



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending September 19, 2010

Rain Needed To Aid Field Crops

Weather Summary: Mostly dry, humid conditions persisted during the week of September 13 through 19. Only a few scattered showers fell in the northern and central areas. Fort Lauderdale, Homestead, North Port, and Sebring received over one inch of precipitation and over three inches in Miami. Daily high temperatures were primarily in the low to mid 90s. Most evening lows were in the 60s and 70s with Alachua recording at least one low in the 50s. Temperatures hovered from normal to four degrees above normal for the week.

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 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| Short | 18 | 6 | 25 | 16 | 8 | 20 |
| Adequate | 72 | 69 | 61 | 76 | 65 | 67 |
| Surplus | 7 | 25 | 4 | 6 | 27 | 7 |

Field Crops: Dry conditions across the Panhandle and northern Peninsula hindered peanut digging. High temperatures coupled with dry weather reduced some peanut and cotton yields in Jackson County. The ground was very dry and too hard to dig dryland peanuts in parts of the Panhandle. In Santa Rosa and Escambia counties some peanut and cotton picking was underway. The amount of peanuts dug to date was reported at 23 percent versus 21 percent a year ago, and the five-year average of 13 percent. Peanut crop condition was rated 3 percent very poor, 25 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Soybean harvesting is expected to begin early October in areas across the Panhandle. Some late cotton as well as soybean bloom has been falling off prematurely in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Soybeans, cotton, and especially peanuts suffered from significant drought conditions with many soybean plants aborting pods and dropping leaves in Washington County. Growers are very concerned about pod-fill under the current drought conditions. Sugarcane planting continues in the Glades area with mills expecting to begin harvesting in the next few weeks.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: September 19, 2010

| Stage | 2009 | 5-year average | 2010 |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Harvested | 21 | 13 | 23 |

Vegetables: Vegetable planting was in high gear from the northern to southern Peninsula areas. Growers marketed light supplies of okra in Dade County. Avocados were marketed last week. Producers in the Quincy area were preparing for tomato harvesting which is expected to get underway soon. In Columbia County, whitefly populations have increased substantially as growers continue to prepare for fall vegetables.

Livestock and Pastures: In the Panhandle, pasture condition was very poor to excellent with most poor to good. Pasture was stressed by dry soil conditions in Jackson County. In Jefferson County, pasture condition was lower due to drier and warmer than normal growing conditions. Land preparation and planting of winter grazing was slowed or delayed. Fertilizing of hay fields was delayed as producers wait for rain. The cattle condition was mostly good but down from the previous week. Some feeding of supplemental hay started to compensate for the declining pasture condition. Pastures in the northern areas were in fair to excellent condition with most fair. The cattle condition was fair to excellent. In the central areas, pasture was mostly good. However, there was a significant increase in mole cricket damage in Clay County and grasshoppers were plentiful in Pasco County. Dry weather has hurt dryland forage. The cattle condition was fair to excellent with most good. In the southwestern areas, most pastures were in very poor to excellent condition with most good. The condition of the cattle was poor to excellent. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was poor to excellent, down slightly from the previous week.

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..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Fair..... | 14 | 16 | 15 | 22 |
| Good..... | 70 | 65 | 55 | 50 |
| Excellent..... | 15 | 18 | 28 | 25 |

Citrus: Highs this week were in the low to mid 90s, with early morning lows predominately in the mid to upper 60s. Sebring received the most precipitation with 1.39 inches. Seventeen of the twenty-five stations reported less than a tenth of an inch of rain. East Coast drought conditions remained abnormally dry to moderate, as per the U.S. drought monitor, last updated on September 14. Growing conditions continued to be good across the remainder of the citrus region. Cultural practices included general grove work, tree removal, irrigation, ground spraying of fall miticide, and the care of young trees.

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