



DECEMBER WEATHER HISTORY TIDBIT

In 1925 an extremely rare December Hurricane made landfall south of Tampa Bay early in December. It weakened to a tropical storm as it crossed central Florida, and exited around St. Augustine. The storm regained Hurricane strength off Jacksonville. Gale force winds were reported from the Keys to Jacksonville and loss of life exceeded 50, mostly on ships at sea. Damage along the coast south of Jacksonville was heavy, and excessive rain and wind seriously damaged citrus and truck crops.



DECEMBER GARDENING TIPS

Preserve your holiday tree by keeping plenty of fresh water in the tree's basin. Don't place additives, such as bleach, sugar, or aspirin, in the water. When purchasing a poinsettia plant, select one of good quality. Look for brightly colored bracts, green undeveloped flowers growing in the bracts' center, and foliage extending to the soil line. If the weather has been unusually dry, water your outdoor plants and renew their mulch. Relocate less hardy plants in the highest part of your yard since cold rain settles in lower spots. Outdoor potted plants should be brought in from the cold when evening temperatures dip below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. If bringing them inside isn't possible, group them together under an evergreen and add plenty of mulch around and over the roots. This will keep them warmer.

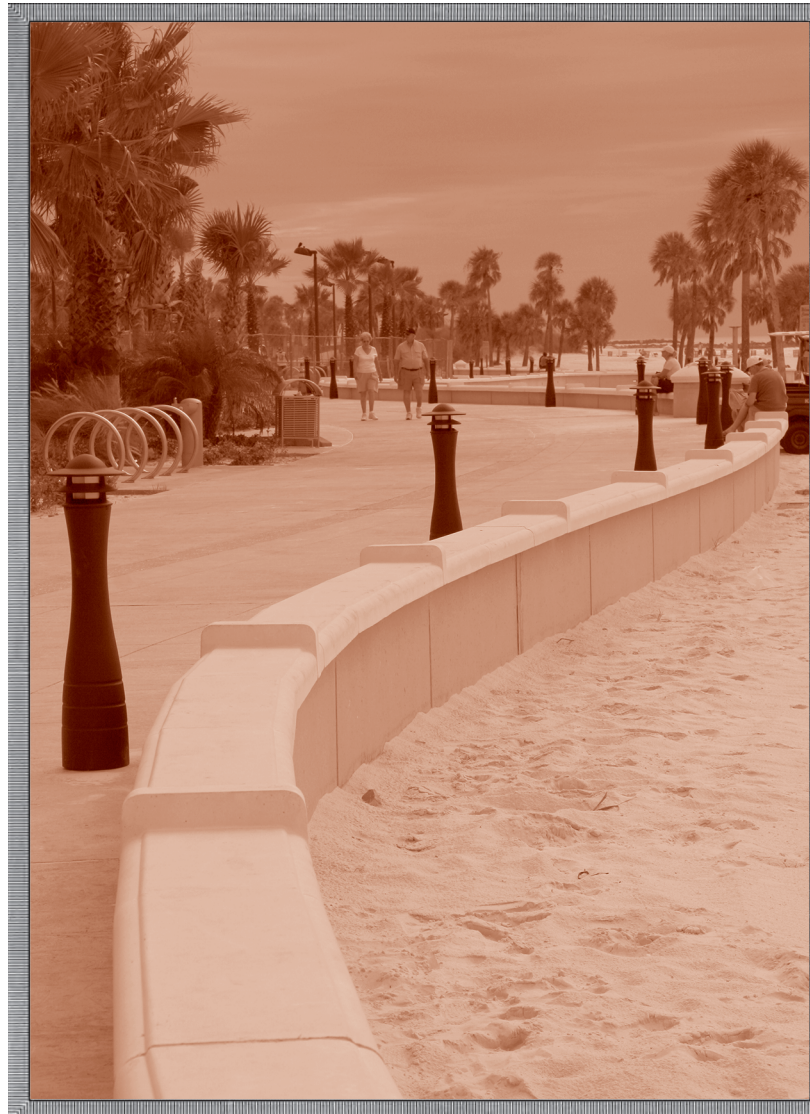


FLORIDA TIDBIT

1995...

Florida observed its 150th anniversary of statehood.

BEACH WALK



A winding new promenade along a half-mile of Clearwater Beach underlines the city's commitment to tourism, its number one industry. The Beach Walk project, that will be complete in 2009, will anchor more than a half-billion dollars in hotel and retail redevelopment along Clearwater's prime beachfront. Coronado Drive is now three lanes and new streetlights, landscaping and sidewalks line the road. Major infrastructure including water, sewer and utility improvements were also accomplished.

Office on Aging and Fire Department partner with agencies to provide the File of Life program.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES

- Treated 4.9 billion gallons of wastewater; received "Gold Awards" for all three city Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plants by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies for three years in a row; and received the American Water Works Association's Outstanding Class B Water Treatment Plant of the Year for the Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant.
- Distributed 4.6 billion gallons of potable water through our system, which is 12.6 million gallons lower per day than last year.
- Installed total chlorine monitors on all three water plant effluents to monitor free chlorine residuals during annual chlorine maintenance procedures.
- Provided reclaimed water to 2,200 customers.
- One operator received Operator of the Year award from the Southeast Desalting Association, and two employees received SEDA Membrane Operations Certifications.
- Wastewater collection crews replaced 2,111 feet of pipe, cleaned 870,000 feet, and examined 130,130 feet of pipe with special underground television scopes to detect problem sources. Sanitary sewer overflows were reduced by 31%, and grease-related sewer overflows went down by 37%.
- Completed several major projects to increase drinking water and water treatment quality.