



Florida Agricultural Statistics Service
 1222 Woodward Street
 Orlando, Florida 32803
 407 / 648-6013

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl>



WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending July 14, 2002

Released 4:00 P.M.

July 15, 2002

WEATHER SUMMARY: Rainfall over nearly all locations in the State helped build up soil moisture supplies during the week of July 7 through July 13. Rainfall totaled from around a half of an inch at Jacksonville to over seven inches at Miami. The rainfall and cloud cover caused average temperatures to range from normal to four degrees below normal at the major stations. Daytime highs averaged mostly from 79 to 83 degrees with most daily maximums in the upper 80s and low 90s. Lows were in the upper 60s and low 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions in the Panhandle improved with scattered showers. However, some Panhandle and northern Peninsula locations remain dry with moisture conditions varying from short to surplus. Showers in the southern Peninsula areas resulted in surplus moisture supplies with the majority of reports showing adequate to surplus moisture for the area. Peanuts are in mostly good condition. Eighty-three percent of the peanuts are pegged, compared to 73 percent pegged by this date last year and the five-year average of 72 percent. The incidence of tomato spotted wilt virus in peanut fields is higher than it has been in several years. A few peanut and hay fields have been sprayed for foliage feeders. Most cotton is looking good to excellent. Rainfall has interrupted some hay making. Tobacco is in good condition with harvesting very active. Delivery points for contracted tobacco are expected to start opening on July 23.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	Percent					
Very short	1	1	2	1	5	1
Short	4	7	11	14	9	31
Adequate	46	63	72	39	57	53
Surplus	49	29	15	46	29	15

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, cattle and pasture conditions are mostly good. In the northern counties, the pasture condition improved to fair and cattle are gaining weight. However, stock ponds are going down. The central area pasture and cattle condition is good. In the west central area, there are some pastures flooded. In the southeast, the cattle and pasture conditions are good, although pastures have not fully recovered from an earlier drought to the point they would normally be at this time of year. Statewide, the cattle are in fair to good condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	Percent			
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	0	0	0	0
Fair	5	15	10	10
Good	85	75	80	90
Excellent	10	10	10	0

CITRUS: This was another wet and soggy week in Florida's citrus belt. There were numerous rains and thunderstorms that left many groves too wet to drive and work in. Most areas reported rainfall accumulations from one to four inch range. However, some growers in the Vero Beach and Fort Pierce areas reported more than five inches of recent rain before this past weekend. Citrus trees are looking very healthy and good with new crop fruit looking excellent and sizing well. The overwhelming majority of the new fruit is regular bloom. The only Valencias and grapefruit being harvested now are going to the fresh squeeze operations. All large processors have closed for the season.

Caretakers are mowing, chopping, and discing cover crops that have made good growth with help of the abundant summer rains. Young trees and resets are being fertilized and herbicided to take advantage of the current ideal growing conditions. The second, third and fourth summer sprays are being applied on some crops being grown for fresh utilization. Hedging and topping continues in all areas.

VEGETABLES: Okra harvesting continues in Miami-Dade County.

To receive this report via e-mail, send message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov with the following message: **subscribeusda-fl-crop-weather your.name** An example: **subscribe usda-fl-crop-weather John Smith**. The report will be e-mailed automatically to your e-mail address each week.

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