



# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending July 20, 2008

## CONTINUED RAIN, MOST CROPS IN GOOD CONDITION

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Rainfall for the week ranged from zero inches at Marianna to over four inches at Putnam Hall and Pierson. Several areas in the southern Peninsula recorded two to three inches of precipitation. Nearly all locations throughout the central Peninsula received over an inch of rain. Less than one inch of rain was recorded for the majority of the fields in the Panhandle and Big Bend. Most temperatures in the major cities averaged from one to two degrees below normal. By the end of the week, the heat index and humidity made temperatures seem over 100 degrees in several areas. Daytime highs were in the 90s. Pleasant evening lows ranged from the upper 60s to mid-70s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Peanut pegging was 89 percent completed, compared to 69 percent last year. Peanut condition was rated 24% fair, 47% good, and 29% excellent. Cotton in Washington and Jackson counties was reported as doing well; however, late planted cotton was growing slow. Some hay was harvested in Washington County. Weed control applications were applied to some Brevard County fields. For the southern Peninsula, soil moisture levels were adequate to surplus. In less wet areas of the Panhandle, soils dried up quickly leaving moisture levels short to adequate. Soil moisture was adequate in central locations.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending July 20, 2008			
Stage	2008	2007	5-yr Average
<i>Percent</i>			
Pegged	89	69	81

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
<i>Percent</i>						
Very short	0	2	7	4	9	14
Short	13	24	21	14	41	39
Adequate	75	69	70	75	44	47
Surplus	12	5	2	7	6	0

**VEGETABLES:** Growers marketed okra, watermelon, and avocados during the week of July 14 through 20. Watermelon harvesting slowed. Avocado movement is expected to increase. Some growers in Washington County harvested squash, cucumbers, butter beans, okra, and southern peas.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture was in poor to excellent condition and cattle was in fair to excellent condition. Pastures in the central areas was in poor to excellent condition and cattle was poor to excellent. In the southwestern areas, pasture condition was fair to excellent with most in good condition. In the past two weeks, some pasture has received more rainfall than needed. In Hendry County, some stockponds were filling from recent rains. Statewide, cattle condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	1	15	2	15
Fair	34	25	28	20
Good	60	55	55	55
Excellent	5	5	15	10

**CITRUS:** Thunderstorms early in the week brought the heaviest rainfall to the eastern citrus region, totaling three and one half inches to Ft. Pierce. A tropical low pressure system off the West Coast of Florida was responsible for showers on Wednesday and Thursday and over much of the western citrus producing areas. Ona and Sebring both recorded three inches of rainfall for the week; Immokalee had almost two inches. The daily showers were beneficial to the growth of both the foliage and the new fruit. Harvest was over for the season and processing plants are closed. Growers were now focusing on grove maintenance, scheduled management practices, and canker and psyllid control. Next season's fruit was sizing well across the State. Oranges have been observed at various sizes ranging between golf ball and baseball sizes. Grapefruit tend to be running larger. Trees look good in well kept groves across the State and growers were preparing for the new season.

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