



# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending September 2, 2007

## RAINS AID PANHANDLE CROPS

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Spotty showers falling over a few Panhandle areas during the week of August 27 through September 2 aided the growth and development of some peanuts and cotton. Rain for the week totaled from tenths of inches in most southeastern Peninsula and in some central Peninsula localities, to nearly four inches in Arcadia. Ocklawaha recorded over three inches for the week while Alachua, Frostproof, Pierson, Putnam Hall, Quincy, Daytona Beach, and Tampa reported over two inches. Avalon, Ft. Pierce, Immokalee, Lake Alfred, Live Oak, Okahumpka, Sebring, Miami, and Orlando recorded less than half an inch. Most other localities received a half inch to nearly two inches. Hot temperatures continued to dry soils in low precipitation areas with daily highs averaging in the 90s. Nighttime lows were mostly in the 70s. Daily temperatures at the major stations averaged normal to three degrees above.

**FIELD CROPS:** Peanut digging slowly increased in Jackson County with most dryland acreage running five to ten days behind normal. Rains in some Panhandle areas aided the growth and development of peanuts and cotton. Statewide, peanut condition was rated 15 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 50 percent fair, 15 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Hay making was active in Pasco County. The Panhandle rains increased soil moisture in some areas with supplies rated short to mostly adequate. Jackson County reported a few spots with surplus topsoil moisture while Santa Rosa and Escambia counties reported very short to short soil moisture. The Big Bend area reported very short to short soil moisture. Most Peninsula areas reported short to adequate soil moisture except for reportedly short subsoil moisture over the central Peninsula.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	7	10	14	17	16	26
Short	35	52	26	39	45	36
Adequate	57	36	47	44	38	25
Surplus	1	2	13	0	1	13

**VEGETABLES:** Land preparation for fall crop planting continued in southern Peninsula areas. Tomato and other vegetable transplanting remained very active in the Immokalee and Palmetto-Ruskin areas. Hot, dry conditions caused stress on transplants in some Hendry County fields not getting recent showers. Tomato picking is expected to start in mid to late October around Palmetto. A small amount of squash was harvested in the Palmetto area. Dade County growers continue to cut okra.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture and cattle condition were very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Pasture grass is growing after daily rains. In Suwannee County, pastures with perennial grasses were in fair condition. Newly planted hay fields require much irrigation. Ranchers are thinning herds to prevent overgrazing. Stock ponds were still very low. In Santa Rosa and Escambia counties, hot, dry weather continues to stress pasture. In central and southwest areas, most of the pasture and cattle were in fair condition. Some hay was being made. Some calves are being sold. Statewide, cattle condition was fair to good.

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

**CITRUS:** The past week in citrus producing counties was hot and humid with temperatures reaching the mid 90s in all areas. The hot weather and little amounts of rainfall over the past several weeks have prompted caretakers to irrigate regularly. All areas of the citrus belt received some rain during the week, ranging from one and a half inches in Balm and Ona, to one tenth of an inch in Ft. Pierce, Sebring, and Lake Alfred. Around the State, growers reported the crop in good condition, with good fruit sets. Fruit sizes on oranges are between golf ball and baseball size. Caretakers and growers are spraying, mowing, and preparing for harvest. Crews are scouting for trees with greening and taking out affected trees.

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