

Weather Crop Report

Growers Welcome Rains from Tropical Storm Alberto

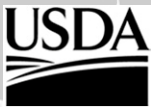
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WEATHER SUMMARY: Growers welcomed needed rains from Tropical Storm Alberto during the week of June 12 through 18. Alberto formed in the Gulf of Mexico and brought showers to most areas across the Panhandle and Peninsula as the storm moved northward. Rains eased drought conditions slightly and reduced the threat of potential wildfire outbreaks; however, more substantial rains are still needed. Rainfall ranged from traces at Homestead to nearly seven inches at Carrabelle. Bronson, Fort Lauderdale, Fort Pierce, Immokalee and Jay received less than an inch of rain. Several localities such as Alachua, Citra, Frostproof, Lake Alfred, Live Oak, MacClenny, Monticello and Ona received over three inches of rain. Major stations reporting over three inches of rain included Daytona Beach, Jacksonville, Tallahassee and Tampa. Apopka and Dover received over four inches of rain and Umatilla received over five inches. Balm recorded over six and a half inches of rain for the week. Temperatures for the week averaged from two degrees below normal at Tallahassee to two degrees above normal at other major cities. Daytime highs were in the upper 80s and lower to mid 90s. Evening lows were in the 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Tropical Storm Alberto delayed some field activities; however, most harvesting remains on schedule. More rains are still needed to elevate soil moisture supplies. Rains have softened hard soils and allowed some growers to finish planting crops. Growers in Jefferson County expect to plant the remainder of the peanut crop by the end of this week. Peanuts, corn and soybeans are looking better after rains in Madison County with no damage reported. The percent of peanuts pegged is 17 percent versus 12 percent last year and the five-year average of 34 percent. Rains may have come a little too late for a significant portion of corn acreage due to prior moisture stress in Jefferson County. Deer continue to destroy cropland in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. In Jefferson County, hay fields are recovering following the rains. Despite the rainfall, topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies across the Panhandle are rated mostly very short to short. Soil moisture supplies throughout the Peninsula are mostly short to adequate. Dade County reported very short to surplus soil moisture.



United States
Department
Of Agriculture



National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

Florida
Field
Office

Benjamin F. Klugh, Jr.
Director
407/648-6013

Florida Department
of Agriculture and
Consumer Services,
Division of Marketing
and Development

Percentage of peanuts pegged to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
17	12	34

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	18	54	1	10	51	0
Short	40	24	3	65	25	1
Adequate	42	22	53	25	24	58
Surplus	0	0	43	0	0	41

VEGETABLES: Rains from Alberto slowed some field work at the beginning of the week. Tomato harvesting around Quincy was delayed due to showers with no damage to crops reported. Growers are concluding tomato harvesting in central and southern Peninsula localities as the season ends. Okra harvesting remains active in Dade County. Most potato producers in the Hastings region finished field work before the storm could hamper digging. Watermelon harvesting was active. Growers marketed light supplies of cantaloupes, cucumbers and eggplant.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Most pasture throughout the State benefited from the rain of Tropical Storm Alberto. Pasture condition is still poor to fair due to drought. In the Panhandle, cattle condition is poor to good with most in fair condition. In the northern areas, the grass has not yet started to grow following the rain. Cattle condition is very poor to fair with most in fair condition. In the central areas, most of the cattle are in fair condition. Statewide, most range and pasture is in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last Week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	5	10	15
Poor	10	10	35	35
Fair	65	50	50	40
Good	20	30	5	10
Excellent	0	5	0	0

CITRUS: The first tropical storm of the season (Alberto) formed in the lower Gulf the previous week and moved north entering the State just south and east of Tallahassee. Monday and Tuesday brought varying amounts of rainfall to most citrus areas from bands that moved from south to north. Areas around the Tampa and Bradenton area received over six inches of rain for the week with southern and interior areas up to three inches. East coast areas received the least amounts. All citrus areas are still below average rainfall for the year. Temperatures were moderate the first of the week as the storm brought windy and rainy weather. Later in the week, temperatures returned to more normal levels with highs reaching into the low and mid 90s. Late in the week, cloudy conditions with light showers moved over the State. Valencia estimated harvest has dropped below four 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. Harvest is over for all varieties except Valencia oranges and small amounts of grapefruit and Honey tangerines.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	June 4	June 11	June 18
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Valencia	4,493	3,715	2,520
Grapefruit	6	6	6
Honey Tangerines	9	2	0

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