



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending August 26, 2007

EXTREME HEAT NEGATIVELY IMPACTING FIELD CROPS

WEATHER SUMMARY: Scattered showers brought varying amounts of rain to the State during August 20 through 26. Rainfall for the week ranged from none in Live Oak to over four and a half inches in Avalon. Areas receiving over two inches included Miami, Ona, Umatilla, and West Palm Beach. Lake Alfred recorded over three inches and Dover recorded over four inches of rain for the week. All other areas, ranged from traces to nearly two inches of precipitation. Temperatures in the major stations averaged from one to four degrees above normal. Hot daytime temperatures were in the low to upper 90s. Evening lows were in the 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: In Jackson County, a small acreage of peanuts has been dug with no yields measured yet. Peanuts are dying due to dry soils in Santa Rosa County. Extreme heat coupled with the extended periods of lack of precipitation has drastically affected potential yields of both peanuts and cotton in the Panhandle. Peanut condition was rated 10 percent very poor, 30 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 18 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Cotton growers in Santa Rosa County expect to begin picking by mid-September. Field crops that survived planting problems and early drought have recovered minimally, especially corn in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Oldest planted cotton has generally shut down and is rapidly opening for an early harvest in Santa Rosa County. Hay growers have been able to get only one hay cutting due to the dry spell in the Panhandle and central Peninsula areas. There were some reports of armyworm pressure in some pasture fields in central Peninsula areas. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies in the Panhandle were mostly very short to adequate. Soil moisture supplies across the Peninsula were very short to adequate. Marion and Hendry counties reported very short to surplus soil supplies.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	10	5	8	16	11	30
Short	52	34	32	45	40	41
Adequate	36	56	58	38	46	26
Surplus	2	5	2	1	3	3

VEGETABLES: Fall crop planting continues actively in the southern Peninsula areas. Growers continue to market light shipments of okra in Dade County.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was very poor to good. Stock pond water levels are down or dry. Extreme heat and lack of rainfall has drastically decreased the pasture crop. Grass for grazing has been sufficient for the summer, but very little hay has been cut. Livestock condition varies from very poor to excellent, but most are in fair condition. In central areas, pasture condition were poor to excellent, but most was in fair condition due to drought. Cattle condition was mostly fair to good with some in excellent condition. In Sumter County, some locations have had no substantial rain since August 3rd and the grass is stressed and yellowing. Hay crops have been short and armyworms were present in some areas. Cattle have been nestled under shade trees trying to beat the heat. In the southwest, pasture condition ranged from poor to excellent, but most was in good condition. Sporadic rainfall has slowed forage production. Cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most in good condition. Statewide, cattle condition was mostly fair to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	0	1	0
Poor	5	10	15	15
Fair	40	40	55	35
Good	45	45	25	45
Excellent	9	5	4	5

CITRUS: Rain showers towards the end of the week assisted growers in several citrus producing counties in keeping the trees watered. Rainfall for the week measured from over three inches in Lake Alfred to no rain in Sebring. Northern and western citrus localities received between one and a half and two inches of rain. Daytime temperatures in all monitored citrus producing counties reached the low to mid 90s. The highest recording was in Sebring at 96 degrees. Florida's citrus growers reported the crop is in good condition, with good fruit sets. Fruit sizes on oranges are larger than golf ball size and on grapefruit, baseball size or larger. Caretakers continued with fertilizing programs, oil and copper spraying, mowing, and young tree care. Irrigation was run regularly, usually two to three times a week. Management practices to assist in keeping greening under control were being put into place. Crews are scouting for greening and taking out affected trees.

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