



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1222 Woodward St., Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

Week ending September 23, 2007

GROWERS WELCOME SHOWERS

WEATHER SUMMARY: Scattered storms brought ample rain to many localities during the week of September 17 through 23. Rainfall ranged from over a quarter of an inch at Tampa to over seven inches in Okahumpka and Daytona Beach. Areas receiving over six inches of precipitation included Hastings and Ocklawaha. Pierson recorded over four inches of rain with Citra, Ft. Lauderdale, Kenansville, Putnam Hall, Umatilla, and West Palm Beach recording over three inches. Elsewhere, other areas received over one to two inches of rainfall for the week. Temperatures at the major cities hovered around normal to one degree below normal at Daytona Beach and Orlando. Pleasant daytime highs were in the upper 80s and lower 90s. Enjoyable evening lows were in the 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: This week's past showers helped improve peanut fields' condition in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas. The rains helped mature late-planted peanuts and softened the ground, which will help accelerate digging in the Panhandle areas. In Suwannee County, peanut harvesting was underway with rains helping growers. Peanut condition was rated 25 percent poor, 49 percent fair, 25 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Growers were able to pick cotton as well as peanuts in Santa Rosa County with harvesting increasing. Only a minimal amount of cotton was defoliated in Santa Rosa County. In Jefferson County, pecans were in good condition but need more rains for nuts to fill. Moisture supplies in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas was mostly short to adequate. Santa Rosa reported short to surplus supplies. Throughout the central and southern Peninsula localities soil moisture supplies was mostly short to adequate with a few pockets surplus supplies.

Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
14	9	23

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	4	10	7	13	19	11
Short	31	26	17	34	25	31
Adequate	63	62	72	53	56	57
Surplus	2	2	4	0	0	1

VEGETABLES: Scattered thunderstorms hampered some field activities in central and southern Peninsula areas. Tomato picking was slowly increasing around Quincy and getting underway in the southern Peninsula. Several tomato growers will not be replanting this year due to low market prices. Vegetables were in good condition in Hendry County with planting in full swing. Planting of cabbage as well as other fall vegetables was hindered due to recent rains with growers waiting on fields to drain to resume planting in Flagler County. Okra remained in good condition as harvesting continues in Dade County.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was poor to good. Pasture condition has improved following recent rain, but most stock ponds were dry. Hay stocks were low. Cattle condition was poor to good with most in fair condition. In central areas, pasture condition was fair to good with most in good condition. Shipping of beef calves was at its peak. Pastures were filling in and looking green. Weeds and armyworms have been a problem for some. Cattle were putting on weight. In the southwestern areas, pasture was poor to excellent with most in good condition. Cattle waterholes are very low. Low lying areas were the best pasture available. 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	1
Poor	10	15	10	15
Fair	30	20	35	30
Good	55	55	45	45
Excellent	5	9	10	9

CITRUS: A tropical wave from the Atlantic swept across the Peninsula bringing beneficial rains to the citrus region throughout the evening during midweek. Keeping primarily to the north, the heaviest rainfall came to central and northern citrus producing areas. Apopka had over two and a half inches of rain for the week, with localized areas receiving between three to four inches. Western and eastern coastal areas had about an inch and a half of rainfall. Above average temperatures continued most of the week, with daily highs reaching the lower to mid 90s in all areas. Trees are generally in good condition in well-cared-for groves. Scattered fertilizing, mowing, and clean-up were continuing in all areas as grove owners are preparing for the picking season. With fruit maturity levels running behind normal, packinghouses and juice plants have not yet opened for business. Fallglo tangerines were the only commercial citrus fruit showing any significant color break. Fruit sizes on oranges were between golf ball and baseball size. Grapefruit were running about softball size.

We encourage all subscribers of this report to consider receiving it by e-mail. To do so, log onto:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp. Select Florida Crop-Weather. Enter your first and last name. Enter your Email address. Click on Subscribe. The report will be sent automatically each week. Or you may call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter the subscription for you.