

Weather Crop Report

Week ending July 16, 2006

PANHANDLE RAINS PROVIDE SOME DROUGHT RELIEF

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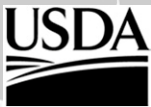
WEATHER SUMMARY: Scattered rains brought welcomed moisture to some spots of the Panhandle during the week of July 10 through 16; however, many Panhandle areas remained dry. Rainfall for the week varied from traces, mainly in the Panhandle, to over four inches at Homestead. Some inland areas of the southern Peninsula recorded unofficial totals of eight inches or more, while Monticello reported no measurable rain. In localities receiving rain, most reported from a quarter to one and a half inches for the week. Temperatures in the major cities averaged from two degrees below to one degree above normal. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s. Nighttime lows were in the 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: In Jackson County, continued dry conditions caused widespread infestations of lesser cornstalk borer in non-irrigated peanut fields; cotton condition is reportedly fair but most plants have not made normal vegetative growth. In Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, cotton averages fifteen inches in height and is blooming; peanuts show little growth. Statewide, peanut condition is rated 16 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 26 percent good and 1 percent excellent. Peanuts are 65 percent pegged compared with 75 percent last year and the five-year average of 80 percent pegged by this date. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies were rated mostly very short to short in the Panhandle with areas of adequate soil moisture reported in Holmes County. Elsewhere, soil moisture was rated short to adequate with spots of surplus moisture reported for Marion, Lee and Dade counties.

Percentage of peanuts pegging to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
65	75	80

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	17	25	0	20	23	0
Short	37	28	4	40	50	2
Adequate	39	45	47	35	25	46
Surplus	7	2	49	5	2	52

VEGETABLES: Okra harvesting remained active in Dade County. Light supplies of grape tomatoes were also available. Ground preparations for fall crop planting continued in central and southern areas.



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LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition is very poor to good, but most are poor due to drought. Stock ponds are very low or dry. In the central areas, pasture condition is fair to good. In the southwest, pasture is fair to good with most in fair condition. Statewide, cattle ranges from poor to excellent with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last Week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	5	5	10
Poor	10	5	15	30
Fair	50	60	50	30
Good	35	25	25	25
Excellent	5	5	5	5

CITRUS: Afternoon and early evening showers several days during the week brought one and a half inches of rain just south of Tampa and less than one inch to all other monitored citrus areas across the State. High temperatures the past week were in the low to mid 90s in all areas, except Ft. Pierce which recorded 89 degrees; Lake Alfred recorded the highest temperature at 95 degrees. Growers have irrigated often throughout the year to keep the new crop and new growth on the trees in good condition. Fruit is progressing well with oranges about golf-ball size and grapefruit running on average about baseball size. Valencia harvest, although slowing down, is still going on for the season. Juice processing plants will stay open another week or so to get as many of the remaining Valencia oranges as possible. Activity in the groves includes applications of copper sprays for canker and disease control, nutritional sprays, cleaning ditches, fertilizing, mowing and irrigation.

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