



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending June 29, 2008

SCATTERED RAIN ENCOURAGED CROPS

WEATHER SUMMARY: High temperatures throughout Florida ranged from the upper 80s to mid-90s. Low temperatures were in the mid to upper 60s for the majority of locations. Rain was scattered in various pockets, with most areas receiving over an inch. Considerable precipitation came to nearly the entire southern and central Peninsula. Rain amounts totaled about 1 to 2 inches for most Panhandle cities. Osceola, St. Lucie, and Highlands counties received 5.26, 3.64, and 3.59 inches, respectively.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut pegging was 44 percent complete compared to 24 percent last year and the condition was rated 1% poor, 67% fair, 25% good, and 7% excellent. Soil moisture levels were short in the Panhandle and central Peninsula, but adequate in the southern Peninsula and Big Bend area. Many counties experienced improvements in field crops due to recent rains. Crops remain stressed in those areas that did not receive sufficient rainfall. Washington County reported that early planted crops were developing well. All peanut and cotton crops were emerged and soil moisture was good enough to practice adequate weed control in Washington County. Irrigated corn in Jefferson County was described as good, with ears developing. Pecans and cotton were in fair to good condition in Jefferson County. Crops in Brevard County were aided by rain, but needed more to get back to normal.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending June 29, 2008			
Stage	2008	2007	5-yr Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Pegged	44	24	42

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	15	25	43	26	40	47
Short	15	28	30	30	15	33
Adequate	65	43	26	43	44	19
Surplus	5	4	1	1	1	1

VEGETABLES: The summer harvest of many vegetables has ended, especially in the central and southern regions. Washington County was in mid-harvest for watermelon. Some seedless varieties showed signs of hollow heart. Okra, tomatoes, watermelon, and avocados moved through the market for the week ending June 29, 2008.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: The pasture condition improved in most of the State; however much more rain will be needed for normal forage growth. In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Recent rainfall has helped pastures. Grass was recovering from drought conditions, but was very short and recovery will take time due to overgrazed conditions. Drought has reduced hay production. Most cattle in the north were in fair to good condition. Pasture in the central areas was poor to excellent and the condition of cattle was poor to good. In the southwestern areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent condition with most fair to good. The cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent. Statewide, cattle condition varied from poor to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This Week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	20	5	20
Poor	20	9	20	20
Fair	45	30	40	30
Good	35	40	33	30
Excellent	0	1	2	0

CITRUS: Typical summer patterns have set in with warm mornings and plenty of sunshine followed by afternoon soaking rains and evening thunderstorms. Areas all across the citrus belt received ample amounts of rainfall. Ft. Pierce and Sebring had the most at over three and a half inches. On several days highs were in the lower 90s. All areas had at least one day reaching 93 degrees. The tropical weather continues to be an asset to fruit growth and tree foliage. Oranges were as large as golf ball size, while grapefruit were about two to three times as large. Trees in well kept groves were in good condition for next season's crop. Production practices were on schedule in all areas and included herbiciding, spraying, mowing, and brush removal. Some growers were combining efforts and used aerial applications for Psyllid control. Valencia harvest continued to be active in southern areas where the majority of remaining fruit was located. A few processing plants plan to run Valencia oranges into the second week of July. Grapefruit utilization was nearly over with small amounts of red varieties continuing to be processed. Honey tangerine harvest was completed for the season.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Jun 15	Jun 22	Jun 29
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Navel oranges	1	1	1
Valencia oranges	4,419	3,551	3,106
Grapefruit	35	26	15
Honey tangerines	0	0	4

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