



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending October 17, 2010

Peanut and Cotton Harvesting Progressing, Pastures Suffering from Drought

Weather Summary: High temperatures in Florida were in the 80s and lows ranged between the 30s and 60s. Small amounts of rain were present during the reference week. The greatest amounts fell in Miami-Dade County with a little over half an inch of rain. Twenty five of the 36 Florida Automated Weather Network stations reported no precipitation. Only 52% of the soil moisture levels were reported as adequate or surplus.

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	8	1	12	8	1	6
Short.....	31	32	36	20	25	29
Adequate	57	61	50	70	68	60
Surplus	4	6	2	2	6	5

Field Crops: The peanut harvest was in full progress. However, some locations with heavier soil needed rain to make digging easier. Peanut harvesting for the week was 77 percent complete, up from 62 percent of last week. The five-year average for the week was 60 percent dug. The peanut crop condition was: 1 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. The cotton harvest was in full swing. Fields were being worked for fall forage planting. Winter small grains already planted have not yet emerged.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: October 17, 2010

Stage	2009	5-year average	2010
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Harvested	49	60	77

Vegetables: Tomato harvesting began in north Florida. Cabbage planting was active in Flagler County. In the central and south areas, vegetable growers continue to prepare land and plant in the southern Peninsula. Growers of vegetable, strawberries and citrus crops were being irrigated. Small amounts of early squash, cucumbers and specialty items were being harvested. Producers marketed avocados, cucumbers, okra, squash, and tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures: In the Panhandle the pasture condition was very poor to excellent, with most in poor to fair condition. The pasture condition declined rapidly due to dry soil, short days and cool nights. Land preparation for winter grazing and cool season forage planting was at a standstill due to dry soil conditions. The cattle condition was poor to excellent, with most in good condition and cattlemen have started feeding hay to supplement the pasture in poor condition. In the north area, the pasture condition was poor to good, with most in fair condition due to drought and insect damage. Land was being worked for fall forage planting. Mole crickets are a problem in Duval County pastures. The cattle condition was poor to good. In the central area the pasture was poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Drought and cool nights have put end to warm season grass growth. The cattle condition was mostly fair to good. In the southwest area, the pasture condition was poor to excellent with most fair to good. Stock pond water levels were below normal for this time of year. Pasture grass growth has slowed due to dry conditions, seasonally cooler temperatures and shorter days. The condition of the cattle was fair to excellent with most in good. 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	6	4	4
Fair.....	20	20	40	40
Good.....	70	60	50	45
Excellent.....	8	14	5	10

Citrus: Highs this week were in the mid to upper 80s, with early morning lows ranging from the lower 40s to the upper 50s. There was very little recorded rainfall this week. Belle Glade received the most precipitation with 0.37 inches. Seventeen of the twenty-five stations reported no precipitation. Overall, there were abnormally dry conditions in much of the citrus area according to the U.S. drought monitor, last updated on October 12. Drought conditions remained severe in Indian River County and moderate in surrounding counties. Twenty-six packinghouses and five processors have opened, with more scheduled to open this week. Cultural practices continued, including herbicide and fertilizer application, tree removal, and irrigation.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	October 3 2010	October 10 2010	October 17 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid Oranges.....	1	2	14
Ambersweet.....	9	24	24
Navel oranges.....	7	25	45
Grapefruit.....	12	22	82
Tangerines.....	16	71	82
Total.....	45	144	247

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.