



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

Week ending September 26, 2010

Vegetable Planting, Peanut Harvesting, and Cotton Picking Active

Weather Summary: Dry conditions continued in most areas which allowed fieldwork to progress during the week of September 18 through 24. Most stations reported minimal traces of rain. Avalon, Citra, Immokalee, and Miami received over one inch of precipitation. Over two inches of rain fell in North Port and Pensacola. Daytime highs were in the upper 80s and 90s. Nighttime lows were in the 60s with Alachua recording a low in the upper 50s. Temperatures in the major cities averaged 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.....	10	0	10	6	0	6
Short.....	25	8	25	20	8	23
Adequate.....	61	73	63	67	66	66
Surplus.....	4	19	2	7	26	5

Field Crops: Continued dry weather hindered peanut digging with harvesting 37 percent finished. Last year 26 percent of peanuts were harvested by this date while the five year average was 22 percent. Peanut crop condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 14 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Peanut harvesting was completely halted in some locations in the Panhandle as the soil was too hard. The peanut vines were in very bad condition in localities in Santa Rosa County. In Columbia County, some peanut yields were lower due to white mold. Soybeans were reported in fair to good condition. Some soybeans will not make a full crop because the pods did not fill completely due to lack of rainfall. Cotton picking was active across the Panhandle.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: September 26, 2010

Stage	2009	5-year average	2010
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Harvested.....	26	22	37

Vegetables: Land preparation and vegetable planting remained active across the Peninsula. Miami-Dade County growers began soil fumigation last week. Growers in Bradford County were getting ready to plant strawberries. Producers marketed supplies of okra and avocados last week. Producers in the Quincy area continued to prepare for tomato harvesting which is expected to begin in mid-October.

Livestock and Pastures: Pasture condition was down due to dry conditions and seasonal decline. In the Panhandle, pasture condition was very poor to excellent with most poor to fair. Continued lack of rainfall stressed pastures. Land preparation for winter grazing was paused in many locations pending rainfall. Planting of winter forage grains (oats and wheat) continued in many locations. The cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most fair to good. Pasture in the northern areas was poor to good with most poor to fair due to dry conditions. The cattle condition was poor to excellent. In the central areas, pasture was poor to excellent with most fair to good with dry soils and damage from mole crickets. The cattle condition was mostly good. In the southwestern areas, most pastures were in good condition with some in poor condition due to lack of moisture. The condition of the cattle was fair to excellent. 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.....	1	5	2	4
Fair.....	16	15	22	25
Good.....	65	55	50	50
Excellent.....	18	25	25	20

Citrus: Highs this week were in the low to mid 90s, with early morning lows predominately in the mid to upper 60s. North Port received the most precipitation with 2.15 inches. Nineteen of the twenty-five stations reported less than an inch of rain. East Coast drought conditions worsened to severe in Indian River County, with surrounding areas of abnormally dry to moderate conditions spreading slightly, per the U.S. drought monitor, last updated on September 21. 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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