

Weather-Crop Report

Week ending July 3, 2005

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Widespread showers crossing from the northern Peninsula down to the southern Peninsula brought substantial rains to many localities during the week of June 27 through July 3. Rainfall ranged from about a quarter of an inch at Tallahassee to a little over ten inches at Jacksonville. Panhandle localities escaped the heavier showers with most areas recording over an inch of rain. Several stations in the northern Peninsula received over five inches of precipitation with MacClenny receiving over eight and half inches. Recorded rainfall in central Peninsula localities ranged from over two and half inches at Pierson to over six inches in Tampa, Tavares and Umatilla. Daily showers in most locations in the southern Peninsula brought from one to over two inches for the week. Temperatures in the major cities hovered around normal to one degree below normal. Daytime highs were in the upper 80s with a few areas creeping up into the lower 90s. Pleasant evening temperatures were mainly in the 70s with some areas recording at least one nighttime low in the 60s.

FIELD CROPS: Field work in many areas was suspended due to continuous rains this past week. Tobacco harvesting is underway in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula localities. Cucumber mosaic virus and tomato spot wilt virus have been reported in some tobacco fields due to excessive rains which have lowered the quality of leaves in some northern Peninsula fields. Cucumber mosaic virus has also affected some row crops in the northern Peninsula where aphids have been reported. Peanuts and cotton in Jackson County have benefited from the rains which have boosted growth as well as development. However, rains in some areas of Madison County have flooded peanut fields while other areas with sandy soils are in good condition. Overall peanut condition is 1 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 2 percent fair, 85 percent good and 11 percent excellent. The peanut crop is 40 percent pegged compared to 69 percent last year and the five year-average of 57 percent. Corn silage harvest began in Suwannee County. Hay baling was not active in many areas due to rains hindering field work. Second applications of weed control are being made along with first fungicide sprays. Topsoil and subsoil moisture in the Panhandle is mostly adequate with a few short and surplus pockets. Areas in the northern Peninsula report mostly adequate to surplus supplies with areas receiving lighter showers reporting some short supplies. Most central and southern Peninsula locations recorded adequate to surplus supplies with Hernando County reporting short to adequate.

Percentage of Peanuts Pegged to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average
40	69	57

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	0	0	5	0	0	5
Short	13	10	17	5	7	19
Adequate	34	65	64	42	70	70
Surplus	53	25	14	53	23	6

VEGETABLES: Continuous showers in some vegetable areas this week slowed field work. There are reports of disease problems in some produce in Madison County. Watermelon supplies are dwindling as more producers finish harvesting. Dade County growers continue to harvest okra. Growers in Leon County report severe problems with insects in tomato fields. Tomato picking is nearing the end in the Quincy area with fewer supplies available. Supplies are declining seasonally with a light supply of cucumbers, eggplant, peppers and potatoes available.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Most pasture in the Panhandle is in good to excellent condition. However, pasture in some locations is in poor condition due to too much rain. Excessive rains made haymaking virtually impossible in some central and northern Peninsula localities. Growers in Osceola County are concerned that if moisture persists cattle condition will begin to deteriorate due to poor forage conditions and possible parasite pressures. The rain caused some delays in fertilizer applications in some central Peninsula areas. In the northern counties, rainfall this past week helped grass growth. Cattle in the southwest are in good condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	16	0	4	5
Fair	23	20	15	20
Good	54	70	66	65
Excellent	7	10	15	10

CITRUS: Wet weather conditions are widespread in citrus producing areas across the State. This past week brought more rain to already saturated citrus groves. The most rainfall was recorded in the northern citrus areas at over six inches, while the least recorded was over an inch in the southern citrus areas. Temperatures were in the low 90s during the day, with high humidity. Lakes and canals continue to be at their highest levels since last year's hurricanes. Growers in most areas report trees in good condition with new growth progressing well. Oranges are golf ball size, while grapefruit are about two to three times as large. Cultural practices have been hampered, but as weather permits growers are continuing maintenance to include fertilizations, mowing, mechanical and chemical weed control, and the resetting of young trees. Many growers are pumping out excess water in heavily drenched groves. Valencia orange weekly harvest is declining as we near the end of the season.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Jun 19	Jun 26	Jul 03
In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes			
Valencia oranges	2,496	1,861	896