



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending May 31, 2009

RAIN CONTINUES ACROSS THE STATE

WEATHER SUMMARY: Several locations reported rainfall above three inches last week. Dade County received five inches and most locations across southern Florida reported accumulations above three inches. Other areas of the State had between one half inch to more than three inches of rain. Temperatures were seasonable with highs ranging in the upper 80s and low 90s, and lows in the mid-60s. Major cities averaged highs in the 80s and 90s, with lows in the 60s, and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut planting was 72% completed. Planting of peanuts was delayed in some areas due to excess moisture and in some cases extremely wet fields will require some peanuts to be replanted. Wheat harvest still delayed due to wet conditions. Double cropping behind small grains may not be possible for some areas. Field work was limited for many growers due to excessive amounts of rainfall. Potato fields in Putnam, Flagler, and St. Johns counties suffered heavy losses due to flooding. Some fields have received up to 30 inches of rainfall in the last two weeks. Initial losses of the potato crop in the Hasting area ranged from 50% of the chipping crop and up to 80% for table varieties were reported. Soybeans and cotton planting was delayed in some areas of the Panhandle. Field crops in the Big Bend area have benefited from recent rainfall and were reported to be in excellent condition. Hay cutting and corn silage harvest will begin as fields dry out.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending May 31, 2009			
Stage	2009	2008	5-yr Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Planted	72	88	76

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This Week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	1	0	41	2	2	33
Short	6	8	41	9	17	42
Adequate	70	73	18	74	72	25
Surplus	23	19	0	15	9	0

VEGETABLES: Watermelon harvest in southern areas continued, spurred by high prices. Growers reported some fields being picked for the fourth or fifth time. Northern area growers reported disease problems in some vegetable fields. Snap beans, cucumbers, peppers, and squash were reported in poor condition. Cantaloupe quality was negatively affected by too much moisture. Vegetable losses in St. Johns, Putnam, and Flagler counties were extensive. Some vegetable fields in Seminole County were abandoned. Movement of vegetables was less than half of the previous two weeks.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Pasture improved; however, some low-lying areas in the central and southwest were flooded. In the Panhandle, pasture condition was poor to excellent with most good to excellent. Summer perennial pasture grass returned to normal growth. The cattle condition was mostly good. In the northern areas, pasture was in fair to excellent condition with most in good condition. In the central areas, pasture was very poor to good with most fair to good. The pasture condition improved over the last two weeks, recovering from the prolonged drought. Rains this past week filled some ponds and ditches. There was standing water in poorly drained areas in interior sections. The pasture condition in the southwest was very poor to good with most fair to good. Pastures were recovering quickly from drought; however, some poorly drained areas have standing water. 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	5
Poor	10	15	10	25
Fair	40	35	40	45
Good	40	40	40	20
Excellent	5	5	5	5

CITRUS: Typical Florida summer weather patterns returned to the citrus-producing region bringing plenty of sunshine, followed by late afternoon and evening rain showers. Most of the rain showers were quick moving bringing one-tenth to one-half inch each evening. Ft. Pierce and Balm on the two coasts had the most rain for the week at over three inches. All other monitored areas received two inches or less. Daily highs were in the upper 80s on most days. The tropical weather continued to be an asset to fruit growth and tree foliage. Oranges were as large as golf ball size, while grapefruit were slightly larger. Trees in well-kept groves were in good condition for next season's crop. Production practices were back on schedule from the previous week and included herbiciding, spraying, mowing, and brush removal. Valencia harvest continued to be active with over four million boxes harvested. Most packinghouses have plans to close in mid-June or early July. Varieties processed included late oranges and very limited quantities of grapefruit.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	May 17	May 24	May 31
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges	1	0	0
Valencia oranges	6,285	5,534	4,369
Navel oranges	1	0	0
Grapefruit	73	58	41

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