



WEATHER CROP

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Week ending October 28, 2007

WET WEATHER DELAYED SOME FIELD WORK

WEATHER SUMMARY: Rain limited field work in some areas during the week of October 22 through 28. Rainfall ranged from traces in portions of the southwest Peninsula, eastern Panhandle, and Big Bend areas to two and three quarter's inches in Ft. Lauderdale. Some extreme southern Peninsula and western Panhandle localities unofficially recorded three to ten inches of rain for the week. Several Atlantic coast, central Peninsula, and western Panhandle areas received one half inch to over two inches. Daily temperatures averaged two to four degrees above normal in the major cities, except for four degrees below normal in Pensacola. Most daytime highs averaged in the 70s and 80s with many localities recording at least one high in the 90s. Most nighttime lows were in the 50s, 60s, and 70s with Pensacola, Marianna, and Monticello recording at least one low in the 40s.

FIELD CROPS: In Santa Rosa and Escambia counties, heavy rains stopped the harvesting of cotton, peanuts, and soybeans, lowered the quality of peanuts and cotton, and impacted yield prospects. Harvesting resumed as fields dried at the end of the week. In Jefferson County, temperatures were too hot to bring on dormancy for digging ornamentals. The planting of small grains was active with more moisture and cooler temperatures needed to ensure good stands. Peanut digging was three-fourths complete, while cotton picking was getting underway. The pecan crop was in good condition with good fill and excellent nut quality. In Washington County, peanut quality and yields were quite variable in different parts of the county. Cotton yields were reported as being down significantly for most growers. Pasco County reported recent rainfall increased soil moisture. In Desoto County, rainfall has been scarce, but a number of growers reported trouble bailing hay due to high moisture. Statewide, peanut condition was rated 30 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Most soil moisture ratings improved due to the recent rainfall. In the Panhandle, topsoil moisture was rated mostly adequate while subsoil moisture ranged from very short to short to mostly adequate. In the Big Bend area and northern Peninsula, both topsoil and subsoil moisture were rated mostly adequate. Over the central and southern Peninsula, both topsoil and subsoil moisture were rated short to mostly adequate. Counties reporting areas with very short soil moisture included Putnam, Pasco, Holmes, Washington, Desoto, and Brevard. Counties reporting areas with surplus soil moisture included Jackson, Miami-Dade, Brevard, Marion, St. Johns, Clay, and Baker.

Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
80	78	91

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	1	4	45	6	8	36
Short	20	35	38	27	37	51
Adequate	76	57	16	66	53	13
Surplus	3	4	1	1	2	0

VEGETABLES: In the Quincy area, heavy rainfall slowed the harvesting of tomatoes. Suwannee Valley: The quality of beans improved slightly, but the recent heavy rains lowered prospects. Bean yields were reported as being below normal. The watermelon crop was in fair condition with cutting active. Cucumber and pepper quality improved significantly with harvesting underway. Conventional and organic crop harvesting was expected to continue until the first frost. West Central: Crops were in good condition. The planting of strawberries and the harvesting of squash were active. In the Homestead area, squash harvesting was expected to start within the next 5 days as okra harvesting continues. Southwest: Crops were looking good; however, higher than normal temperatures were causing early maturation in some crops. Fall crop planting, staking, and tying remained in high gear. Growers were starting to harvest some early cucumbers and specialty crops. The tomato and pepper harvest also started. Potato planting began. St Johns, Flagler, and Putnam counties: Squash and cucumber harvest continued. Growers expected to start broccoli harvesting next month.

The planting of cabbage and mixed greens was active with some field work slowed by rain. Plant City, Dover: The transplanting of strawberry plants continued with farmers irrigating recent sets due to extremely dry conditions. The harvest of zucchini squash was active. Starke: Strawberry planting was active. East Coast: Bell pepper picking was active. Washington County: White flies continued to be significant a problem for growers.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was poor to excellent, most were good. Cooler weather had started to slow forage growth. In the western Panhandle, pastures were green but grazed very close in most areas. Hay cutting continued with less grass, with much more peanut hay being harvested this year. Planting of winter graze small grains was underway. Recent rains did not significantly raise stock pond water levels, but did soften soil enough to permit planting of cool season forages. Cattle condition was fair to good. In central areas, pasture condition was good to excellent. There was considerable damage from armyworms, with some operations missing timely spray treatments. Hay making was hindered by wet weather. Recent rains helped soil moisture, but ruined some hay that was down. Hay supplies were short. Cattle condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the southwest areas, pasture was very poor to excellent with most in fair to good condition. Pasture insects (armyworms, loopers) numbers are high. A number of growers have reported trouble bailing hay due to high moisture. Statewide, cattle condition was mostly good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	2	1	3	1
Poor	3	5	17	14
Fair	25	40	25	35
Good	60	45	50	45
Excellent	10	9	5	5

CITRUS: Temperatures continued to be above normal with high humidity across the citrus region. All areas were still reporting highs from the upper 80s and into the 90s during the day. By the end of the week, lows dropped to the mid to high 60s in all areas. Daily showers brought various amounts of rainfall to citrus-producing areas. Totals ranged from one tenth of an inch in Lake Alfred to almost an inch in Balm. Some localized areas received more due to quick passing heavy rainstorms. Trees were generally in good condition in well-cared-for groves. Maturity levels continue to lag behind last year. The acidity level of grapefruit on the east coast, where about two thirds of the grapefruit is grown, was still too high for volume packing. Some splitting of fruit was being observed, primarily in later orange varieties. Limited grove activity included fertilizing, spraying, herbicide applications, and cleaning groves in preparation for harvest. Over half of the major packinghouses were opened and began running limited amounts of fruit. Only two processing plants were open, primarily for eliminations. Harvested varieties include Fallglo tangerines, early, Ambersweet and Navel oranges, grapefruit, and tangelos.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Oct 14	Oct 21	Oct 28
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early oranges	0	16	23
Navel oranges	53	97	104
Ambersweet oranges	19	28	26
Grapefruit	57	127	165
Fallglo tangerines	99	123	91
Tangelos	0	3	2

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