



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending September 7, 2008

GROWERS GAUGE DAMAGE OF FLOODING AS FIELDS DRAIN

WEATHER SUMMARY: Throughout the State, daytime high temperatures reached the 90s. Lows ranged from the 60s to lower 70s. Major cities averaged highs in the upper 80s to low 90s and lows in the 70s. Rainfall was less than half an inch for most locations. However, St. Lucie County received 2.41 inches. Glades, Volusia, and Broward counties reported just over one inch of precipitation for last week.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut condition was rated 17% fair, 69% good, and 14% excellent. A few growers began peanut harvesting in Jackson County. In the Southwest corner of Washington County, excess rain from recent tropical storms has hindered field activities, such as spraying peanuts for leaf spot. Some Washington County peanut growers expected white mold, but overall the county's crops were doing well. Escambia and Jackson counties reported that corn harvest was finished. Flagler County was in the process of harvesting corn. Growers in Columbia County reported that rain has delayed corn harvesting. Flooding in Nassau County significantly damaged their cotton crop. Jackson County cotton growers reported some hard lock and boll rot. Some areas in the Big Bend still had hay fields with standing water. Other areas reported that flood waters were draining quickly and there was no substantial damage from recent tropical storms. Soil moisture levels were adequate in most locations.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	1	0	8	0	0	18
Short	10	10	43	12	7	40
Adequate	58	38	49	53	46	42
Surplus	31	52	0	35	47	0

VEGETABLES: Some fields in the central and southern Peninsulas were drying out, which allowed land preparations and vegetable planting to continue. Cabbage and broccoli land preparations were delayed for some centrally located growers. Okra and avocados moved through the market last week.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle areas, pasture condition was very poor to excellent with most in good to excellent condition. In Leon County, flooding subsided in most pastures, with some hay fields partially under water. In Washington County, most pasture was in good condition. In the northern areas, pasture was poor to excellent. In Duval County, standing water in pastures was slowly beginning to subside. Since the tropical storm of August 18-23, there has been increased damage to pastures from mole crickets. The cattle condition was mostly fair to good. In the central areas, pasture was in fair to excellent condition with most in good condition. In Marion County, there was minimal damage to pastures due to flooding. In the Southwest areas, pasture condition were very poor to excellent. In Collier, Glades, and Lee counties, pastures were very wet and some were under water. Mosquitos were a problem. Some calves were being lost. 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	0	5	0
Poor	9	0	5	5
Fair	20	15	20	20
Good	50	65	50	65
Excellent	20	20	20	10

CITRUS: Rain bands from Tropical Storm Hanna in the Atlantic dropped just over two inches of rain on the East Coast and just over one-half inch in Sebring. Unrelated to the storm, Immokalee had one-half inch of rainfall. All other monitored areas in citrus producing counties did not have significant rainfall during the week. Daily high temperatures were in the upper 80s to lower 90s. Some groves on the East Coast were still very wet from the heavy rainfall during the preceding few weeks. Isolated groves had yellowing of leaves and additional small percentages of fruit drop. Most caretakers across the citrus belt returned to general maintenance schedules which included mowing, fertilizing, herbiciding, tree removal, and preparing for harvest. One packinghouse opened this past week and ran limited quantities of Fallglo tangerines. Two other packinghouses will open in the next week or two. Overall, the citrus season has progressed well with good sizes on both oranges and grapefruit. Trees looked good with heavy foliage and healthy looking fruit.

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