



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending October 4, 2009

Drier, Cooler Conditions Aid Most Field Work

Weather Summary: Last week high temperatures were in the upper 80s and lower 90s. Nightly lows were mostly in the 50s and 60s. A few areas in the Big Bend fell into the 40s, while some southern Florida locations only got down into the 70s at night. Precipitation was scarce for the State with most locations receiving only traces. The Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) station in Santa Rosa County recorded 1.28 inches of rain. The station in Homestead recorded 0.82 inches, but other reports from Miami-Dade County indicated about 2.50 inches of rainfall. Other locations collected less than a quarter inch of rain for the week.

Field Crops: Peanut condition rated 2% poor, 43% fair, 42% good, and 13% excellent. Peanut harvesting was 29% complete compared to 52% at this time last year, and a 5-year average of 39%. Recent, dry conditions have greatly facilitated peanut harvesting. Cool temperatures may slow the maturation of later peanuts. Many growers reported cutting and baling hay due to good weather. Cotton picking was delayed by cool weather in the Panhandle. Bolls were beginning to open in some Washington County fields.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: October 4, 2009

Stage	2008	5-yr average	2009
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Harvested.....	52	39	29

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	0	6	0	0	6	0
Short	9	32	25	8	21	20
Adequate.....	73	50	66	66	61	68
Surplus.....	18	12	9	26	12	12

Vegetables: Producers in Hillsborough County began planting strawberries. Cabbage was planted in Flagler County. In south Florida, planting remained active as well. Producers performed other cultural operations and fields were irrigated as needed. Some specialty crops, such as basil, began going to market. Eggplant and sweet corn harvest continued in Columbia County. Avocados and okra were marketed last week. Light harvesting of tomatoes and squash has begun.

Livestock and Pastures: Drier soil and cooler temperatures decreased the State's pasture condition. In the Panhandle and northern areas, pastures were fair to excellent with most in good condition. Seasonal cooler nighttime temperatures and shorter days slowed summer pasture growth. Field preparation for fall forage slowed due to dry soil conditions. Cattle condition was fair to excellent with most in good condition. In the central areas, pasture was poor to excellent. In Marion County, drought has reduced growth of pasture to virtually nothing. Pastures in Orange and Seminole counties were in good condition. In the Southwest, pasture condition was poor to excellent with drought hurting some of the pasture. Most pasture and cattle in the southwest were in good condition. Statewide, the condition of cattle was poor to excellent with most cattle in good condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	0	0	0	0
Poor	5	5	5	5
Fair.....	15	15	25	20
Good	60	65	55	65
Excellent	20	15	15	10

Citrus: Mild days had lows in the 50s and 60s and highs in the upper 80s and lower 90s. Widely scattered showers brought trace amounts of rainfall across the citrus-producing areas. Alachua received the most rain, less than two-tenths of an inch, while many stations received no rain at all. Trees were generally in good condition in well-cared-for groves. Clean up for harvest continues, as does herbicide application, irrigation, and general grove maintenance. In addition, growers continued to survey groves for greening, treat trees for the citrus psyllid, and remove infected trees. Fourteen packinghouses have opened and have begun shipping fruit. Five processing plants have opened and were running fruit. Varieties being packed included early oranges (Navel, Ambersweet, and Hamlin), white and colored grapefruit, and Fallglo tangerines.

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