



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending August 19, 2007

RAINS AIDED EASTERN PANHANDLE CROPS

WEATHER SUMMARY: Scattered showers aided some peanut and cotton fields in the eastern Panhandle, but missed others in western parts during the week of August 13 through 19. Significant rains also fell over some west central and southern parts of the Peninsula. Rainfall for the week ranged from traces to nearly five inches in West Palm Beach. However, several localities recorded no rain for the week. Temperatures in the major cities averaged normal to four degrees above. Daytime highs were in the 90s while nighttime lows ranged from the upper 60s to mostly low 70s. Marianna and Tallahassee recorded at least one daily high at 99 degrees.

FIELD CROPS: In Santa Rosa County, the youngest cotton is in early bloom stage while the oldest plants show bottom bolls opening. In drier parts of the Panhandle, dryland peanuts are turning white due to no rain. Peanut condition was rated two percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 30 percent good, and ten percent excellent. Haymaking is active, however a considerable amount of hay fields are not growing due to dry conditions. Soybean rust was visually identified in a few Jefferson County fields. Soil moisture supplies were rated short to adequate in all areas. However, subsoil moisture was rated mostly very short to short in the Panhandle. Jackson, Marion, Hernando, and Hendry counties reported some localities with surplus soil moisture.

Percentage of peanuts pegged to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
92	99	100

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	5	3	19	11	13	24
Short	34	42	32	40	49	28
Adequate	56	54	48	46	37	46
Surplus	5	1	1	3	1	2

VEGETABLES: Southern Peninsula growers are busy preparing land and laying plastic for fall crop planting. Some growers irrigated soils prior to forming beds. Pepper and tomato transplanting is underway in southern Peninsula localities.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was mostly fair. Recent rains improved growing conditions for forage in most locations, but grass is very short in some locations and stock ponds are going dry again. The livestock condition and milk production has been adversely affected by the heat. Pasture grass and hay growth are limited by drought. In central areas, pasture condition was poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Cattle condition was poor to excellent. In the southwest, pasture condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition. Statewide, cattle condition was 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	1	0	0
Poor	10	10	15	15
Fair	40	50	35	50
Good	45	35	45	30
Excellent	5	4	5	5

CITRUS: Rainfall measured for the week ranged from no rain on the west coast to just over one inch in the center of the State. The extreme southern district received about two tenths of an inch of rainfall in most localities, but almost an inch in isolated areas. Daytime temperatures in citrus-producing counties reached the mid-90s in all areas. In well-cared-for groves, the new crop is in good condition and sizing well. Fruit sizes on oranges are larger than golf ball size, and on grapefruit, baseball size or larger. Individual growers are reporting good fruit sets and are optimistic for the upcoming season. Caretakers have been active with fertilizing programs, spraying, controlling cover crops, and accomplishing young tree care. Drying out of trees and soil due to the consistent hot weather has prompted growers to run irrigation on a regular basis. Managing groves for greening and canker and taking out affected trees is an ongoing process.

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