



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending September 30, 2007

SHOWERS SLOWED SOME FIELD WORK

WEATHER SUMMARY: Showers slowed some field work in the southern Peninsula and in the Monticello area during the week of September 24 through 30. Rain totaled from traces in many Panhandle, central, and northern Peninsula localities, to over six inches in Fort Lauderdale. Most of the showers fell over parts of the central and southern Peninsula. Most central and southern Peninsula stations recorded from a quarter up to an inch of rain for the week. Temperatures averaged from one degree below normal in West Palm Beach, to five degrees above in Tallahassee. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s while nighttime lows were in the 60s and 70s. The recent rains lowered the danger of wild fire over most of the State. However, the danger remains high for the extreme northern Peninsula and the Panhandle.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut harvesting proceeded at a rapid pace in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula. In Jackson County, yields from irrigated fields were good. In Jefferson County, peanut yields were not consistent due to late planting with a considerable acreage not yet mature. Peanut condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 39 percent fair, 20 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Cotton picking and baling continued in northern Peninsula and Panhandle localities. Topsoil moisture was rated very short to adequate and subsoil moisture was rated very short to short in the Big Bend area. Elsewhere, soil moisture was mostly rated short to adequate. Jackson, Marion, Sumter, Hendry, and Miami-Dade counties reported some spots with surplus topsoil moisture. Okeechobee, Desoto, Jackson, Suwannee, and Jefferson counties reported some localities with very short soil moisture.

Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
25	14	35

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	8	4	9	8	13	14
Short	33	31	32	41	34	42
Adequate	55	63	58	51	53	43
Surplus	4	2	1	0	0	1

VEGETABLES: Laying of plastic and planting gained momentum in Dade County with several fields of snap beans and a small amount of tomatoes already planted. In the Immokalee area, land preparation and planting were slowed slightly by rainfall. Growers picked a very small amount of cucumbers during the week. Tomato picking was underway in the Quincy area.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. It was too dry in many locations for planting small grains, clover, or ryegrass for winter grazing. The cost of small grains for seeding increased. Stocks of hay were low. Cattle condition was mostly fair to good. In central areas, pasture condition was fair to excellent with most in fair condition while recent rain greened up the pastures; however, armyworm damage continued. In the southwest areas, pasture was poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Fall armyworms hit pastures this week in high numbers. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	0	0	0
Poor	5	10	15	10
Fair	45	30	45	35
Good	40	55	30	45
Excellent	9	5	10	10

CITRUS: Cooler mornings and daily rainfalls led to ideal growing conditions in citrus producing areas. Lows were in the high 60s and low 70s over the weekend in all areas, while highs were in the low 90s. Ft. Pierce had over an inch of rainfall; Immokalee and Sebring had about three quarters of an inch. Harvest began on Fallglo tangerines, Ambersweet and Navel oranges, and grapefruit. Nine packinghouses have opened and began running fruit along with one processing plant. Caretakers were mowing, herbiciding, fertilizing, and pulling vines in preparation for harvest. Most owners were dealing with greening on a needed basis.

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