United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending August 22, 2010

Heavy Rain in Many Areas Slowing Fieldwork

Weather Summary: Temperatures across Florida averaged one to two degrees above normal for the week ending August 22 with highs reaching the mid 90s. Nighttime low temperatures were in the mid 70s. Temperatures in major cities were in the upper 90s to the 100s. Heavy rains fell across many areas of the southern and central Florida Peninsula. FAWN (Florida Automated Weather Network) stations reporting rainfall in excess of four inches included Glades, Hillsborough, De Soto, Hendry, and Polk counties. Highlands and Palm Beach counties each reported more than three inches of precipitation. Areas along the Atlantic coastline struggled with mild to moderate drought conditions.

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	1	0	1	1	0
Short	22	11	20	23	10	23
Adequate	76	72	63	74	74	58
Surplus	1	16	17	2	15	19

Field Crops: Rainfall during the week improved conditions of most row crops in the Panhandle, but delayed corn harvesting. Excessive moisture in some spots increased disease problems and operators sprayed for white mold. Peanut condition was reported as 1% poor, 25% fair, 70% good, and 4% excellent. Peanut pegging was virtually complete. Some peanuts were dug as weather allowed. In the central areas, recent rains relieved stress on forage crops and aided grass growth. Haying was difficult as daily showers kept fields too wet to harvest and caused standing water in low spots. Grasshoppers and armyworms were problematic for producers. In the southern growing region, heavy rainfall slowed fieldwork but was pushing cane growth at a rapid pace. Conditions were favorable for the emergence of orange rust in the sugarcane crop, but outbreaks were limited at this time. Harvest of corn for silage was nearly complete.

Vegetables: Producers prepared fields for fall vegetables and laid plastic mulch. Wet soils and standing water slowed fieldwork. Some early tomatoes and peppers were planted in south Florida. Avocadoes, okra, and truck crops were moving through the market.

Livestock and Pastures: The condition of pasture was slightly improved due to recent rains. In the Panhandle and northern areas, the condition of pasture was fair to good with most in good condition. The cattle condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. However, heat and humidity continued to stress livestock performance. In the central areas, most of the pasture was in good condition; however a considerable amount of pasture was poor to fair due to the previous dry conditions. There was some damage from armyworms. The cattle condition was poor to excellent, tracking the pasture condition. In the southwestern areas, pasture was in fair to excellent condition with most in good condition. Pasture in low lying areas was in fair condition due to localized flooding. Statewide, most cattle were 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	10	10	10	5
Fair	10	10	10	10
Good	60	70	65	75
Excellent	20	10	15	10

Citrus: Highs this week were in the mid to upper 90s, with early morning lows in the low to mid 70s. Palmdale received the most precipitation with 6.20 inches. Seventeen of the twenty-five stations reported more than an inch of rain, nine of which had more than three inches. Umatilla received the least, with 0.07 inches of precipitation recorded. The drought conditions on the east coast worsened slightly, but remained in the mild to moderate range. Growing conditions continued to be good across the remainder of the citrus region. Cultural practices continued, including 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.

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