



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending August 14, 2011

## Warm Week with Widespread Rainfall

**Weather Summary:** Temperatures averaged one to four degrees above normal at major cities. Highs were in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s. Both topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies improved from the previous week and were rated mostly adequate. Rainfall was abundant across most of Florida with all of the 36 Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations reporting precipitation. Homestead reported the most rainfall at 4.30 inches followed by Indian River (4.03 inches), Ona (3.95 inches), Fort Lauderdale (3.56), Fort Pierce (3.28 inches), and Citra (3.09 inches). Ten FAWN stations reported from two to three inches of rainfall, and nine stations reported from one to two inches. Although soil moisture was mostly adequate for growing field crops, the northern tier of counties bordering Georgia, were rated on August 9 as being in an extreme drought by the U.S. Drought Monitor. Small areas of Okeechobee, Martin, St. Lucie, and Palm Beach counties continued with an extreme drought rating. The Lake Okeechobee water level as of August 15 was 10.33 feet, compared to the historic average of 13.96 feet.

## 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 .....	4	1	1	6	1	2
Short .....	30	22	22	39	22	24
Adequate .....	65	74	70	54	74	67
Surplus .....	1	3	7	1	3	7

**Field Crops:** Crops in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties continued to be developing later than normal. In Jackson County, some crops were stressed by the dry weather and near triple digit temperatures. In Suwannee County, corn for grain was harvested. Some areas of the county needed rainfall for other crops. In Putnam County, harvesting of field corn was underway. In Walton County, the cotton crop was in fair condition after being hampered by the earlier season dry conditions. The soybean crop, despite some delays in planting this season, appeared to be in good condition due to recent adequate rainfall. The Florida peanut crop appeared to be in mostly good to fair condition. Peanut acreage pegged was at 90 percent compared with the five-year average progress of 95 percent. In Lafayette County, some peanuts were behind schedule in development due to the late planting caused by the drought. In Columbia County, a few producers were digging green peanuts. In Suwannee County, the peanut crop showed improvement due to recent rains. In Jackson County, the hot and dry conditions stopped peanut blooming, but pegging and pod development continued.

## Peanut Progress for Week Ending: August 14, 2011

Stage	2010	5-year average	2011
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pegged .....	96	95	90

**Vegetables:** Light supplies of okra were being marketed. In Charlotte, Collier, De Soto, Hendry, and Lee counties, vegetable growers were preparing land and laying plastic in preparation for vegetable planting. In Miami-Dade County, some fields for vegetables had standing water in low lying areas due to the recent rains. Land preparation for fall planting was getting underway in Highlands County.

**Livestock and Pastures:** **Statewide**, the pasture condition was mostly good, with lack of soil moisture being the primary limiting factor for grass growth. Some pastures in poor condition were overgrazed earlier in the year. The cattle condition improved over the previous week with most cattle in good condition. In the **Panhandle**, the pasture condition varied from very poor to excellent, with most fair to good. The high temperatures stressed grass and livestock. Armyworms caused some damage to pastures. In the **northern** areas, pastures ranged from very poor to good condition with most in good condition. There was some damage from armyworms. The condition of the cattle was mostly good. In the **central** and the **southwestern** areas, the pasture ranged from poor to excellent condition, with most in good condition. Most of the cattle were 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.....	5	2	4	4
Fair.....	35	23	20	25
Good.....	50	70	65	60
Excellent.....	10	5	10	10

**Citrus:** Temperatures were in the lower to mid 70s at night and the mid to upper 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 0.39 inches in Belle Glade, to 4.03 inches in Indian River. Extreme drought conditions existed in small parts of Okeechobee, Martin, St Lucie, and Palm Beach counties. Drought conditions were per the U.S. Drought Monitor; last updated August 9, 2011. Next season’s oranges were larger than golf balls, and next season’s grapefruit are between baseball and softball size. Grove activity included resetting new trees, young tree care, applying herbicides, hedging and topping, brush removal, and fertilizer application.

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