

HELPFUL RAINS IN THE PANHANDLE

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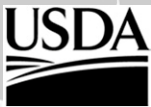
WEATHER SUMMARY: Panhandle growers welcomed scattered rains during the week of July 24 through 30. However, rainfall was spotty over the eastern half of the Peninsula with several southeastern localities reporting only traces of rainfall for the week. Rainfall ranged from traces at Ft. Pierce and Palmdale to over two and a quarter inches at Jay. Hot temperatures prevailed in most localities with daytime highs averaging in the 90s. Tampa reported one daytime high at 102 degrees. Nighttime lows were in the 60s and 70s. Temperatures for the week averaged from normal to two degrees above in the major cities.

FIELD CROPS: Rainfall over the Panhandle boosted growth and development of some peanut and cotton acreage. In Santa Rosa County, some dryland peanut pegs burned off due to earlier dry conditions with some plants not developing any nuts. Statewide, peanut condition is rated 15 percent very poor, 40 percent poor, 35 percent fair and 10 percent good. Peanuts are 95 percent pegged compared with 97 percent last year and the five-year average of 92 percent pegged by this date. Statewide, topsoil moisture supplies were rated short to mostly adequate while subsoil moisture was rated very short to mostly short. Both topsoil and subsoil moisture improved in the Panhandle but areas with very short moisture still exist in the region. Areas with surplus moisture still exist in Dade and Hernando counties.

Percentage of peanuts pegged to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
95	97	92

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	5	22	3	10	26	0
Short	30	43	16	50	51	15
Adequate	64	34	65	39	22	60
Surplus	1	1	16	1	1	25

VEGETABLES: Dade County producers continued to market light amounts of okra during the week. Ground preparation and planting of fall crops is increasing slowly over the central and southern Peninsula.



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LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, pasture condition is very poor to good. Grass in many locations has grown following recent rains. In the north and Big Bend areas, pasture condition is mostly poor due to prolonged drought. Pasture in the central area is fair to good. In the southwest, pasture condition is fair to good. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from poor to excellent. The cattle in the Panhandle and north are in poor to fair condition and those in the central and south are in fair to good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	5	5	10
Poor	10	5	5	5
Fair	55	50	30	50
Good	30	35	55	35
Excellent	5	5	5	0

CITRUS: Afternoon thunderstorms accompanied by light rainfall brought small amounts of precipitation to citrus producing areas. Some areas around Tampa had over an inch of rain for the week. All other citrus areas recorded a half inch or less. Hot temperatures prevailed in most localities with daytime highs averaging in the 90s. Lake Alfred reported one daytime high at 96 degrees. Nighttime lows were in the high 60s and low 70s. Growers are still irrigating where there is little rain in order to keep the new crop and new growth on the trees in good condition. Fruit sizes have been reported as variable, with average oranges about golf-ball size and grapefruit about baseball size. Many smaller fruit sizes are also being found on healthy trees. Activity in the groves includes applications of summer oils, cleaning ditches, fertilizing, mowing and some irrigation.

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