

Weather Crop Report

Week ending October 2, 2005

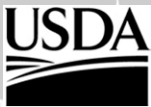
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WEATHER SUMMARY: Storms from the remnants of Hurricane Rita slowed some field activities in the western Panhandle during the week of September 26 through October 2. The clash of the sea breezes brought much needed showers to some Peninsula localities while rain from tropical disturbances soaked extreme southern Peninsula areas. Monticello and Tampa reported no rainfall, while Pensacola reported almost six inches. Miami and Ft. Lauderdale reported four to almost six inches of rain for the week. Elsewhere, rain totaled from less than two tenths of an inch at Apopka and Macclenny to over three inches at Pierson and Immokalee. Temperatures for the week averaged normal to six degrees above. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s. Nighttime lows were in the 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Storms and the threat of rain stalled peanut harvesting over the northern Peninsula and the Panhandle. In Washington County, severe infestations of tomato spotted wilt virus greatly reduced peanut yield. Peanut condition was rated 3 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 40 percent good and 25 percent excellent. Peanut digging was 35 percent finished by October 2, compared with 47 percent last year and the five year average of 49 percent dug by this date. In Jefferson County, rainfall delayed cotton field work. In Washington County, cotton growers expect picking to start within the next five to seven days. In some Jefferson County orchards with good scab control, pecan trees have a higher than average crop with nuts filling. Scab infestations caused lots of nuts to drop from trees having less control. In the eastern Panhandle and the northern Peninsula, most topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies were rated very short to mostly short. Elsewhere, moisture supplies were rated short to mostly adequate. Okaloosa, Holmes, Union, Hernando and Okeechobee counties reported some areas with surplus moisture, while Holmes and Madison reported spots of very short moisture.



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Percentage of Peanuts Harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average
35	47	49

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	3	4	1	3	3	1
Short	24	25	16	21	27	12
Adequate	67	68	47	65	60	46
Surplus	6	3	36	11	10	41

VEGETABLES: Storms delayed some planting in the central and southern Peninsula with most on schedule. In the Hastings area, drier conditions allowed cabbage planting to continue on schedule with most summer cover crops chopped at least one time. Okra cutting continued between showers in Dade County. Pickle harvesting got underway in the central and southern Peninsula. Tomato picking around Quincy remained active. Sweet corn picking is expected to begin in the next three to five days in the northern and central Peninsula.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Pasture in the Panhandle ranges from fair to good. Some locations are in poor condition due to drought. Winter forage planting was delayed by hot temperatures. In other locations, which received rain last week, pasture is in good condition and normal fall planting preparations continue. The cattle condition is mostly fair. The pasture condition in the northern counties is poor to fair, and cattle condition is mostly fair. In the central areas, pasture condition is poor to excellent with most in fair condition. While rainfall was good for pastures, weed problems lowered quality. In the southwest, pasture condition is poor to good with rainfall needed. Statewide, most of the cattle 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	15	20	5	5
Fair	40	35	25	30
Good	40	40	65	60
Excellent	5	5	5	5

CITRUS: Temperatures were still slightly above normal for this time of year, reaching the low 90s in all areas except on the east coast which only reached 88 degrees. Rainfall ranged from a quarter of an inch in Tavares to almost three inches on the west coast. Trees are in good condition with rain falling in most areas on two to three days a week. Light irrigation took place to compensate for any shortfall of precipitation. Fruit splitting does not appear to be a problem this year. Some of the early oranges and grapefruit are showing good color break. Grove managers applied fall miticides, cleaned middles, pulled vines and mowed in preparation to move into the picking season. Four fresh fruit packing houses were open with more planning to be open by the middle of October. Varieties packed included Fallglo tangerines, Ambersweet, colored grapefruit and a few Navels.

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