



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending July 12, 2009

PANHANDLE GROWERS WELCOMED RAIN SHOWERS

WEATHER SUMMARY: Warm, humid conditions continued with scattered showers and a downpour over the weekend for some areas the week of July 6-12. Daytime temperatures reached the upper 80s and 90s with lows in the upper 60s and 70s. Major cities averaged highs in the 80s and 90s, lows in the 60s and 70s. The Panhandle received showers between one and two inches in a few areas, but most of the rainfall was in the central Peninsula. Hernando County received the most accumulated precipitation of 5.19 inches.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut pegging continued with 55 percent complete compared with 59 percent last year. Peanut condition rated 2% poor, 28% fair, 48% good, and 22% excellent. Corn, peanuts, and hay progressed well in Columbia County with some growers receiving their second cutting. Peanuts pegging was virtually complete in Suwannee County while corn growth continued. Recent rains provided relief to the hay crop in Gadsden, Washington, and Holmes counties. Growers were busy preparing for the caladium festival in Highlands County. Nurseries continued to struggle with the lasting effects of Tropical Storm Fay in Miami-Dade County. Soil moisture condition was adequate in all areas.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending July 12, 2009			
Stage	2009	2008	5-yr Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Pegged	55	59	62

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	1	2	2	0	0	9
Short	12	13	23	16	16	40
Adequate	73	71	69	74	73	46
Surplus	14	14	6	10	11	5

VEGETABLES: Growers began laying plastic for the fall crop in Manatee County. Extreme heat combined with moisture caused fungal diseases for vegetable crops in Highlands County. Pumpkins and sweet potatoes were in the ground last week. Harvesting of sweet potatoes was in progress in Miami-Dade County. Growers planted papayas and wrapped up the mango crop. Longans and avocados came to the market. Columbia County producers harvested late watermelons and peas. Watermelon harvest was in full swing in Washington County. Okra was also marketed.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor due to drought to mostly good to excellent. Most pasture grass received rain recently and the condition has significantly improved. Cattle condition correspondingly improved due to better pastures. In the central areas, range and pasture were fair to excellent, with most in good condition. Pasture condition improved due to rain. Some pastures in low areas were very wet. In the southwest, pasture was mostly good; however, some locations suffered from drought while other low lying areas were near flooded. The condition of the cattle was very poor to excellent with most in good condition. There were plenty of flies and mosquitoes bothering livestock. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	1	1	1
Poor	4	4	1	3
Fair	25	30	18	26
Good	55	50	60	45
Excellent	15	15	20	25

CITRUS: Typical summer weather continued throughout the citrus-producing region. Temperatures were very warm again, with several afternoon and evening rain showers pushing their way across the center of the State. Highs reached the low to mid-90s in all monitored counties. The most rainfall recorded was in the northern citrus-producing region at just over three inches, followed by the central region at one and one-half to two inches of rainfall. Harvest of last season's fruit was complete. Growers focused attention on next season's crop through fertilizations, nutritional spraying, and hedging. Most growers combated the citrus psyllid that causes greening by using both aerial and ground spraying. Some growers with heavy concentrations of greening chose to treat the groves or push individual trees, while others pushed entire blocks. Overall, trees and fruit made good progress in well-cared-for groves.

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