



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending July 26, 2009

## COOLER TEMPERATURES, EVENING SHOWERS

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Scattered showers last week ranged from none in a few locations to over two inches in others. Hillsborough, St Lucie, and Osceola counties collected over two inches of rain each. Most locations across northern Florida and the Panhandle received one inch or less. Rainfall was spotty across the southern area of the State with about a half inch of rainfall being the norm. Conditions were cooler across the Panhandle with highs in the mid-80s to the low 90s and nighttime lows in the 50s and 60s. Temperatures were near normal across the Peninsula with highs in the 90s while lows were in the 60s and 70s.

**FIELD CROPS:** The peanut crop was 66% pegged, compared with 90% last year, and a five year average of 88%. Peanut progress was behind normal due to late planting caused by excessively wet fields in the spring. Peanut condition was rated 2% poor, 20% fair, 65% good, and 13% excellent. Peanut leaf spot incidence reported higher than normal due to continuously wet foliage from showers during the three previous weeks. Fungicide treatments were applied to some peanut fields. Corn fields were mostly mature and drying down. Harvest of corn silage continues. Soybeans were reported in generally good condition. Cotton progress still lags behind normal. Drier conditions last week have allowed second cutting of hay to rapidly progress with good yields reported. Conditions for sugarcane growth reported as favorable. Grass seed harvest increasing. Sod reported in good condition. Armyworms were causing damage to sod, pasture, and field crops.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending July 27, 2009			
Stage	2009	2008	5-yr Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Pegged	66	90	88

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	1	1	0	1	1	1
Short	11	16	28	14	17	32
Adequate	70	64	66	70	66	63
Surplus	18	19	6	15	16	4

**VEGETABLES:** Blueberry and blackberry harvest is nearing completion. Growers continued to market locally grown vegetables at farmers markets and roadside stands. Field preparations were underway for fall planted vegetables. Marketing of okra and avocados continues.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** Statewide, pasture condition ranged from fair to excellent with the majority rated as good or excellent. Pasture growth has benefited from cooler temperatures and continued tropical showers that have kept pastures green and growing. Stock ponds and canals were recovering and reported at near capacity in many areas. The cattle condition continues to show improvement. Eighty percent of the cattle herd was rated as good or excellent.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	1	0	0
Poor	3	4	1	1
Fair	16	25	14	19
Good	60	60	55	60
Excellent	20	10	30	20

**CITRUS:** Prevalent weather patterns in most citrus growing areas have been similar to those in recent weeks with very warm mornings and early afternoons followed by thunderstorms and isolated rain showers later in the day. Daily highs reached the low to mid-90s in all monitored areas on several days. The warmest temperatures recorded were in Immokalee and Sebring at over 96 degrees. Rainfall amounts ranged from one-tenth inch in Ona to two inches in Ft. Pierce. Trees and fruit have responded well to the sub-tropical climate. Some trees had new growth where they were hedged and topped earlier in the year. The new crop fruit is showing various sizes on grapefruit with more consistent sizes on oranges. Grove activity included fertilizations, nutritional spraying, and general grove maintenance. Some growers were combating canker with additional copper spraying during the rainy season. Growers were using both aerial and ground spraying to reduce the citrus psyllid population that spreads greening.

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