

Weather Crop Report

Week ending August 27, 2006

DESPITE HEAVY SHOWERS MORE RAINS NEEDED

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Heavy scattered showers brought significant rains to some localities by mid-week across the State during August 21 through 27, but several areas still remain dry. Rainfall ranged from about only half an inch at Live Oak to the highest recorded rainfall at Apopka with nearly nine inches. Several areas across Florida received over one and two inches of precipitation. Localities receiving over three inches of rain included Bronson, Homestead, Jay, Lake Alfred, Okahumpka, Ona, Pierson and West Palm Beach. Jacksonville and Palmdale recorded over four inches of precipitation. Miami received over eight and half inches of rain for the week. Temperatures at the major stations averaged around normal to three degrees above normal in Jacksonville to two degrees below normal in Miami. Hot daytime temperatures were in the upper 80s and 90s. Nighttime temperatures were in the 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Despite precipitation last week, several areas are still in need of rains to aid crop development. Peanut harvest in the Panhandle, as well as in the northern Peninsula, will be behind schedule this year due to drought. Scattered showers helped some peanut growth in some localities, but drought conditions still continue to reduce yields significantly. Peanut growers expect yields to decline by nearly 40 to 50 percent this year. Digging is expected to be delayed by nearly a month on older peanuts planted with nut quality very poor. Peanut condition is 15 percent very poor, 33 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 19 percent good and 7 percent excellent. Cotton fields are also suffering with stunting reported in the Panhandle with about 60 percent of the cotton open. Soil moisture supplies in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula are rated very short to adequate. Most topsoil and subsoil moisture in the central and southern Peninsula are rated short to adequate with some spots of surplus supplies.



United States
Department
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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

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	6	20	0	31	25	0
Short	32	30	22	44	25	16
Adequate	60	49	68	22	48	71
Surplus	2	1	11	3	2	13

VEGETABLES: Some fall crop field preparations and planting were delayed by rains last week. Dade County producers marketed light supplies of okra.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, pasture and livestock conditions are mostly fair. Livestock ponds are within inches of being dry. Rainfall has been scattered, therefore pasture condition have only slightly improved for the week. In the northern areas, pasture and cattle condition are mostly good. Some locations received good amounts of rain while other locations saw spotty showers which have not kept up with grass moisture needs. Most pasture in the central areas is in fair condition. In the southwest, pasture ranged from very poor to good with most range in good condition. Statewide, cattle ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	0	5	1
Poor	5	5	10	19
Fair	35	35	40	55
Good	55	55	40	20
Excellent	5	5	5	5

CITRUS: Scattered showers during several days, heavy at times, brought an abundance of rain to citrus producing counties. Apopka, in northern Orange County, recorded almost nine inches of rain for the week. Three out of the seven monitored counties recorded over three inches of rain for the week. Daytime highs dropped towards the end of the week as a result of the rain accompanied by a cool front. The highest temperature recorded was 95 degrees in Sebring early in the week. Fruit sizes are still being reported as variable. Fruit quality is overall good; however, some fruit softness has been noticed on grapefruit. Growers are still irrigating in some areas along with mowing and applications of summer oils and fertilizers. Growers and caretakers continue to scout for canker and greening. Due to the shortage of available resets, grove owners are resetting to the extent they can purchase new trees to put in the ground.

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