



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending October 21, 2007

WET CONDITIONS DELAY FIELD ACTIVITIES

WEATHER SUMMARY: Daily, scattered thunderstorms persisted throughout the week of October 15 through 21. Rainfall varied from traces at Tampa to over fourteen inches at Pensacola. Several areas across the extreme eastern Panhandle received between twelve to sixteen inches of rainfall for the week. Nearly eight inches of rainfall fell at West Palm Beach, while Jay received over six inches. Areas receiving over four inches of rain included Marianna and Quincy with Tallahassee recording over three inches. Other localities received over one to two inches of rainfall. Daytime highs were mostly in the 80s with some areas receiving temperatures in the 90s at least one day. Pleasant evening lows were in the 60s and 70s with a few stations recording at least one low in the 50s.

FIELD CROPS: Some tornadoes along with torrential rains were reported in Santa Rosa and Escambia counties. The weather negatively impacted some cotton, but it is too early to predict how much damage was sustained. Recent rains helped loosen hardened soils allowing some growers to dig peanuts in Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas. In Jefferson County, heavy rains delayed some peanut digging and potentially damaged the cotton crop slightly. In Washington County, peanut and cotton harvesting was underway. Hay supplies continued to remain very short in the Panhandle areas. Peanut condition was rated 25 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Moisture supplies across the State were mostly short to adequate with some spots of surplus supplies.

Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
70	61	81

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	4	10	50	8	13	33
Short	35	20	36	37	20	55
Adequate	57	66	14	53	66	13
Surplus	4	4	0	2	1	0

VEGETABLES: Rains interrupted some field work across the State. Rains and wet fields delayed field activities around the Quincy area with some light harvesting underway. Tomato harvesting in central Peninsula localities was expected to begin this week. The surge of white fly population had an severely adverse effect on all fall vegetable crops in Washington County. Okra harvesting continued in Dade County. Tomato, corn, and snap bean growers were almost finished preparing fields for plantings in Dade County. Planting of cabbage and broccoli continues in St. Johns County. Producers marketed light supplies of cucumbers and squash in central and southern Peninsula areas. Harvesting of snap beans, eggplant, bell peppers was expected to begin late next week across northern to southern Peninsula localities.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Recent rain in many locations benefited pastures, but stock pond water levels are low. Cattle condition was fair to good. In central areas, pasture condition was poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Cattle condition was mostly good. In the southwest areas, pasture was very poor to excellent with most in good condition. Hot, dry conditions have lowered water levels in canals and ponds. Summer rainfall has not been enough for adequate forage growth going into the fall season. Extended drought still has pasture and forage conditions in poor condition. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most in good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	1	1	1
Poor	5	3	14	9
Fair	40	26	35	20
Good	45	60	45	65
Excellent	9	10	5	5

CITRUS: Showers and thunderstorms the latter half of the week brought various amounts of rainfall to citrus producing areas. The west and east coast recorded the most rainfall at one and a half inches. Other areas had less than an inch. Localized areas may have received more rain due to the nature of the storms. Daily highs were above average reaching the low to mid-90s at least one day in all areas. Trees were generally in good condition in well-cared-for groves. Fruit sets were above average. Maturity levels were lagging behind last year and acids were being reported as high. The quality of fruit was reported good in most areas. Some increased growth has caused splitting, primarily in later variety fruit. Limited grove activity includes fertilizing, mowing, and cleaning groves in preparation for harvest. The battle against citrus greening is a priority for citrus growers. Various methods were being used for scouting and removal of infected trees. Several packinghouses have opened and began running fruit. Two more packinghouses intend to open by the beginning of November. Fruit movement is limited with only a couple processing plants opened at this time. Harvested varieties include Fallglo tangerines, early, Ambersweet and Navel oranges, grapefruit, and tangelos.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Oct 07	Oct 14	Oct 21
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early oranges	0	0	16
Navel oranges	41	53	97
Ambersweet oranges	20	19	28
Grapefruit	29	57	127
Fallglo tangerines	49	99	123
Tangelos	0	0	3

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