



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending August 1, 2010

## Field Crops Suffering Due To High Heat, Dry Conditions

**Weather Summary:** Widely scattered showers dropped from traces to over four inches of rain during the week of July 25 through August 1. Minimal rains have not eased drought conditions in some Panhandle and northern Peninsula localities. Alachua recorded over two inches of precipitation with Tallahassee reporting over three inches. Most areas received traces to over an inch of rainfall. Areas reporting over four inches of rain included Avalon, Hastings, and Ona. Major cities averaged temperatures that were one degree below normal to six degrees above normal. Daytime highs were in the mid to upper 90s with the heat index raising temperatures to over 100 degrees in several stations. Evening lows were in the 70s.

## 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 .....	2	3	10	2	3	10
Short .....	15	13	35	12	15	20
Adequate .....	70	65	49	75	64	60
Surplus .....	13	19	6	11	18	10

**Field Crops:** Field crops were suffering due to extreme heat conditions coupled with the lack of rainfall. Growers need substantial rains to elevate moisture supplies. Dry conditions may reduce peanut yields in dry land fields. In Jackson County, dry conditions and high temperatures was beginning to cause significant stress on peanuts and cotton. Some peanut pegs were burning off due to the heat. Some peanut fields were being treated for white mold in the Panhandle. Growers continue to spray fungicides. Peanut condition was rated 2 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Peanuts are 80 percent pegged compared with 78 percent last year and the five-year average of 90 percent pegged by this date. Corn harvesting was underway in areas throughout Hamilton and Jackson counties. Corn in Escambia County is in critical need of rains.

## Peanut Progress for Week Ending: August 1, 2010

Stage	2009	5-year average	2010
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pegged .....	78	90	80

**Vegetables:** Vegetable producers were busy preparing land for fall planting in the southern Peninsula areas. Okra and light supplies of avocados were marketed last week.

**Livestock and Pastures:** Cattle and pasture were stressed by high temperatures. In the Panhandle and northern areas, the condition of the pasture was poor to excellent with most fair to good. Pasture was hurt by drought and high temperatures stressed livestock. Much pasture was overgrazed. The cattle condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the central areas, the pasture condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. Many cattlemen were mowing pastures to remove over-mature grass. The cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition. Cattle weight gain was lower than average due to heat and the low quality of over-mature forage. In the southwestern area, the range was in poor to excellent condition with most in good condition. Statewide, cattle were in poor to excellent condition 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.....	2	0	1	0
Poor.....	3	1	1	1
Fair.....	15	20	15	25
Good.....	60	60	55	55
Excellent.....	20	19	28	19

**Citrus:** Highs this week were in the mid to upper 90s, with early morning lows in the low to mid 70s. Avalon received the most precipitation with 4.48 inches. North Port received the least with 0.03 inches of precipitation recorded. Fourteen of the twenty-five stations reported less than an inch of rain. Mild drought conditions continued in Indian River County and surrounding counties were dry as well. Growing conditions continued to be good across the citrus region. Cultural practices included limited fertilizations, hedging, irrigation, and the resetting of young trees. Some summer sprays were applied as rainfall permitted. Growers continued using both aerial and ground spraying for citrus psyllid control.

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](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.