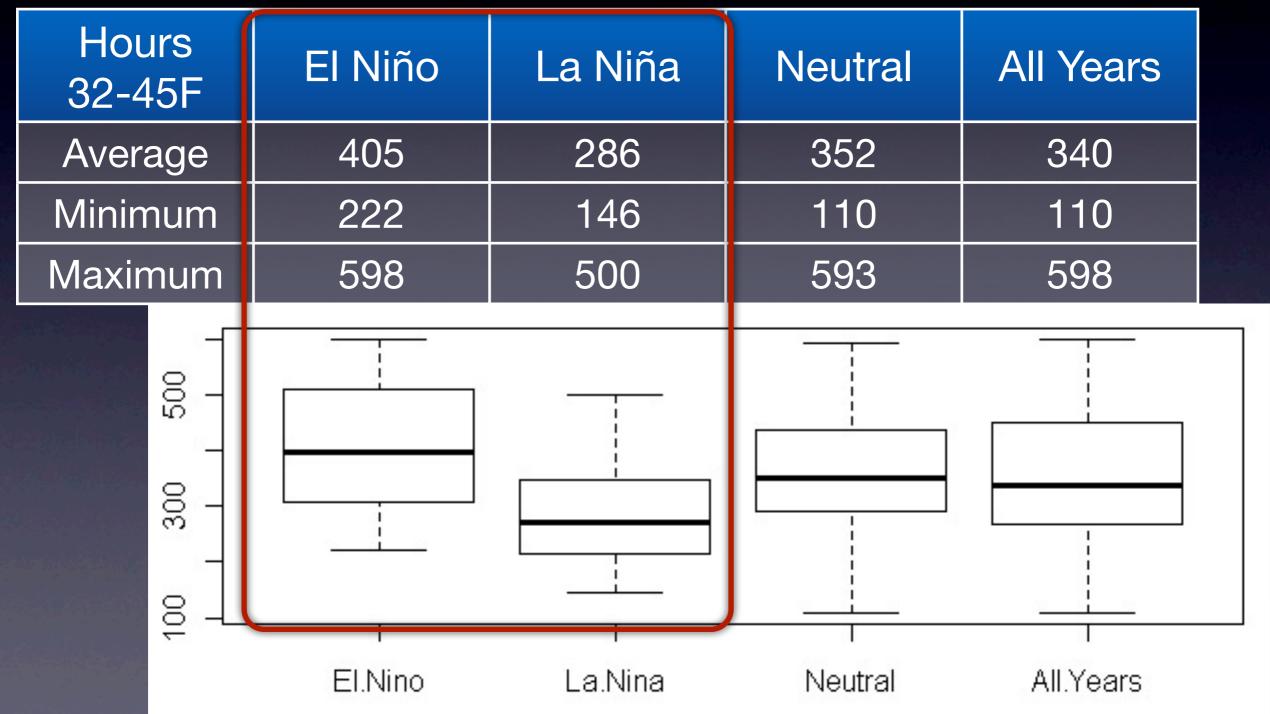
Strawberry Industry

- 15% of the U.S. production but 100% of winter strawberry
- 8,000 acres
 (3,250 ha)
- \$250 M industry

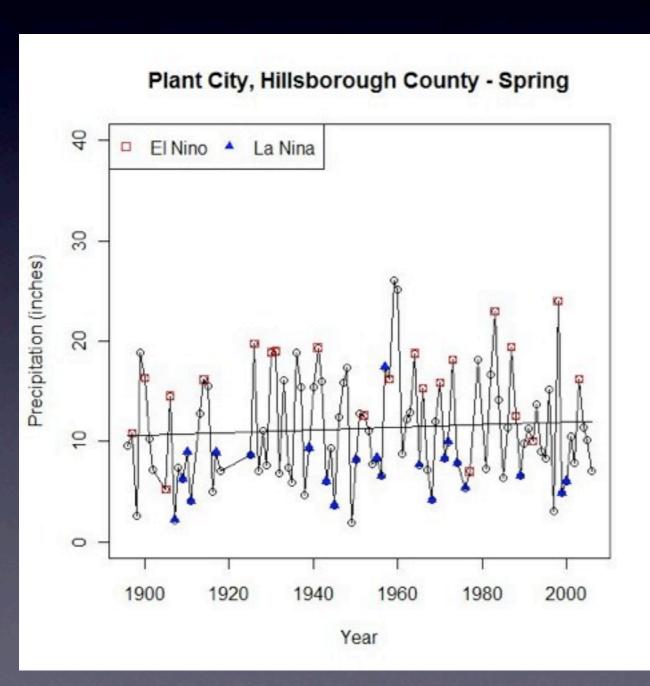


Chill Accumulation Marion County, FL:1948 - 2007





Leaching Rains during El Niño years





Flooded potato fields in NE Florida

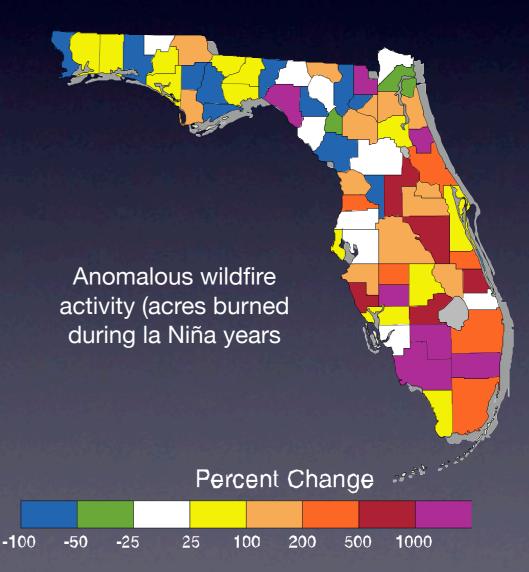
Potential adaptation strategies?

Total rainfall (in) during the spring tomato season (16 weeks) (Fraisse et al, 2009)

Wildfires during La Niña Years

- La Niña typically increases acreage burned in Florida from around 60,000 acres to 200,000 or more (Jones et al., 1999)
- Effective mitigation (suppression, controlled burns, herbicides) has bias historical burn records





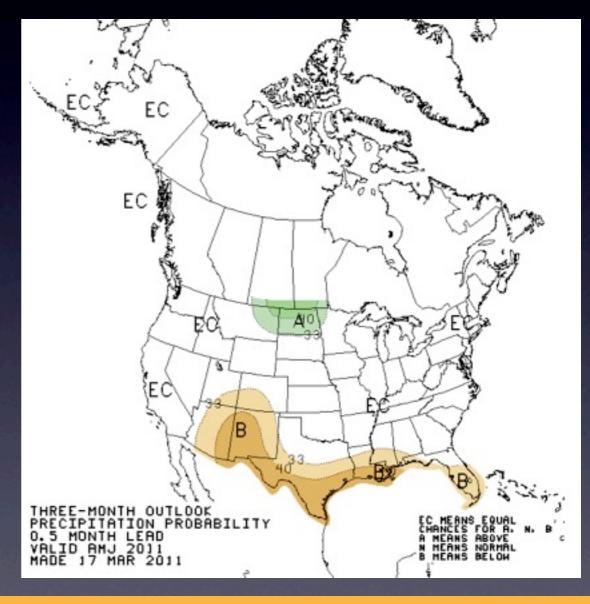
Hard Freezes



Freeze Date	ENSO Phase
Dec 1894	Neutral
Feb 1899	Neutral
Dec 1934	Neutral
Jan 1940	Neutral
Dec 1961	Neutral
Jan 1977	El Niño
Jan 1981	Neutral
Dec 1983	Neutral
Jan 1985	Neutral
Dec 1989	Neutral

Adaptating to Climate Variability

Agricultural, forestry, and water resource managers will better cope with uncertainty and climate associated risks through routine and effective use of climate forecasts and climate-related decision support tools



The task requires going well beyond simply producing good climate forecasts. For climate information to benefit society, it must fit into a decision making process and must affect actions of decision-makers

Weather vs Climate-based Decisions in Agriculture



Weather Forecast Operational or tactical decisions	Climate Forecast Strategic Decisions	
Planting	Variety selection	
Spraying	Best planting dates	
Fertilizing	Acreage allocation	
Irrigation timing and amount	Crop insurance	
Harvesting	Marketing	
Cutting hay	Purchase of inputs	
Cold protection	Winter pasture & Feed purchase	

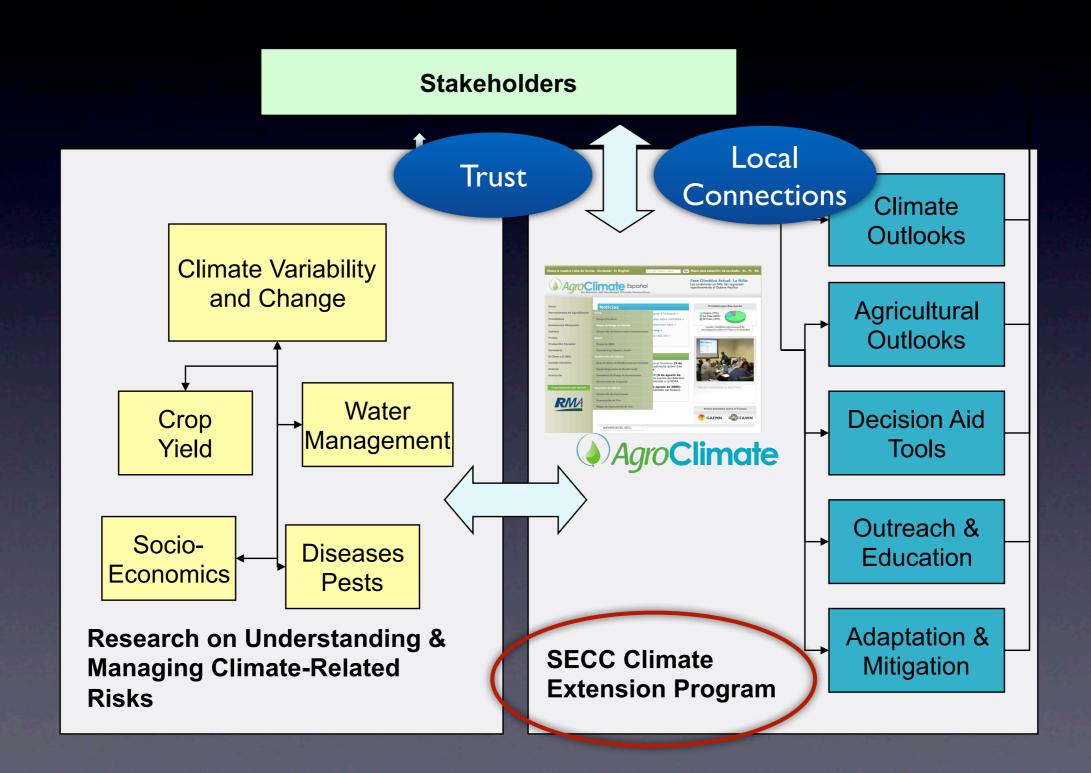
Engaging Stakeholders

- How to communicate this knowledge to producers?
- How to modify behavior by including seasonal forecasting in their decision making process?



Early interviews to understand how producers use weather and climate information (N. Breuer, 2002)

Partnership with Extension



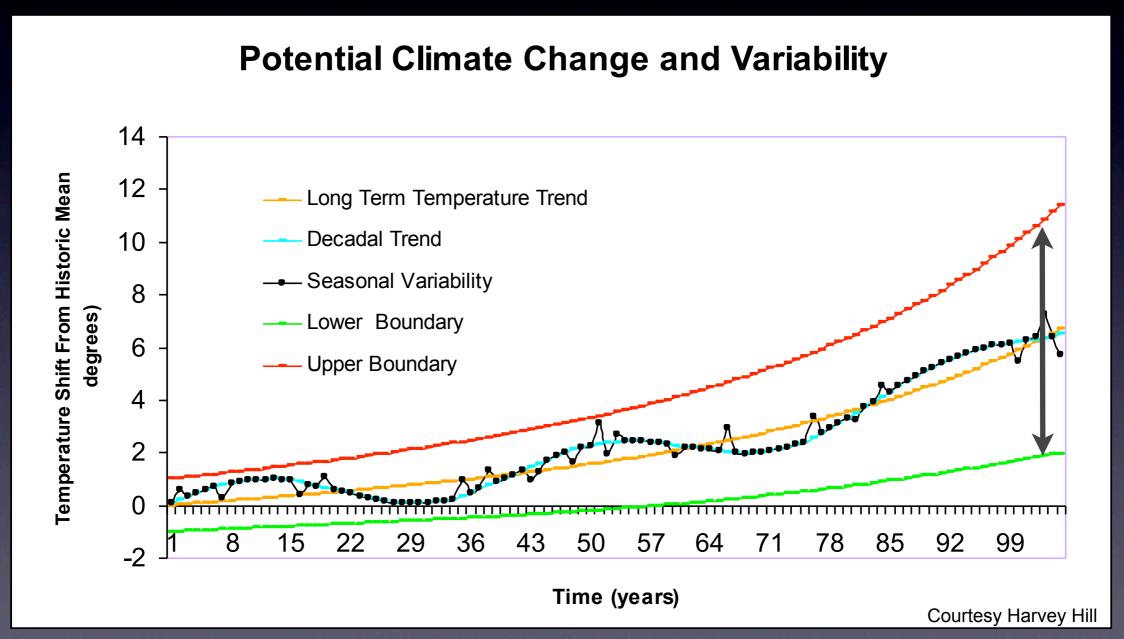
From Climate Variability to Climate Change

 Understanding seasonal climate variability and learning to adapt to it is the first step towards starting a discussion about climate change



AgroClimate workshop - Headland, AL, March 2007

Adapting to Climate Variability and Change



Resilient adaptation must account for natural and potential man made variability

Climate Change Activities Climate Working Groups

Row Crop Agriculture Working Group

UGA Stripling Irrigation Research Park April 12, 2010



Initial Engagement Activities

- Share past production experiences to initiate a discussion on how to prepare for an uncertain future
- Examine historical climate cycles and extremes
- Explore adaptation used to past climate conditions
- Discuss how climate information can support a more adaptive approach to row crop management decisions

Sharing experiences of past production successes & challenges



Remembering the Past

- 1938: Very wet, government issued a "mud check"
- 1954: Very dry, very poor season
- (1980: Bad year, wet Jan-Mar and then hot and dry
- 2003: Near perfect rainfall distribution, great year
- 2007: Hot and dry

Adaptation Strategies Group Discussions of Hypothetical Scenarios

Preparing for the Future: Using Climate Information to Reduce Risks







Opportunities for Adaptation

Warmer than Normal

- Change planting date, start earlier, consider different peanut varieties
- Resist planting a full circle of high water demanding crops
- Tighten up peanut spray schedule

Drier than Normal

- Prepare irrigation equipment and harvest more water in ponds
- Till less to conserve soil moisture
- Shift rotation, avoid planting corn

Perceived Constraints to Adaptation

"The farm bill probably impacts what farmers grow more than anything"

"You can't buy a cotton picker for just one year"

"Climate information may not change your decision but it will be in the back of your mind"

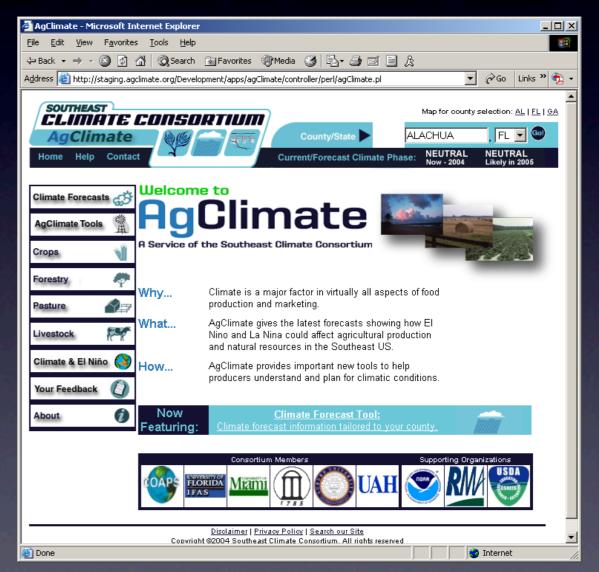
Policies and Markets Industry and Farming System Household and Individual **Decision Making**

Updates

- Task force was formed to address the need to improve summer forecasts (ENSO signal improves forecast in the winter)
- Farmers asked for periodical meetings with SECC
 Extension to update forecasts at critical times
- We recently had our 3rd meeting with the group,
 so far focus has been of seasonal variability
- Next meeting will focus of crop modeling and climate scenarios

How to communicate this knowledge to producers?

 In 2005 we started creating a webbased climate information system under a project funded by the USDA - Risk Management Agency



First version of AgroClimate (AgClimate) released in January of 2005.

La Niña develops as the Pacific Ocean continues a rapid transition.

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Drought conditions expand into west, south Georgia - (September 16, 2010 - PDF)

Georgia sees warmest summer nights ever - (September 8, 2010 -PDF)

La Niña weather pattern expected this fall (September 7, 2010)

Shaping up your carbon footprint (August 20, 2010)

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SECC Fall Climate Outlook is now available (Sept. 19, 2010)

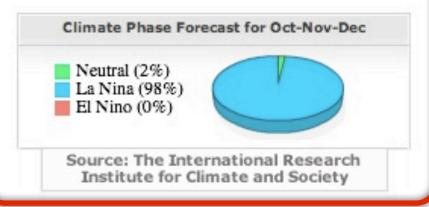
Monthly Climate Summary for Georgia and Florida now available (Sept. 8, 2010)

SECC Agricultural Outlook (August 30, 2010):

Monthly Climate Summary (August 4, 2010): La Niña Conditions Return to the Pacific Ocean How can it affect your crops?

Climate Phase Update (July 16, 2010): La Niña develops as the Pacific Ocean continues a rapid transition.

SECC Summer Climate Outlook (May 20, 2010): El Niño is over in the Pacific Ocean





AgroClimate Now available in Spanish Click here to view



AgroClimate Outlooks

SECC Fall Climate Outlook

Date updated: September 19, 2010

DOWNLOAD PDF

Current Conditions: Drought setting in for much of the Southeast. After a summer that can be characterized as one of the hottest on record, drought has begun to develop over much of the Southeast, with the exception of the Florida peninsula. The three-month period of May-July ranked as the hottest on record (since 1895) for the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama, while Florida ranked as the second hottest. Rainfall was generally below normal for much of the region, but was characterized by many observers as being more scattered or localized than in previous years. Large differences in daily, weekly, and monthly rainfall totals were seen not only from county to county (which is somewhat typical for summer rainfall), but also from field to field. Southeast Alabama and inland areas of the Florida Panhandle are feeling the drought most strongly, as most fields in this area are non-irrigated, leaving row crops and pastures suffering. The extent of drought conditions is shown in the current U.S. Drought Monitor, where most of the Southeast is depicted as being in drought conditions ranging from abnormally dry to severe.

U.S. Drought Monitor Southeast

September 21, 2010

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)								
	None	00-04	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4			
Current	14.4	85.6	47.4	11.7	0.9	0.0			
Last Week (09/14/2010 map)	26.3	73.7	29.7	7.1	0.1	0.0			
3 Months Ago (06/29/2010 map)	75.3	24.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0			
Start of Calendar Year (01/05/2010 map)	99.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			
Start of Water Year (10:06/2009 map)	82.6	17.4	5.5	1.0	0.0	0.0			
One Year Ago (09/22/2009 map)	72.9	27.1	10.0	1.7	0.0	0.0			



DO Abnormally Dry D2 Drought - Severe

D3 Drought - Extreme D4 Drought - Exceptional

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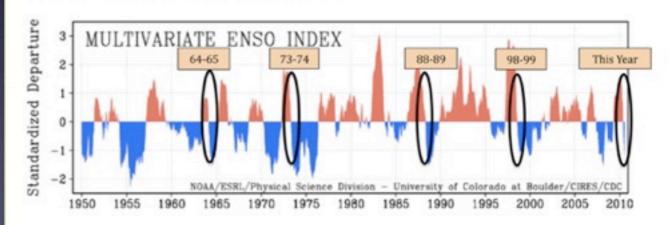
SECC Agricultural Outlook

Date updated: August 30, 2010 Prepared by Clyde Fraisse

La Niña Conditions Return to the Pacific Ocean How can it affect your crops?

DOWNLOAD PDF

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon is the biggest player in the game of yearto-year climate variability. El Niño and La Niña events tend to develop during April-June and tend to reach maximum strength during December-February. Typically they persist for 9 to 12 months. After a winter of moderate to strong El Niño conditions, ocean temperatures have cooled very quickly in the last 3 months and have now reached thresholds consistent with the La Niña phase (Sea surface temperatures more that 0.5 °C colder than normal). If we look back in our climate records, years in which there were similar quick transitions to a La Niña phase included 1964-65, 1973-74, 1988-89, and 1998-99.



La Niña conditions usually bring a warmer and drier winter and spring seasons (November through March) to Florida, central and lower Alabama and central and southern Georgia. La Niña events in 1999 and 2000 and in early 2006 were associated with an increase in forest fires across Florida and Georgia.

Hurricanes: La Niña is known to bring a more active hurricane season to the Atlantic basin, so we anticipate that the 2010 hurricane season will produce more storms than normal. The most recent NOAA forecast calls for an 85% chance of an above normal season with 14-23 named



La Niña develops as the Pacific Ocean continues a rapid transition.

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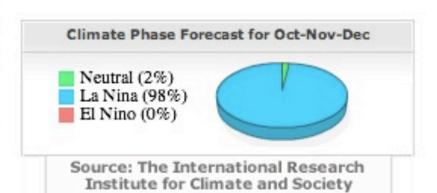
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AgroClimate Tools 🥦



Climate Risk

- County climatology
- Freeze risk maps
- Cooling/Heating degree days

Drought

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index
- Lawn & Garden Moisture Index
- Agricultural Reference Index for Drought

Carbon Resources

Carbon calculator

Crop Diseases

- Strawberry Advisory System
 - Anthracnose and Botrytis
- Citrus Advisory System
 - Copper Model, PFD



Crop Development

- Growing degree days
- Chil accumulation

Crop Yield

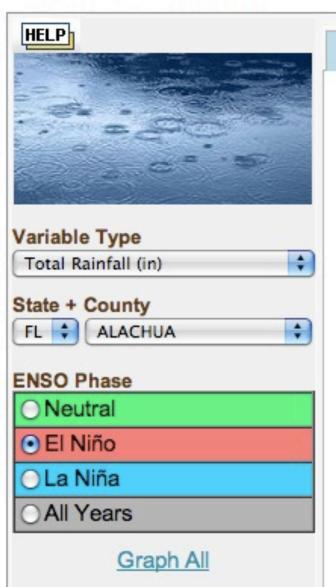
- County Yield Database
- Yield Risk



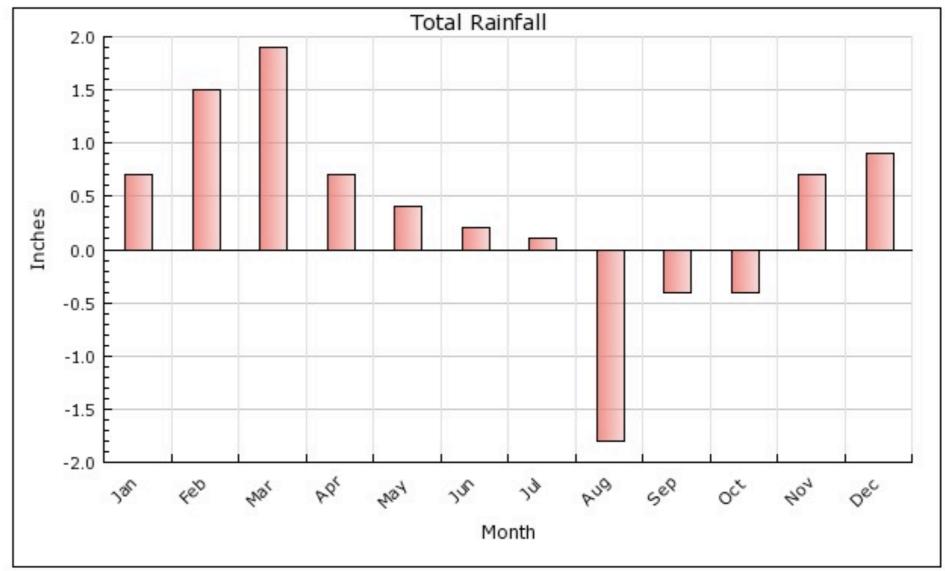
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Climate Risk





Average and Deviation		Probability Distribution			Probability of Exceedance			Last 5 Years		5		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average	4.1	5.1	6.1	3.3	3.8	6.9	6.8	5.4	4.5	2.1	2.7	3.9
Deviation	0.7	1.5	1.9	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.1	-1.8	-0.4	-0.4	0.7	0.9

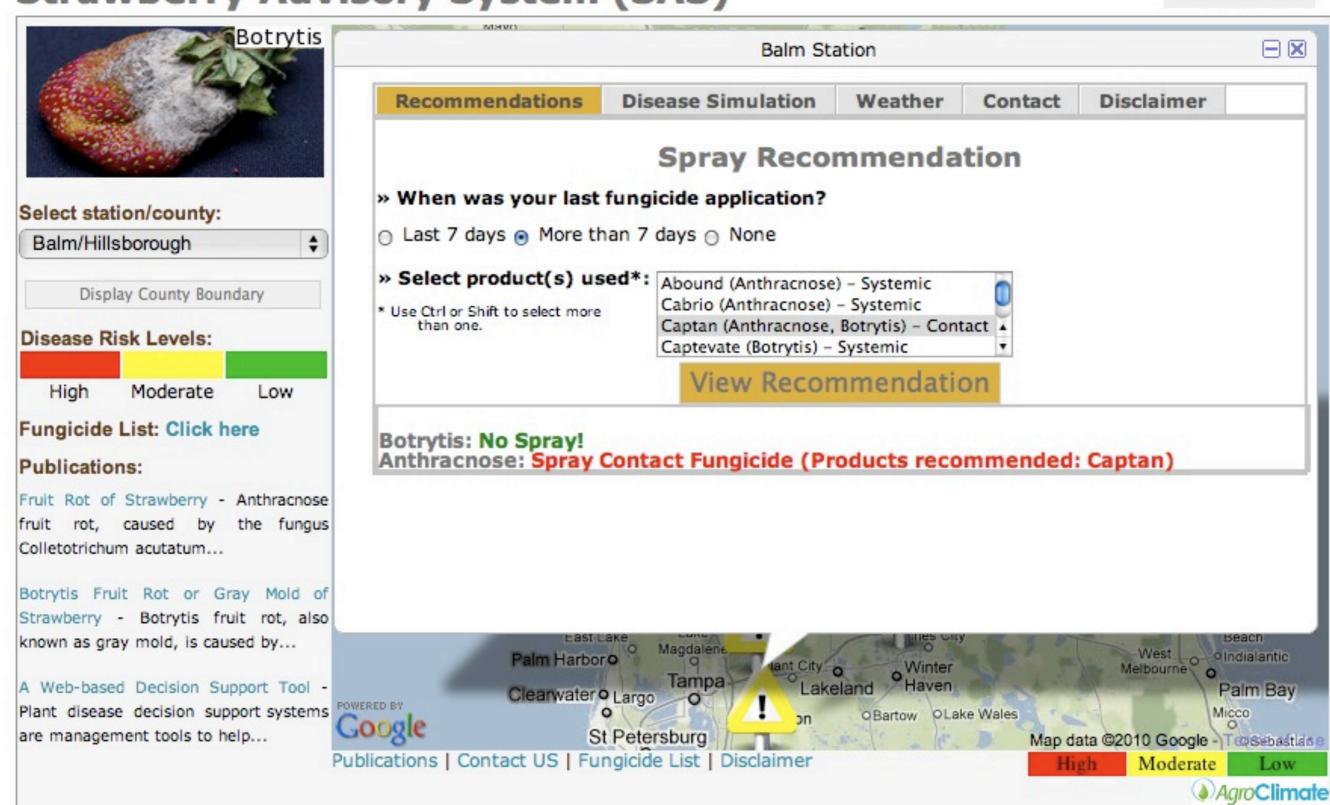




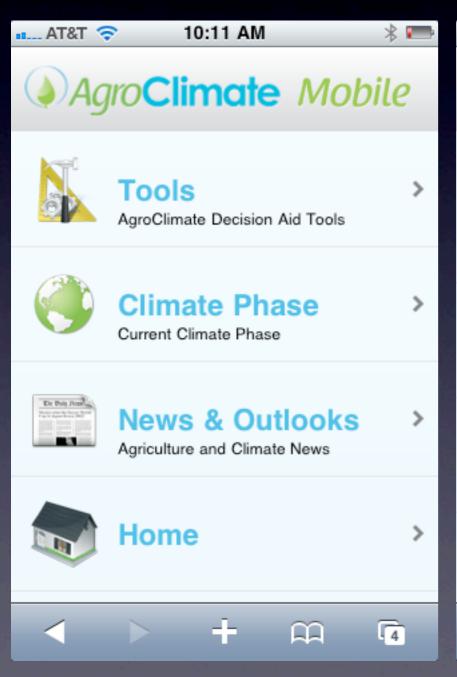
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Strawberry Advisory System (SAS)

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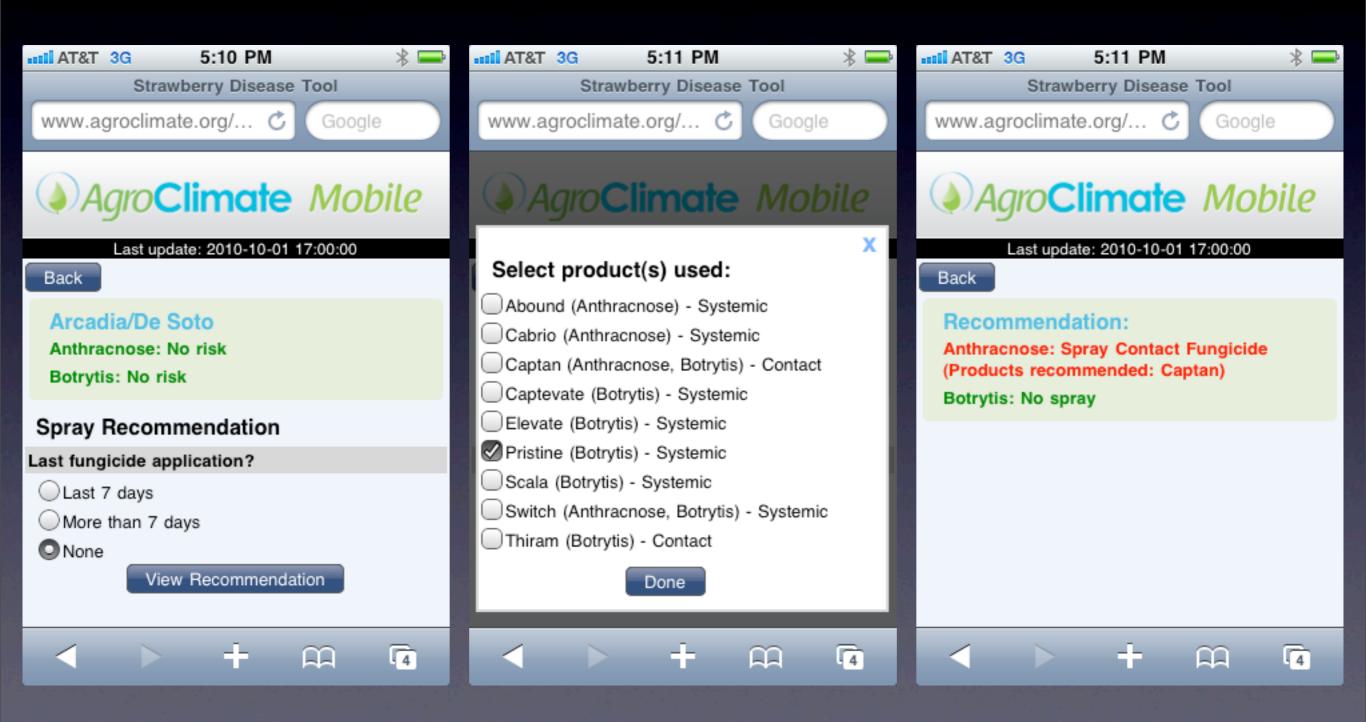
AgroClimate Mobile Strawberry Advisory System



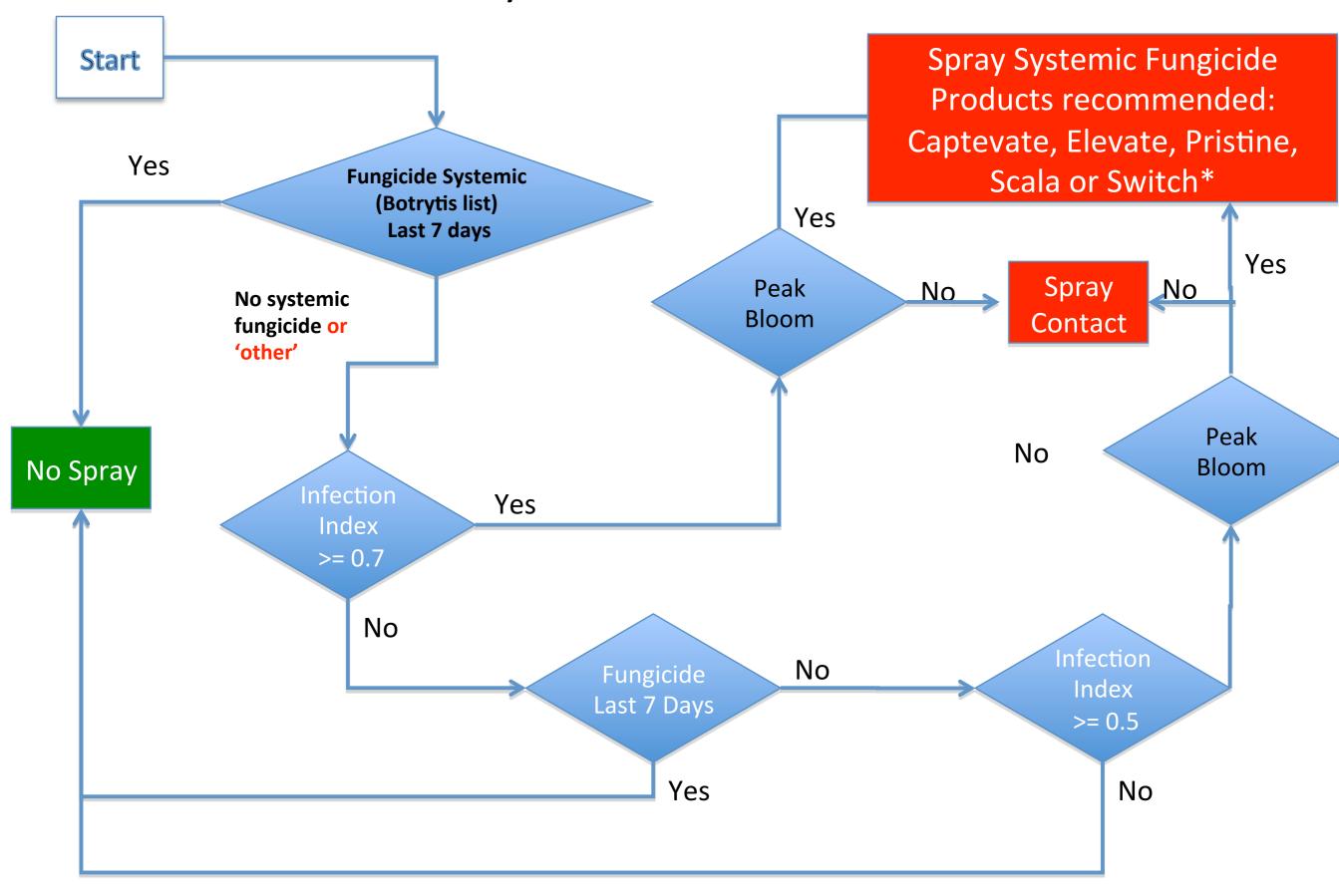


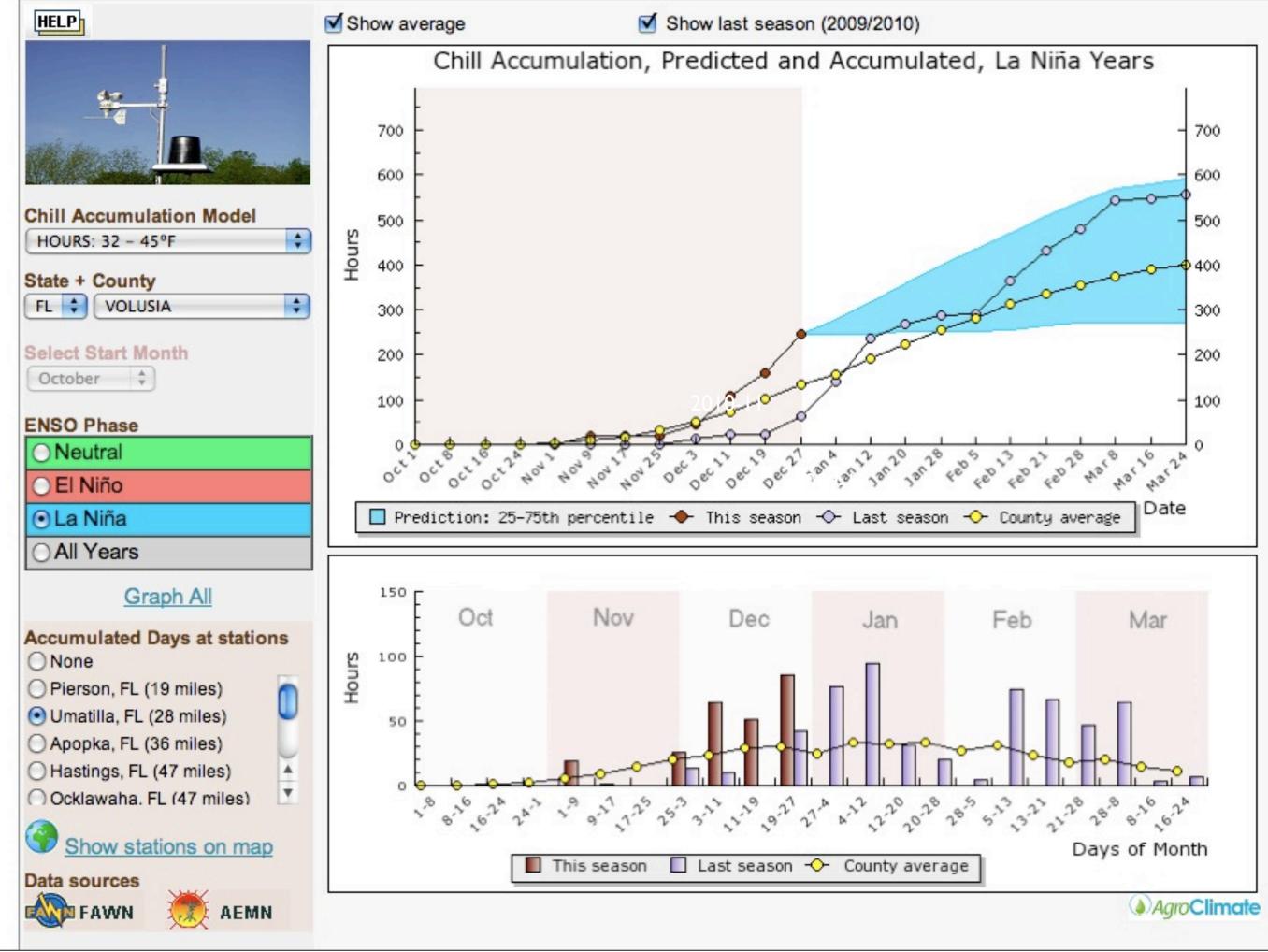


AgroClimate Mobile Strawberry Advisory System

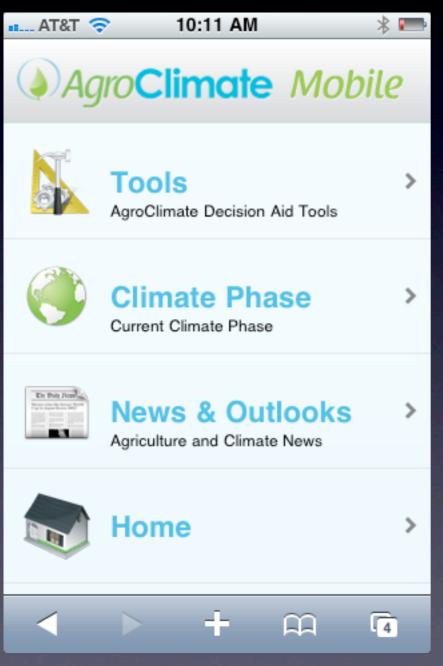


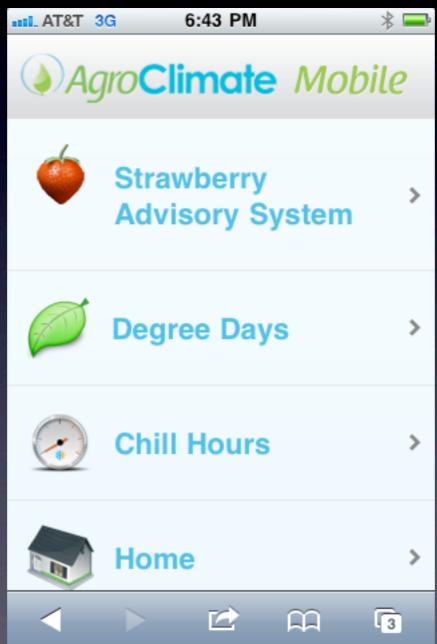
Botrytis Recommendation

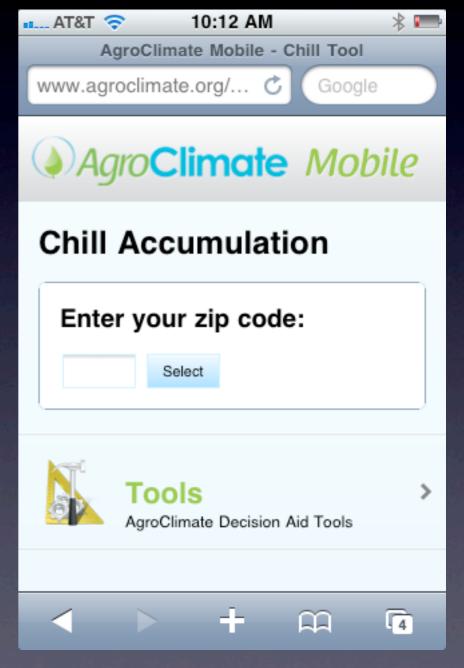




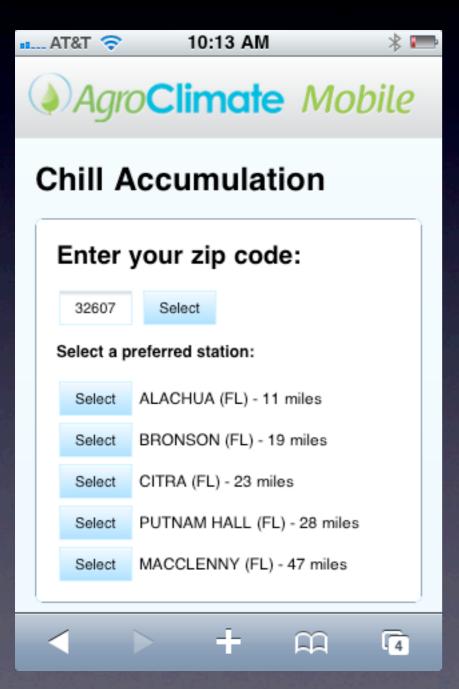
AgroClimate Mobile Chill Hours

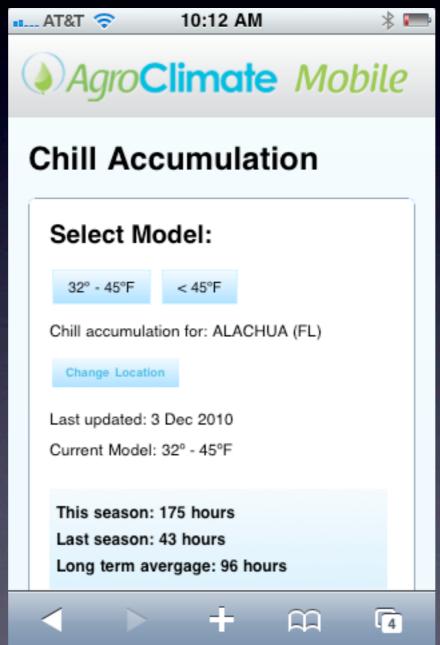


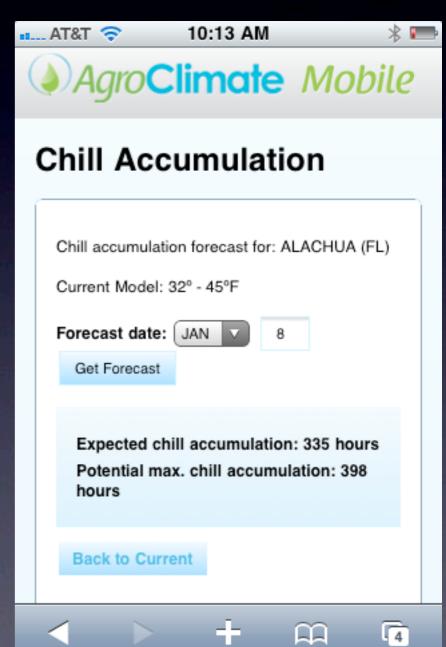




AgroClimate Mobile Chill Hours









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ARID Drought Index

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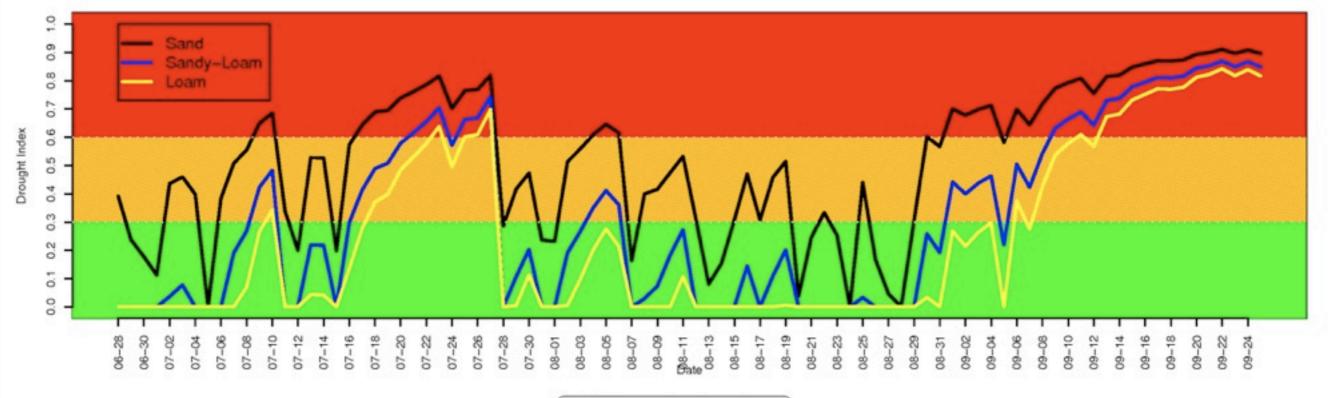
Drought Index Tool

Drought Index Output

Stress Warning | Stress Watch | Little or No Stress

..:: Click here to close this window ::...

Agricultural Reference Index for Drought - Alachua



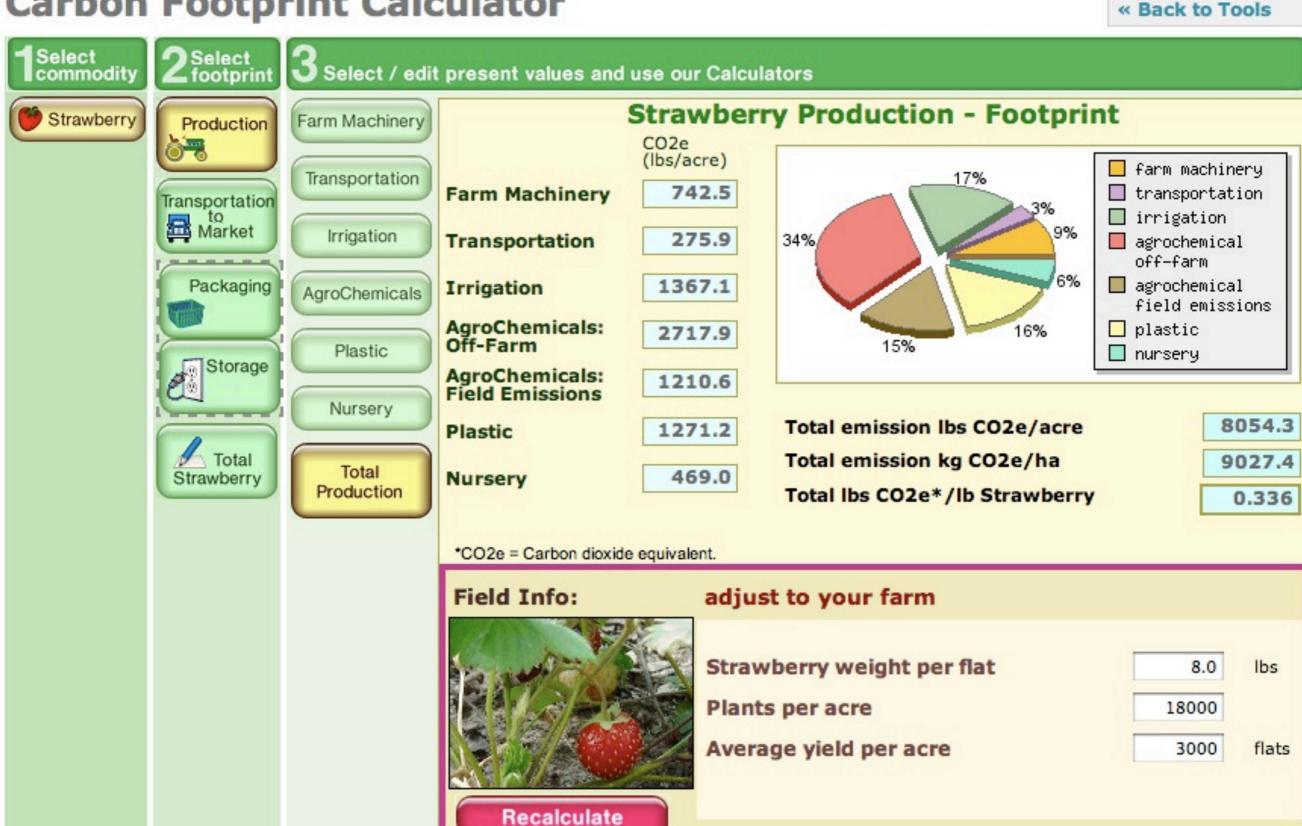
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Carbon Footprint Calculator

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Open AgroClimate



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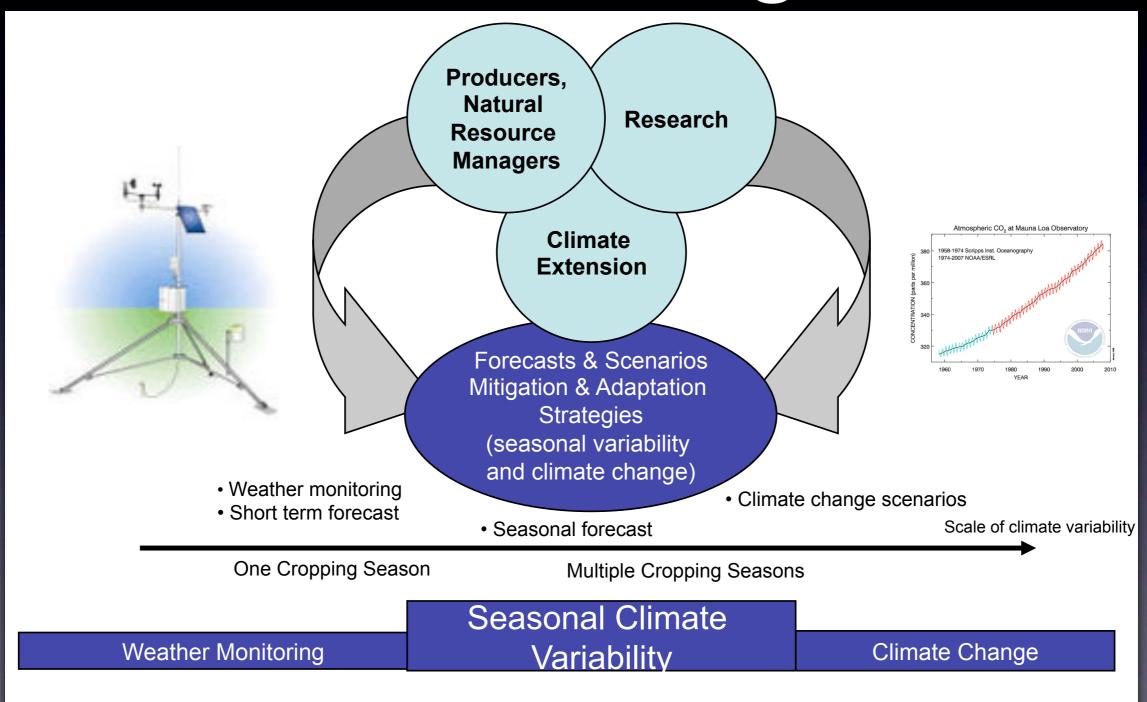


WELCOME

Welcome to Open AgroClimate! This is an Open Source initiative for AgroClimate.org, a climate information and decision support system for managing agricultural and natural resources in the Southeast USA.

The main objective of *Open AgroClimate* is to help ensure that AgroClimate continues to evolve to address a wide range of climate-based crop risk management issues after the original implementation project ends. It will also ensure that that codes are fully documented and follows the best programing standards and database design, facilitating its transfer to other states, countries, and organizations with a minimum effort and at a reduced cost.

Vision for our Climate Extension Program



Thank You!

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