



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 October 7, 2007

RAINS HINDERED SOME FIELD ACTIVITIES

WEATHER SUMMARY: During the week of October 1 through 7, a low pressure system swept across the State bringing ample rains to several areas. Rainfall ranged from less than a quarter of an inch to nearly six and a half inches in Putnam Hall. Areas receiving over five inches of precipitation included Fort Lauderdale and Jacksonville with Miami receiving six inches. Balm, Citra, Fort Pierce, and Homestead recorded over four inches of rain while MacClenny and Okahumpka recorded over three inches. Elsewhere, other areas received over one to two inches of rainfall for the week. Temperatures at the major stations averaged one to six degrees above normal. Showers helped lower temperatures with daytime highs in the upper 80s and lower 90s. Pleasant evening lows were in the 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Despite rains aiding relief from the drought conditions, the damage still remains for the most of the crops. Peanut yields vary from grower to grower with some growers experiencing severe leaf spot in Jackson County. Most growers need heavier rains to loosen harden soils to help with digging peanuts in the Panhandle areas. Peanuts in Washington County were in fair condition with yields off approximately 200 to 500 pounds per acre with late peanuts in very poor condition. Peanuts in Sumter County were in poor condition. Peanut condition was rated 10 percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 20 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Nearly half of the cotton has been defoliated in Santa Rosa County with only a small percentage harvested. Hay cutting was active in central Peninsula areas with armyworms continuing to be a problem. Moisture supplies in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas was mostly very short to adequate with a few spots of surplus supplies. Mostly short to adequate supplies were reported across the central and southern Peninsula localities with some pockets of surplus supplies.

Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
40	27	51

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	15	8	27	13	8	29
Short	25	33	35	25	41	48
Adequate	51	55	38	60	51	23
Surplus	9	4	0	2	0	0

VEGETABLES: Scattered thunderstorms hampered field activities in central and southern Peninsula areas. Several vegetable growers are experiencing extreme white fly infestation in fields across the Panhandle due to the dry weather. Vegetable growers have not been able to control the severe infestations with pesticides because of the very large populations. Okra harvesting remains active in Dade County. Cabbage planting has begun although field work was slowed due to heavy rains in Flagler County. Some sod growers in Flagler County are converting back to cabbage fields since the demand for sod has declined due to the drop in new home construction. Only a small amount of cabbage has been planted with plantings expected to continue through December in Flagler County. Growers in St. Johns County continue to plant broccoli and cabbage. Tomato harvesting was active around Quincy. Light harvesting of pickles and squash is expected to begin this week.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was poor to excellent. Pasture improved but damage from the long summer drought remains. Some locations were in a moisture short area and stock ponds were still dry, as the rains have gone around them. Hay harvesting was stalled due to consistent daily rains. Cattle condition was fair to good. In central areas, pasture condition was poor to excellent with recent rains improving pasture in most locations. Pastures were green and filling in but armyworm damage continues. Hay that has been cut has been getting rained on before it can be bailed. Cattle condition was mostly good. In the southwestern areas, pasture was poor to excellent with most in good condition. The summer drought has lowered pasture and forage conditions. Cattle condition was looking bleak going into our normal dry season. Statewide, cattle condition was mostly good.

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

CITRUS: What started out as an average week of rainfall turned out to be one of the most beneficial weeks for the season. A tropical wave from the Atlantic crossed the State over the weekend bringing widespread, slow steady rains to the citrus producing region. All monitored areas, except one in the central western region, received at least two inches of rainfall for the week. Both Ft. Pierce on the east coast and Balm on the west coast recorded over four inches of rain for the week, followed by Apopka and Sebring at three inches each. Average temperatures continued most of the week, with daily highs reaching the high 80s to lower 90s in all areas. Trees were generally in good condition in well-cared-for groves, with fruit sets being reported as good. Fruit sizes on oranges were between golf ball and baseball size. Grapefruit were running slightly larger. Grove owners were mowing middles, pulling vines, and cleaning groves and getting ready for harvesting. Most owners were dealing with greening on a needed basis. Fifteen packinghouses have opened and began running fruit along with one processing plant. Harvest began on Fallglo tangerines, Ambersweet and Navel oranges, and grapefruit.

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