



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending October 25, 2009

Cooler Temperatures; Rain Showers Decrease

Weather Summary: For the week of October 19-25, high temperatures were mostly in the 80s, with a few 90 degree days reported. Lows were in the 40s, 50s, and 60s. In major cities temperatures averaged 2 to 6 degrees below normal. Rain was mostly received in the Panhandle and southern Peninsula. Palm Beach County reported 2.05 inches in the Belle Glade area. Jefferson, Gadsden, St. Lucie, Miami-Dade, and Broward counties each received approximately 0.50 to 0.70 inches each. All other Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) locations recorded only traces of rainfall.

Field Crops: Peanut harvesting was 60% complete compared to 82% at this time last year, and 5-year average of 81%. Peanut condition was rated 6% poor, 25% fair, 46% good, and 23% excellent. Growers continued to harvest peanut fields that were dry enough. Some delays were still experienced due to rain on the peanut and cotton crops. Cotton in Santa Rosa County was ready for defoliation, but growers were busy finishing their peanut harvest. In Jackson County, cotton picking began. A few growers in Pasco and Columbia counties baled the last hay cutting. Sugarcane harvest remained active in Glades and Hendry counties. Soil moisture levels remain adequate to surplus in the Panhandle, but short to adequate for all other regions.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: October 25, 2009

Stage	2008	5-yr average	2009
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Harvested.....	82	81	60

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.....	1	6	3	1	6	1
Short	32	20	34	25	20	28
Adequate.....	61	66	58	68	68	66
Surplus.....	6	8	5	6	6	5

Vegetables: Warm and mostly dry conditions aided field work for producers. Planting of the winter crop was still getting underway. Growers in Flagler County continued to plant cabbage. In Highlands County, lettuce, tomatoes, and bell peppers were planted. Vegetable growers in south Florida irrigated fields. Water levels in ponds and canals have dropped due to the recent lack of rain. Very light harvesting of snap beans, squash, watermelon, and eggplant took place. Growers also lightly harvested sweet corn and hot peppers. Avocados, okra, cucumbers, and tomatoes moved through the market.

Livestock and Pastures: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was fair to excellent. Permanent pastures were going dormant as temperatures fell to the low 30s. Planting of small grains for winter forage was on schedule with some producers having completed forage planting. Supplemental hay feeding will begin soon. Cattle condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the central areas, pastures were in very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Drought and cooler weather hampered grass growth. Cattle condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the Southwest, pasture condition was very poor to excellent with most in good condition. Drought and cooler weather hurt forage growth. Water levels were dropping in ponds and canals. The fall calving season has begun. Statewide, the condition of cattle was poor to excellent with most 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	1	1
Poor	5	5	5	4
Fair.....	20	20	25	40
Good	65	65	60	50
Excellent	10	10	9	5

Citrus: Temperatures returned to average for the week, following a cold front over the previous weekend. Lows dropped to the 40s in the beginning of the week in most of the citrus-producing areas and rapidly returned to normal by mid-week. Rainfall remained sparse with most stations reporting trace amounts or none at all. Belle Glade was the most notable exception with over two inches of precipitation. The quantity and quality of fruit continues to be reported good in most areas. Grove activity included limited harvesting, irrigating, herbiciding, and mowing. Scouting for greening and removal of affected trees continues. Thirty-four major packinghouses have opened and have begun shipping fruit. Six processing plants have begun running fruit in small quantities. Varieties being packed included early oranges (Navels, Ambersweet, and Hamlin), white and colored grapefruit, Fallglo tangerines, and a few tangelos.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	October 11, 2009	October 18, 2009	October 25, 2009
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	56	56	59
Navel oranges	47	77	80
Grapefruit	81	186	275
Tangelos	0	2	4
Fallglo tangerines	102	87	92

This report is available, at no cost, on the NASS web site: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp. To set-up this free subscription, select Florida Crop-Weather; enter your name and your email address, click on Subscribe. This report will be sent automatically each week; or call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter the subscription for you. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Data for individual reporting stations is available at: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.