



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending October 24, 2010

Growers In Need of Rain

Weather Summary: Cooler than normal temperatures during the week of October 18 through 24 were reported. Temperatures for the week averaged from three degrees below normal to one degree above normal. Enjoyable daytime temperatures were mostly in the lower to upper 80s. Nighttime lows were in the 40s and 50s with some areas recording at least one low in the 60s. Many localities across the State received no rainfall to minimal traces. Fort Lauderdale recorded slightly over one inch of precipitation. Jay received over a half an inch of rainfall for the week. Areas reporting a quarter of an inch of rain included Belle Glade, Clewiston, and Homestead.

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 | 12 | 3 | 23 | 6 | 1 | 15 |
| Short | 36 | 34 | 47 | 29 | 28 | 45 |
| Adequate | 50 | 58 | 30 | 60 | 66 | 40 |
| Surplus | 2 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 |

Field Crops: Growers across the Panhandle and northern Peninsula were in desperate need of rain to help aid crop development and digging of peanuts. Peanut harvesting was 84 percent complete compared to 77 percent from the previous week. Last year 59 percent of peanuts were harvested by this date while the five-year average was 74 percent. In Washington County, peanut grades were well below average in comparison to previous years. Some growers in Columbia County irrigated their peanut fields in order to dig due to the ground being too dry. Cotton picking remained active across the Panhandle. Sugarcane harvesting was active in the Everglades area with 3 of the 4 mills processing. Hay baling was active across the State.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: October 24, 2010

| Stage | 2009 | 5-year average | 2010 |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Harvested | 59 | 74 | 84 |

Vegetables: Dry weather allowed most field activities to progress. In Escambia and Santa Rosa counties growers have delayed planting fall vegetables because the grounds were too dry. Cooler evening temperatures delayed the crop maturity by about two weeks for cucumbers in central and southern Peninsula areas. Producers in the Hastings area continued to plant cabbage. Light harvesting of bell peppers, eggplant, and snap beans was underway. Tomato harvesting in the central Peninsula areas was expected to begin within the next week. Producers marketed avocados, cucumbers, okra, squash, and tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures: Pasture growth was continually slowed by the cool, dry weather, with most pastures statewide in fair to good condition. Land preparation and planting for winter forage was delayed by dry soil conditions. If delays continue, intended acres planted for winter pastures may decrease. Winter pastures that had been planted were not faring well due to lack of rain. The majority of the cattle condition for the State was reported in fair to good condition. In the Panhandle, pasture condition ranged from being very poor to excellent, with most in poor to fair condition. Cattle condition varied from poor to excellent, with most in fair to good condition. In the northern area, the pasture and cattle conditions were poor to excellent, with most in fair condition. In the central region, the pasture and cattle conditions ranged from very poor to excellent, but the majority of the pasture condition was reported as poor or fair, while the majority of the cattle condition was reported as fair or good. In the southwest, the pasture and cattle conditions were reported as poor to excellent, with the majority in fair to good condition. Stock pond levels throughout Florida have continued to decrease and were below normal for this time of year.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

| Condition | Cattle | | Pasture | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Previous week | Current week | Previous week | Current week |
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very poor..... | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Poor..... | 6 | 5 | 4 | 15 |
| Fair..... | 20 | 35 | 40 | 51 |
| Good..... | 60 | 50 | 45 | 30 |
| Excellent..... | 14 | 8 | 10 | 1 |

Citrus: Highs this week were in the 80s, with early morning lows ranging from the upper 50s to the lower 60s. There was very little recorded rainfall this week. Clewiston received the most precipitation with 0.25 inches. Nineteen 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 19. Drought conditions remained severe in Indian River County and moderate in surrounding counties. Thirty-six packinghouses and six processors opened. Cultural practices included herbicide and fertilizer application, tree removal, and irrigation.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

| Crop | October 10, 2010 | October 17, 2010 | October 24, 2010 |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | (boxes) | (boxes) | (boxes) |
| Early and mid oranges..... | 2 | 14 | 18 |
| Ambersweet..... | 24 | 24 | 26 |
| Navel oranges..... | 25 | 45 | 72 |
| Grapefruit..... | 22 | 82 | 169 |
| Tangerines..... | 71 | 82 | 121 |

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.