



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending October 26, 2008

RAINFALL REPORTED ACROSS STATE

WEATHER SUMMARY: Heavy rain fell across much of the Panhandle and south Florida last week. In the Panhandle, most stations reported rainfall in excess of two inches, while locations in the southern Peninsula reported over an inch. The remainder of the State had rainfall mostly above a half inch with scattered locations reporting larger amounts. Broward and Jackson counties had the highest reported rainfall with 3.09 and 2.79 respectively. Daytime temperatures were in the mid-70s to the mid-80s with lows in the 40s and 50s. Major cities averaged highs in the 70s and 80s with lows in the 50s, 60s, and 70s in south Florida. Statewide temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees below normal.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut digging was 83 percent complete, compared with 77 percent last year, and a five year average progress of 85 percent. Peanut harvest was mostly complete in many counties, but rainfall delayed the remaining harvest a few days due to wet fields. Cotton harvest was in progress and yields were above average. Recent rainfall benefited cool-season forage crops and feed plots planted for wildlife. Hay harvest was slowing in the northern areas of the State and with frost soon to occur, will force cattlemen to begin feeding hay. Topsoil moisture was mostly adequate in all areas. Subsoil was mostly adequate in most areas except the southern Peninsula which had some areas reporting condition as short and very short.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending October 26, 2008			
Stage	2008	2007	5-yr Average
<i>Percent</i>			
Harvested	83	77	85

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
<i>Percent</i>						
Very short	5	12	2	6	8	7
Short	19	25	24	19	27	30
Adequate	68	58	71	69	62	62
Surplus	8	5	3	6	3	1

VEGETABLES: Growers continued to prepare land and plant vegetables. Cucumber and squash harvest was underway in St Johns County. Collier County reported harvesting of eggplants and specialty items. Strawberry planting was almost complete in Hillsborough County and picking of grape tomatoes had begun. Other vegetables marketed last week were okra and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Pasture conditions continued to seasonally decline in the Panhandle and Big Bend due to cooler temperatures. Ranchers were planting cool-season forages for winter feeding. Recent showers increased topsoil moisture, which helped germination. Some areas of Orange and Seminole counties reported low protein levels in pastures, despite their lush appearance. Wet soils were still seen in some east-central parts of the State. The west-central region remained dry. Pasture conditions declined rapidly in De Soto County. Southern locations reported that wet pastures were helped by drier weather. With lower quality and quantity of grass, cattle were not growing quite as well as they had been in previous months. Overall, cattle were mostly in fair to good condition. Cattlemen in Washington County reported that hay supplies were limited.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	0	3	1
Poor	2	1	6	5
Fair	28	30	37	40
Good	58	60	49	50
Excellent	12	9	5	4

CITRUS: Temperatures were average for the week preceding a cool front on Sunday morning. Lows dropped to the upper 50s in the northern citrus growing region and to the low to mid-60s elsewhere. Slow moving storms brought between one-half inch of rainfall in Lake Alfred to almost one and one-half inches in Ft. Pierce. Normal rainfall patterns and moderate temperatures over the past several weeks have been good for both the trees and fruit. The quantity and quality of fruit continues to be reported good in most areas. Grove activity included limited harvesting, irrigating, herbiciding, and mowing. Scouting for greening and removal of affected trees was common primarily in the southern citrus growing region where the disease is the most widespread. Almost all the major packinghouses have opened and have begun shipping fruit. About a half dozen processing plants have begun running fruit in small quantities. Varieties being packed included early oranges (Navels, Ambersweet, and Hamlin), white and colored grapefruit, and early tangerines (Fallglo and Sunburst).

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Oct 12	Oct 19	Oct 26
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges	39	42	52
Navel oranges	58	61	110
Grapefruit	159	191	302
Fallglo tangerines	81	85	110
Sunburst tangerines	0	0	7

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