

Weather Crop Report

Week ending June 11, 2006

DROUGHT CONDITIONS HALT FIELD WORK; RAIN DESPERATELY NEEDED

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Dry, hot weather increased the danger of wildfire during the week of June 5 through 11. Wild fire outbreaks continued as drought conditions persist. Daytime temperatures ranged from the lower to upper 90s. Evening lows were in the 50s and 60s. Temperatures at the major cities were mostly normal with Tallahassee one degree below normal. Most areas from the Panhandle down to the central Peninsula received rains under half an inch with Pierson receiving three quarters of an inch of rain. Fort Lauderdale, Hastings and Immokalee recorded over an inch of precipitation for the week. Homestead and Miami received over two inches.

FIELD CROPS: Most fieldwork across the State has been halted due to severe drought conditions. Ample rains are needed to help aid crop development. Rains are desperately needed in the Panhandle for growers to complete peanut planting. Some growers have had to reduce peanut planting due to extreme dry weather in western Panhandle localities. Some growers in Jackson County are applying herbicides and fungicides to irrigated peanuts. Peanut planting is 92 percent finished compared with 98 percent planted by this date last year and the five-year average of 96 percent completed. Deer in Escambia County have destroyed several acres of cotton as well as peanuts. Cotton is in fair to good condition in Jackson County with limited growth due to hot, dry weather. In Jefferson County, cotton and peanuts are in good condition despite the dry weather, with bloom period for cotton expected by early July. Hay fields are suffering and not producing as they should by this time of year due to drought conditions in some Panhandle fields. Washington County expects significant losses of corn in addition to other crops if substantial rains do not come soon. Topsoil and subsoil moisture across the State is mostly very short to short.

Percentage of peanuts planted to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
92	98	96

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	54	40	1	51	33	0
Short	24	30	1	25	22	2
Adequate	22	30	55	24	45	63
Surplus	0	0	43	0	0	35

VEGETABLES: Most supplies are declining seasonally with hot, dry temperatures limiting plant growth. Watermelon harvesting is underway in the Panhandle. Irrigated watermelons are in excellent condition; however, dryland melons are suffering. Other vegetables are below average in yield due to drought and heat conditions in Washington County. Watermelons yields are in good condition in Jackson County with minimal disease pressure. Okra harvesting is active in Dade County. Potato harvesting is progressing ahead of schedule in Putnam County. Other vegetables and non-citrus fruit harvested included cantaloupes, sweet corn, potatoes and tomatoes. Producers also marketed light supplies of cucumbers, eggplant and peppers.



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LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition is mostly fair. Pastures and hay fields are really suffering from drought. Pasture is declining fast. Most cattle are in fair to good condition. In the central area, pasture condition is mostly poor, and cattle condition is mostly fair. In the southwest area, condition of the pasture and cattle are mostly fair. Statewide, range and pasture is in poor to fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	0	15	10
Poor	10	15	35	35
Fair	50	50	40	30
Good	30	20	10	25
Excellent	5	15	0	0

CITRUS: Temperatures across the citrus belt continue to be hot with mostly dry and humid conditions all week. Highs reached 97 degrees in several locations last week. Thunderstorms during the week were widely scattered with all areas recording some rainfall. On Saturday the 10th, the first tropical storm of the season (Alberto) formed in the lower Gulf and moved north. By Sunday the 11th, rainfall bands had moved through the lower west coast and interior areas bringing light amounts of rainfall. Some rains associated with the storm were received in all areas except the east coast. Rainfall totals for the week ranged up to 2 inches in Immokalee, but averaged only one-half inch elsewhere. All citrus areas are still well below average rainfall for the year and non-irrigated groves continue to show signs of stress. Valencia estimated harvest has dropped below five million boxes weekly and harvest labor shortages continue to be reported. Activity in the groves has slowed, with some growers applying copper sprays to control citrus canker, seasonal nutritional sprays, and mowing and removing brush from groves. Grapefruit and Honey tangerine harvest is mostly over for the season. Many packinghouses are closed with only Valencia oranges being packed in declining weekly volume.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	May 28	June 4	June 11
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Valencia	4,923	4,493	3,715
Grapefruit	42	6	6
Honey Tangerines	28	9	2

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