



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending September 4, 2011

Seasonal Temperatures, Widespread Showers

Weather Summary: High temperatures across the State were mostly in the low to mid-90s during the week. Extremes were 101 degrees reported at Marianna and 99 degrees at Quincy. Measurable rainfall was reported at all but two of the 36 Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations. Nine stations reported less than one-half inch of rainfall, six stations reported from one-half to one inch of rainfall, and 16 stations reported from one to four inches of rainfall. The most rainfall was reported at Homestead (4.47 inches), Fort Pierce (4.44 inches), and Ona (4.29 inches). The U.S. Drought Monitor showed extreme drought conditions lingered primarily in the eastern Panhandle and Nassau County. Lake Okeechobee benefited from August and last week's rainfall, but remained about three feet below average at 10.77 feet on September 6, 2011. Topsoil and subsoil moisture ratings of adequate and surplus were 78 percent and 74 percent, respectively. These ratings were virtually unchanged from the previous week.

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	0	3	2	1	3
Short	20	12	19	25	10	23
Adequate	72	79	67	70	82	70
Surplus	5	9	11	3	7	4

Field Crops: Armyworms were observed feeding on many crops in some counties. High temperatures and dry weather stressed crops in Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Washington counties. Corn harvesting continued in many counties. Cotton was starting to flower and form bolls, and a few fields had bolls opening. Peanut harvesting was underway with three percent of the crop harvested. Some peanut fields were planted late, so maturing and harvesting will also be later than normal. Rainfall was welcomed to soften soils for easier harvesting. Peanut crop condition did not differ greatly from that of the previous week, with 4% very poor, 10% poor, 24% fair, 54% good, and 8% excellent.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: September 4, 2011

Stage	2010	5-year average	2011
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Harvested	0	0	3

Vegetables: Field preparation, including laying plastic, continued for fall vegetable crops in southern Florida.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, pasture condition slightly improved from the previous week, with 65 percent in good condition. Drought still limited forage growth in many locations. The cattle condition was very poor to excellent with 65 percent in good condition. In the **Panhandle**, pasture condition varied from very poor to excellent. Drought and armyworms reduced pasture condition in several locations and some pasture remained poor due to overgrazing. The seasonal decline in quality of summer perennials forage was underway as nighttime temperatures go down. Cattlemen were preparing land for planting winter forage. Most cattle were in good condition. In the **northern** areas, pasture and cattle ranged from fair to excellent condition with most in good condition. In the **central** and **southwestern** areas, pasture ranged from very poor to excellent condition with most in good condition. Pastures improved following recent rains. The condition of the cattle ranged from fair to excellent with most 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	1	1	1
Poor.....	1	1	4	2
Fair.....	20	20	15	12
Good.....	70	65	65	65
Excellent.....	9	13	15	20

Citrus: Temperatures were in the upper 60s to the lower 70s at night and the lower to mid-90s during the day for the majority of the week. This week there was heavy, but scattered rainfall, with 23 of the 25 FAWN stations receiving some rainfall. Amounts received ranged from 0.02 inch in Frostproof, to 4.44 inches in Ft Pierce. Citra and Putnam Hall received no rainfall. Drought conditions ranged from drought-free in the western half of the citrus region to severe conditions, found in small parts of Okeechobee, Martin, St Lucie, and Palm Beach counties, along the eastern and north-eastern shore of Lake Okeechobee. Drought conditions were per the U.S. Drought Monitor; last updated August 28, 2011. Next season’s oranges were almost baseball size, and next season’s grapefruit are approaching softball size. Grove activity last week included resetting new trees, young tree care, applying herbicides, hedging and topping, brush removal, and fertilizer application.

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