



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending July 24, 2011

Growers Welcomed Rains

Weather Summary: Scattered rains continued during the week of July 18 through 24. Several stations reported having less than a tenth of an inch to over one inch of rain. Nearly two inches of precipitation was recorded in Arcadia and Jay. Localities receiving over two inches of rainfall included Homestead, Kenansville, and Orlando. Rainfall totaled over three inches in North Port. In Pensacola, over five inches was received for the week. Recent rains helped decrease the threats of wildfires. The Florida Department of Agriculture’s Division of Forestry reported 32 active wildfires with 5 of those wildfires covering over 100 acres. Temperatures in the major cities averaged one degree below normal to three degrees above normal. Sultry daytime highs were in the 90s with the heat index in the 100s for several stations across the Sunshine State. Evening lows were in the 60s and 70s.

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	2	6	6	2	4
Short	22	16	23	30	12	27
Adequate	69	70	63	61	75	58
Surplus	6	12	8	3	11	11

Field Crops: Growers welcomed the rains across the Panhandle with soil moisture supplies mostly adequate. Recovery mode for field crops progressed with crops having a chance of survival if drought conditions do not return. Pest and disease pressure increased in field crops due to the improved moisture conditions coupled with the high temperatures. Rainfall over the Panhandle boosted growth and development of some peanuts as well as cotton. Growers reported the height of some cotton plants were shorter than normal. Peanuts pegged progressed to 67 percent compared to 72 percent last year. The peanut condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 33 percent fair, and 61 percent good. In Putnam County, corn harvesting was active. Some growers in Walton County planted soybeans despite the late date. Recent rains have promoted rapid sugarcane growth in the Everglades region. However, stunted sugarcane growth during the earlier drought period represents lost growth potential that cannot be recovered by the early fall harvest. There were reports of grasshopper outbreaks in some sugarcane fields.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: July 21, 2011

Stage	2010	5-year average	2011
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pegged	72	79	67

Vegetables: Field preparations for the fall crop planting remained active across central and southern Peninsula areas. Some vegetable growers were busy disking and spraying weeds in order to start laying plastic soon. Okra harvesting continued in Miami-Dade County. Light supplies of avocados were marketed with movement expected to increase next month.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, pasture and cattle conditions were mostly good. The pasture condition stabilized in the northern counties and improved in the southwestern areas. Supplemental hay was being fed. In the **Panhandle** and **northern areas**, pasture ranged from very poor to excellent condition with most in fair to good condition. Rain, the week of July 11, helped pastures improve, but much pasture had not recovered from the drought of the past several months. Livestock owners were feeding hay where pastures had been overgrazed. The condition of the cattle ranged from poor to excellent, with most fair to good. In the **central** area, the pasture and cattle varied from very poor to excellent, with most in fair to good condition. In the **southwest** area, pasture and cattle conditions varied from poor to excellent, with most in good condition. Grasshopper damage was noted in some pastures. Stock ponds water levels were up and some low lying pasture was flooded.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	1	1
Poor.....	7	4	8	3
Fair.....	35	35	30	40
Good.....	54	55	55	50
Excellent.....	3	5	6	6

Citrus: Temperatures were in the upper 60s and lower 70s at night and the mid to lower 90s during the day for the majority of the week. This week there was heavy, but scattered rainfall, with all of the stations receiving some rainfall. Amounts received ranged from 0.02 inch in Brooksville, to 3.39 inches in North Port. Extreme drought conditions existed in parts of Martin, St Lucie, and Palm Beach counties. Drought conditions were per the U.S. Drought Monitor; last updated July 19, 2011. Grove activity included resetting new trees, young tree care, applying herbicides, hedging and topping, brush removal, and fertilizer application.

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