



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending July 1, 2007

CROPS CONTINUE TO SHOW STRESS FROM DRY CONDITIONS

WEATHER SUMMARY: Scattered storms helped alleviate dry conditions across the Peninsula. Rainfall totaled from less than a tenth of an inch at Carrabelle to nearly over six inches at Fort Lauderdale. Several areas received over one inch of rain for the week. Localities receiving over two inches of rainfall included Frostproof, Ocklawaha, Putnam Hall, and Tallahassee. Over three inches of precipitation was recorded at Apopka, Homestead, and Miami. Ona received over four inches of rain and West Palm Beach received nearly six inches. The scattered nature of the recent rain left some areas dry with the danger of wildfires remaining high. The Florida Department of Agriculture's Division of Forestry reported 169 active wildfires on 105,344 acres as of June 29. Temperatures in the major cities averaged from normal to two degrees above normal with Jacksonville one degree below normal. Daytime highs were in 80s and 90s. Pleasant evening lows were in 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Conditions continue to worsen from the lack of rain for most crops throughout the Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas. Hay fields continued to suffer with most fields still brown and not growing in Jackson County. In Jackson County, all but irrigated corn has been negatively impacted by the drought with cattlemen feeding the abandoned corn to cattle due to the lack of hay. Peanuts are entering the time frame where bloom and pegging depend on adequate moisture if the crop is to be made; currently weather conditions are not permitting this. Reporters rated peanut condition as 20% very poor, 43% poor, 34% fair, and 3% good. Pastures, ornamentals, and field crops in Martin County exhibit signs of stress, but there is enough moisture for field-grown crops to succeed. Soils remain dry in some areas due to rains skipping these areas. Topsoil and subsoil moisture was rated very short to short across the Panhandle and northern Peninsula. Jackson and Hamilton counties reported very short to adequate soil moisture supplies. Elsewhere, soil moisture was very short to adequate with a few pockets of surplus supplies.

Percentage of peanuts pegged to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
28	39	49

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	44	41	13	46	50	17
Short	31	29	40	34	30	36
Adequate	24	30	45	19	20	38
Surplus	1	0	2	1	0	9

VEGETABLES: Rains slowed some field work with most harvesting finished. Okra harvesting continues in Dade County. Growers continue to market tomatoes around the Quincy area. Potato harvest was completed.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most poor. Supplemental feeding of hay to cattle, sheep, and goats continued. Most pastures and hay fields are brown with little or no growth. Some cattle were being sold for lack of feed as hay is scarce and shelled corn is expensive. Some drought-stressed corn stalks were being chopped for feed. In the northern areas, pasture condition was very poor to fair with most fair. In the central areas, pasture condition was poor to excellent with most poor. Recent rain enabled some growth of drought-stressed pasture grass. In the southwest areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in poor condition. Some areas have received enough rain to make the grass begin to grow. Despite recent rain in some locations, high temperatures over the past 10 days wilted pasture grass during the day. Statewide, cattle condition ranged from very poor to good with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	5	25	20	40
Poor	30	10	40	20
Fair	50	50	20	30
Good	15	15	15	10
Excellent	0	0	5	0

CITRUS: A tropical wave during midweek brought much needed rainfall to the east coast and some central citrus producing areas. Over the weekend, more thunderstorms and showers developed and added various amounts of rainfall to the citrus region. Areas in the southwest recorded the most rainfall, at over four inches, followed by the west coast and extreme south, at over an inch and a half. Some dry conditions still exist, including low water levels in canals and ditches, and slight afternoon tree wilt. High temperatures reached into the 90s in all areas, with the highest recordings in Ona, Sebring, and Lake Alfred, all at 94 degrees. Cultural practices continued, including fertilization, hedging, and the resetting of young trees. Summer oils were being applied in all areas. Overall the trees were in good condition, with some new growth and a healthy crop for next season. Fruit sized well across the State. Oranges were about golf ball size and grapefruit were slightly larger. Valencia harvest neared completion for the season. Throughout the summer, it is expected that small quantities will still be harvested for fresh squeezed juice.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Jun 17	Jun 24	Jul 02
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Navel oranges	2	0	0
Early and Mid oranges	0	1	0
Valencia	717	49	40
Grapefruit	11	5	7

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