

PEANUT PLANTING BEHIND NORMAL PROGRESS

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Rains fell over various parts of the northern, central and southern Peninsula and over some Panhandle localities during the first few days of the week of May 15 through 21. Rain amounts totaled from traces to nearly six inches at Miami. However, the rains missed some areas with Alachua, Bronson, Carrabelle, Citra, Hastings, Jay and Putnam Hall reporting no rainfall for the week. Temperatures in the major cities averaged normal to three degrees below for the week. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s while nighttime lows were in the 50s and 60s. Alachua, Bronson, Citra, MacClenny and Ocklawaha recorded at least one low in the 40s. Wild fire danger remained high in all areas, except for most of the Panhandle.

FIELD CROPS: Recent rainfall allowed peanut and cotton planting to get back on schedule in most areas. Peanut planting is 30 percent finished compared with 51 percent planted by this date last year, and the five-year average of 59 percent completed. Extremely dry soils earlier in the season, along with high fuel costs, caused some significant delays in planting. Soil moisture in the Panhandle was rated mostly adequate. Over the northern Peninsula, including the Big Bend area, soil moisture was rated mostly short. For the central and southern Peninsula, soil moisture was rated mostly very short.

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| Percentage of peanuts planted to date: | | |
|--|-----------|-----------------|
| This year | Last year | 5-year average. |
| 30 | 51 | 59 |

| Moisture Rating | Topsoil | | | Subsoil | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | This week | Last week | Last year | This week | Last week | Last Year |
| | <i>Percent</i> | | | | | |
| Very short | 53 | 35 | 5 | 45 | 35 | 1 |
| Short | 30 | 40 | 51 | 30 | 30 | 28 |
| Adequate | 17 | 21 | 43 | 25 | 35 | 70 |
| Surplus | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

VEGETABLES: Tomatoes around Quincy are in good condition with producers planning to start picking during the first week in June. Dry conditions for most of the season helped keep vegetable diseases under control, especially in Madison County. The recent rain briefly interrupted some harvesting over the central and southern Peninsula at the start of the week with most activity back on schedule by the end. Producers continued to market products for the Memorial Day demand. Growers nearly finished the picking of blueberries. A truck shortage hampered some melon movement. Squash and celery harvesting slowed seasonally. Other vegetables and non citrus fruit marketed during the week included beans, cantaloupes, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, potatoes, radishes and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, most pasture and hay fields are looking better after receiving rain the last several weeks. Summer pasture is becoming productive again. Most of the cattle in the Panhandle are in excellent condition. In the North, hay and pastures are showing the effects of the drought. Most of the cattle are in very poor to poor condition. Livestock still require hay in some locations. In the central areas, pasture condition is mostly poor to fair, with the cattle in fair to good condition. In the southwest, pasture condition is very poor to fair due to drought. Statewide, cattle condition varies from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition.

| Condition | Cattle | | Pasture | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | This week | Last week | This week | Last Week |
| <i>Percent</i> | | | | |
| Very poor | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Poor | 20 | 25 | 60 | 60 |
| Fair | 45 | 65 | 25 | 30 |
| Good | 25 | 10 | 5 | 5 |
| Excellent | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 |

CITRUS: Citrus areas had a mixture of rainfall and cooler weather early in the week, but returned to the hot and dry conditions the State has been experiencing since the beginning of the year. A high of 94 degrees was reached in Sebring, followed by 93 degrees in Lake Alfred and Ona. All areas in the citrus belt are five to ten inches of rainfall below average for the year and groves which are not well-cared-for continue to deteriorate and show signs of stress. Valencia estimated harvest is running less than five million boxes weekly, and will continue to be picked heavily into June in order to reach complete utilization. The current outlook for harvest labor is still in question as the season progresses. Growers are applying copper sprays to control citrus canker, applying nutritional sprays, mowing and removing brush from groves. Grapefruit harvest is winding down for the season, with less than fifty thousand boxes being picked last week. Honey tangerine utilization has been below one hundred thousand boxes the last two weeks, being picked primarily for the fresh market.

| ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| Crop | May 07 | May 15 | May 22 |
| <i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i> | | | |
| Valencia | 5,062 | 4,785 | 3,622 |
| Grapefruit | 136 | 67 | 13 |
| Honey Tangerines | 117 | 98 | 78 |

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