



# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending October 19, 2008

## RAIN NEEDED FOR MOST REGIONS

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** High temperatures were in the 80s last week. Lows were mostly in the 50s and 60s, but several areas of the Panhandle and Big Bend reached the 40s at night. Overall, major cities averaged temperatures that were 1 to 4 degrees above normal. Most of the State saw less than half an inch of rain this past week. The southern counties of Dade, Collier, and Broward each received between half and one inch of rain.

**FIELD CROPS:** Peanut digging was 73% complete, compared with 66% last year, and a five year average progress of 74%. Some very dry areas of the Panhandle and Big Bend experienced delays as they continued to plant winter small grains and forage. Jefferson County reported that soil moisture was adequate for germination. Growth in hay fields has slowed due to shorter days and cooler nights. Most growers were making their final hay cuttings. Jackson County harvested cotton and soybeans. Overall soil moisture levels were mostly short in northern counties and adequate in central and southern counties.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending October 19, 2008			
Stage	2008	2007	5-yr Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Harvested	73	66	74

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	12	4	6	8	4	9
Short	25	26	30	27	26	31
Adequate	58	58	60	62	58	57
Surplus	5	12	4	3	12	2

**VEGETABLES:** Some producers in Hendry County reported concern of disease due to recent rains. Cabbage planting was near completion in St. Johns, Putnam, and Flagler counties. The first tomato harvest is expected soon in Manatee County. Cucumbers, eggplant, okra, squash, avocados, and tomatoes moved through the market last week.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** The summer pasture condition was declining with quality and quantity falling. In the Panhandle, pasture condition was fair to excellent with most in good condition. Already planted winter forage was just emerging, but further planting was delayed by low topsoil moisture. Forage growth was slow due to cool weather. In the northern areas, pasture condition ranged from fair to good. In Dixie and Jefferson counties, permanent pasture forage was not growing due to shortened daylight. Planting of small grains for winter graze was underway with soil moisture adequate for germination and early growth. Columbia County, cool season forage and grains were beginning to be planted. Cattle condition was fair to good. In the central areas, pasture ranged from poor to good with most in fair condition. Some pastures were not growing due to drought and other areas were still recovering from Tropical Storm Fay. The protein content of pasture was low which will affect calf growth and weight. Some cattle were in poor condition but hoof rot problems were clearing up as pastures dried out. In the southwest areas, pasture condition was very poor to excellent with poor condition caused by drought. 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	1	2
Poor	1	1	5	10
Fair	30	30	40	35
Good	60	65	50	50
Excellent	9	4	4	3

**CITRUS:** Weather conditions were generally cooler with light winds and sunny skies in most of the citrus-producing counties. Over the past weekend a cold front moved through the State bringing much cooler temperatures. High temperatures were reported in the middle to upper 80s with early morning lows dropping into the 50s and 60s. Rainfall was light throughout the State with the exception of Hendry County. Immokalee reported scattered showers and received the most rain in the southern areas with slightly over a half an inch. Citrus trees were in overall good condition in well-cared-for groves with fruit sets above average on early oranges and early tangerines. Maturity levels on early and late oranges were showing the crop was ahead of recent historical averages. Grove activity included limited harvesting, irrigating, herbiciding, and mowing. Scouting for canker and greening by growers and caretakers continues. Thirty-nine packinghouses have opened and have begun shipping fruit and five processing plants have begun running fruit in small quantities. Varieties being packed included early oranges (Navels, Ambersweet, and Hamlin), white and colored grapefruit, and Fallglo tangerines.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Oct 05	Oct 12	Oct 19
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and Mid oranges	35	39	42
Navel oranges	46	58	61
Grapefruit	71	159	191
Sunburst tangerines	0	0	0
Fallglo tangerines	66	81	85

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