



# WEATHER CROP

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Week ending June 3, 2007

## GROWERS WELCOME RAINS FROM TROPICAL STORM BARRY

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Abundant rainfall during the latter part of week of May 28 through June 3 from Tropical Storm Barry brought much needed rains across most of the State. Growers welcomed the rains which help alleviate the existing severe drought conditions. Tropical Storm Barry which formed off of the Gulf Coast, made landfall near Tampa and continued moving across the northern Peninsula. The storm packed winds up to 50 miles per hour along with heavy rains. Official rainfall totals ranged from under a tenth of an inch at Jay to nearly seven inches at West Palm Beach. Localities recording over three inches included Bronson, Fort Lauderdale, Fort Pierce, Jacksonville, Live Oak, MacClenny, and Tampa. Melbourne recorded nearly 6 inches of rainfall. Several areas received between one and two inches of precipitation. Rains helped to extinguish some of Florida's wild fires but more significant rains are still needed. The Florida Department of Agriculture's Division of Forestry reported 150 active fires affecting 130,284 acres as of June 3. Temperatures at the major stations ranged from normal to two degrees below normal. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s. Pleasant evening lows were in the 50s and 60s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Scattered rains from Tropical Storm Barry helped to increase moisture in some fields, yet more areas need ample rains to facilitate harvesting. Several field crops across the Panhandle and Peninsula are beginning to wilt and die due to the lack of precipitation. Despite rains from Tropical Storm Barry, topsoil and subsoil moisture across the State remains very short to short with a few pockets of adequate supplies. Even irrigated field crops are not progressing normally due to the heat and drought. In Jackson County, virtually all dry land corn is lost due to the persistent drought conditions before Barry. Considerable amount of cotton acreage has been delayed in Santa Rosa County due to the dry conditions. Dry weather with light showers plus no subsoil moisture caused cotton planted in late May to sprout and die in Santa Rosa County. Winter wheat harvest has been delayed with only a minimal amount harvested in Santa Rosa County due to a lack of moisture. It is too early to determine what corn yields will look like but light showers have helped in Santa Rosa County.

Percentage of peanuts planted to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
70	83	86

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	57	78	42	65	55	35
Short	24	11	31	27	34	23
Adequate	19	11	27	8	11	41
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0

**VEGETABLES:** Plentiful rains near the end of the week curtailed most picking in the vegetable areas. Rains from Tropical Storm Barry were very beneficial to vegetable fields in very dry areas and in need of irrigation. Watermelon harvesting continued to remain active with most fields irrigated. Cantaloupe harvesting is underway in Washington County but they are smaller than normal due to cool evenings and dry weather. Tomato harvesting around Quincy is expected to begin next week. Producers marketed snap beans, cantaloupes, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, okra, peppers, radishes, and tomatoes.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In Washington County, pasture is extremely short; many cattlemen are being forced to sell some or all their cattle due to the lack of hay or pasture. In Jefferson County, livestock producers are feeding hay with some cattlemen selling off stock; the drought conditions continue and have resulted in permanent damage to established pastures. In Jackson County, cattlemen continue to feed hay and it is the only reason cattle condition is not declining more. In Santa Rosa County, pasture is reported as very overgrazed and hay supplies are near exhaustion. Statewide, cattle condition was rated mostly poor and pastures were rated very poor to mostly poor.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	10	5	45	30
Poor	55	65	40	50
Fair	20	15	12	10
Good	15	15	3	10
Excellent	0	0	0	0

**CITRUS:** Citrus growers statewide welcomed rain associated with the passage of Tropical Storm Barry late in the week. Amounts in the citrus producing areas ranged up to four inches with coastal areas receiving more than interior. Winds associated with the passage of the storm were minimal and gusty. No damage to trees or fruit has been reported. Rainfall is still needed to assist the trees in maintaining moisture for next season's crop. Water restrictions are in place in southwest areas. Temperatures are beginning to reach the high 80s during the day. Valencia estimated utilization dropped below three million boxes per week. Processing plants are scheduling closing dates with one plant to remain open until about the end of June. Grapefruit harvest is almost complete for the season. A small amount of colored grapefruit is still being picked for both fresh and processing. Packinghouses that are still open are mostly for later variety oranges that will be utilized for storage fruit. Irrigation is still being used to supplement rainfall. Also being observed is fertilizing, herbiciding, mowing, removing of dead trees, and hedging and topping.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	May 20	May 27	Jun 03
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Navel oranges	2	2	1
Early and Mid oranges	9	8	12
Valencia	4,480	3,680	2,287
Grapefruit	259	101	31
Honey Tangerines	3	1	0
Temples	6	0	0

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