



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending May 24, 2009

LARGE AMOUNTS OF RAIN, HAIL IN SOME AREAS

WEATHER SUMMARY: An abundant supply of rain was received across the State last week. A State of Emergency was issued in Brevard, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Lake, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Seminole, St. Johns, and Volusia counties due to severe weather and flooding. Major cities averaged highs in the 70s and 80s with lows in the 50s, 60s, and 70s. Daytime temperatures reached highs in the 80s and 90s; lows in the 50s and 60s.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut planting continued with 54% completed compared to 74% a year ago. Field work was halted for many growers due to excessive amounts of rainfall in several areas. Potato fields were affected in Putnam, Flagler, and St. Johns counties, but exact amounts were not available. Soybeans and cotton were planted in Walton County. Planting of peanuts, soybeans, and cotton slowed in Jackson County. Okaloosa County Extension Service reported planting of cotton and peanuts behind schedule due to rain. Hay supplies were adequate in Manatee County. Peanut planting continued in Marion County, with only a couple weeks left. Winter wheat was ready to harvest in Santa Rosa County, but wet weather conditions prevented field activity. Most wheat is double-cropped with cotton, soybeans, or peanuts, and may affect second crop selection. Small grains harvest was delayed in Columbia County. Soil moisture was mostly adequate in all areas.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending May 24, 2009			
Stage	2009	2008	5-yr Average
<i>Percent</i>			
Planted	54	74	58

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
<i>Percent</i>						
Very short	0	27	29	2	25	13
Short	8	43	51	17	46	59
Adequate	73	28	20	72	28	28
Surplus	19	2	0	9	1	0

VEGETABLES: Most southern Florida growers continued to harvest and pack the last of their vegetables while central and northern Florida producers assessed recent rain damage. Okra and tomato harvesting continued in Florida City. Harvesting of peppers and cucumbers rapidly decreased in Broward County. Blueberry harvest was about finished in Glades County. Watermelon reportedly had about a week to go of harvesting in Charlotte County. Wauchula city growers harvested and packed watermelon, cantaloupe, and eggplant. Pickle cucumbers continued to be harvested in Okeechobee and Manatee counties. Peppers were also harvested in the greenhouse for this location. Gadsden city growers began spring planting. The watermelon crop was mostly complete in Immokalee last week and will probably end if the rains continue. Vegetable growers in the tri-county areas were assessing damages from the wind and rain. Squash, cucumbers, cantaloupe, sweet corn, and blueberries were possibly affected. Sweet corn harvest began and cantaloupe harvest was expected to begin soon. Bradford County producers harvested some squash and tomatoes. Watermelon harvest expected to begin in a month. The vegetable season was winding down in Seminole County. Highlands County harvested watermelons and sweet corn. Snap beans were harvested in Hamilton County. Other vegetables marketed last week were celery and radishes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: The pasture and cattle conditions improved slightly, but more time is needed for the pastures to recover. In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was poor to excellent with most fair to good. Feeding of supplemental hay continued. Summer perennials pasture was responding to improved moisture from the rains; but the grass needs to overcome past overgrazing before growth is enough to provide good pasture. Cattle condition was poor to excellent with most fair to good. In the central areas, pasture was in very poor to good condition with most poor to fair due to recent, extreme and prolonged drought. Supplemental hay feeding was active but hay supplies were short. Calves were being weaned. Pasture condition in the southwest was very poor to good with most poor to fair. Pastures improved with grass beginning to grow. Stock pond water levels have risen. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most fair to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	5	5	5	15
Poor	15	15	25	40
Fair	35	45	45	30
Good	40	30	20	10
Excellent	5	5	5	5

CITRUS: Several days of storms and heavy showers drenched Florida's citrus-producing region. Some of the storms produced strong, gusty winds and frequent lightning and hail, none of which caused significant damage to citrus groves. The western citrus areas had more than three inches of rain, with higher totals in the northern and central areas. Apopka recorded over ten inches. Kenansville and Sebring recorded over six inches. Localized flooding caused some growers to pump excess water out of the groves and into canals and reservoirs. Temperatures were slightly lower this week than in the past several weeks, dropping to the 60s at night, but still reaching the mid-80s during the day. Valencia processing dropped below the six million box level, primarily because the pickers could not work as much in the inclement weather. Most packinghouses have plans to close in mid-June or early July. Varieties being run included late oranges and very limited quantities of grapefruit. Production practices were very light this past week because of the heavy rain and lightning.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	May 10	May 17	May 24
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges	0	1	0
Valencia oranges	6,543	6,285	5,534
Navel oranges	1	1	0
Grapefruit	147	73	58

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