



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending October 10, 2010

Cooler Temperatures Arrive In Sunny Florida

Weather Summary: A cold frontal system swept across the State bringing cooler nighttime temperatures. Temperatures for the major stations averaged from two to seven degrees below normal. Daytime highs were mostly in the 80s with some areas recording at least one high in the 90s. Cooler evening temperatures were in the 40s, 50s, and 60s. No rainfall was recorded across the State with the exception of traces in Alachua, Apopka, Miami, and Pierson.

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	1	8	2	0	8
Short.....	25	30	31	25	26	20
Adequate	68	63	57	66	67	70
Surplus	4	6	4	7	7	2

Field Crops: Dry weather across the Panhandle down to the southern Peninsula continued to deplete soil moisture supplies. Peanut crop condition was rated 4 percent very poor, 30 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 29 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Peanut harvesting is 62 percent finished compared with 39 percent finished by this date last year and the five-year average of 46 percent. Peanut yields and grades have suffered significantly in Washington County. In Santa Rosa County, corn harvesting was concluded and soybean harvesting was active. Soybean and cotton yields have been substantially reduced in Washington County. Sugarcane harvest was underway in the Everglades region.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: October 10, 2010

Stage	2009	5-year average	2010
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Harvested	39	46	62

Vegetables: Favorable weather conditions allowed field work to progress on schedule. Fall vegetable harvesting in central and southern Peninsula areas continued to increase slowly. Miami-Dade County growers continue to cut okra. Tomato picking increased around the Quincy area. Growers in Flagler County planted cabbage. Strawberry growers continued to prepare the land in Bradford County. Light harvesting of tomatoes is expected to begin within the next two weeks in central Peninsula localities. Producers marketed avocados, cucumbers, okra, squash, and tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures: Pasture growth was slowed by cooler weather, shorter days, and dry growing conditions. In the Panhandle, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most fair. Warm to hot, dry days combined with cool nighttime temperatures reduced forage growth. Cattlemen were preparing fields for planting as well as planting winter forage. Water levels in stock ponds were low. The cattle condition ranged from fair to excellent with most in good condition. In the northern areas, pasture ranged from poor to good with most in fair condition. Pasture and range responded to the rainfall of last week but low humidity and cool temperatures have slowed grass growth. Some fields were being prepared for fall forage plantings. The cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most cattle holding condition well. In the central areas, pasture ranged from fair to excellent with most in fair condition. Low soil moisture and cool night temperatures slowed pasture growth to almost nothing. The cattle condition ranged from fair to excellent with most in good condition. In the southwestern areas, pasture condition ranged from fair to excellent with most in good condition. Cool temperatures, shorter days, and dry growing conditions slowed forage growth. The condition of the cattle ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was mostly good.

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.....	2	2	4	4
Fair.....	20	20	25	40
Good.....	55	70	55	50
Excellent.....	23	8	15	5

Citrus: Highs this week were in the mid to upper 80s, with early morning lows ranging from the lower 40s to the low 60s. There was very little recorded rainfall this week; Apopka and Pierson received the most precipitation with 0.04 inches. Twenty-two of the twenty-five stations reported no precipitation. East Coast drought conditions remained severe in Indian River County, moderate in surrounding counties, as per the U.S. drought monitor, last updated on October 5. Growing conditions continued to be good across the remainder of the citrus region. Cultural practices included herbicide application, tree removal, irrigation, and fertilizer application.

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.