

Weather Crop Report

Week ending October 23 2005

WILMA HALTED SOME ACTIVITY END OF WEEK

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Dry conditions over the Panhandle and some southern Peninsula localities during the week of October 17 through 23 let peanut, cotton and vegetable harvests accelerate rapidly. Elsewhere, sporadic rains left some areas wet, others dry. Rainfall for the week ranged from none in several Panhandle and Peninsula areas, to three and one-third inches in Okahumpka. Temperatures averaged two to five degrees above normal in the major cities. Daytime highs were in the 80s with a few spots recording at least one high in the 90s. Nighttime lows were in the 50s, 60s and 70s with Marianna and Jay recording at least one low in the 40s.

FIELD CROPS: Soils dried in many locations due to the lack of rain. Moisture supplies in some Panhandle and northern Peninsula were rated mostly short to adequate with some pockets of very short supplies. Soil moisture supplies throughout the central and southern Peninsula were rated short to adequate with some spots of surplus supplies. Dry soils hindered the digging of some peanuts, especially in Washington County. Elsewhere, low humidity along with minimal traces of precipitation allowed peanut harvesting to advance at a steady pace. Cotton harvesting proceeded at a rapid pace in Washington County. Hay baling was active.

Percentage of Peanuts Harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average
85	89	90

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	6	5	1	7	4	0
Short	45	35	11	40	22	4
Adequate	27	48	57	28	62	65
Surplus	22	12	31	25	12	31

VEGETABLES: Strawberry transplanting remained active in the Plant City area. In the Quincy area, fall tomato harvest continued as harvesting gained momentum in the central and southern Peninsula. Other vegetables available included snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, squash and watermelons. Most planting and harvesting over the Peninsula paused near the end of the week to avoid damage from Hurricane Wilma.



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LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, the planting of small grains for winter grazing continued. Planting of winter grazing needed moisture and cooler temperatures to sprout and grow. The permanent pasture condition is declined, but plenty of forage remained available. Rainfall was needed at most locations. Statewide, the cattle condition was rated fair to good.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	10	10	0	0
Fair	30	30	25	25
Good	50	50	60	60
Excellent	10	10	15	15

CITRUS: Summer rather than fall weather conditions prevailed over the citrus areas this past week as all eyes watched the development and projected track of Hurricane Wilma. Temperatures continued above normal levels with most areas reporting at least some rainfall. Rain amounts varied greatly from traces in northern areas to over three inches in east coast and southern areas. Lakes and canals were at high levels and growers and caretakers lowered lateral ditches and canals levels where possible in preparation for more rain from Hurricane Wilma. At the end of the week, the hurricane was projected to cross the State on Monday in the lower southern areas of the citrus belt. Limited harvest continued mostly for fresh shipments. Varieties picked included Navel and Ambersweet oranges, Fallglo tangerines, and grapefruit.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Oct 9	Oct 16	Oct 23
In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes			
Navel oranges	19	30	88
Early and Mid oranges	12	13	41
Grapefruit	29	20	79
Tangerines	53	68	124

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