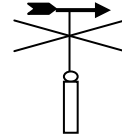




AGROMET ADVISORY SERVICES
Department of Agricultural Meteorology
Kerala Agricultural University
College of Horticulture



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Weather summary of the preceding week:

Maximum temperature during the week at Vellanikkara was 31.6°C while the minimum 22.2°C. Mainly cloudy sky condition prevailed with bright sunshine hours, varying between 0.2 and 9.9 hrs/day. Relative humidity varied between 47% and 95%. Wind speed ranged from 2.2 kmph to 4.0 kmph during last week. The total pan evaporation during last week was 21.6 mm. An amount of 17.7 mm rainfall was received in one rainy day.

Weather forecast valid up to 16th November 2007:

Partly cloudy sky condition will prevail. Easterly wind with speed in the range of 4-6 kmph is expected. Maximum temperature will be 32.1°C and minimum temperature 21.5°C. Light rainfall is expected in and around Thrissur district.

Crop information:

Rabi/Mundakan paddy is in pre-tillering/active tillering stage. Rainfed banana is in bunch emergence stage. Irrigated banana is one month old stage. Black pepper is in berry development stage. Early season Cashew is in new flushing stage. Vanilla is in bean harvesting stage. Vegetables are in various stages.

Agroadvisory for the coming week:

Farmers may give priority to moisture conservation measures well in advance to combat moisture stress period in the ensuing months. Mulching is an effective method of conserving soil moisture. Mulch the basins of coconut, arecanut, nutmeg and cashew with coir pith or locally available dried plant materials to preserve moisture.

Irrigation may be given to nendran banana @ 40litres/plant once in two days and coconut @ 140litres/palm once in three days. The amount of irrigation water may vary depending upon the soil type and soil moisture status.

The menace of fruit fly in bitter gourd and snake gourd can be averted by the use of banana fruit traps coupled with manual removal and destruction of infected fruits. Sucking pests like white fly, aphids which are causal organism for crinkling of leaves and vector for mosaic disease too, can be controlled by installing yellow stick trap smeared with castor oil.

Farmers should be watchful about the incidence of rice bug in paddy, wherever it is in early ear bearing stage. Control measure may be taken preferably by dusting of methyl parathion (2% DP). Since the occurrence of bug coincides with the flowering stage, application of insecticide may be done either before 9 am or after 3 pm so that fertilization of flowers is not adversely affected. It is also advised that, farmers may cautious against leaf folder, stem borer and hoppers attack in paddy.