



# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending October 2, 2011

## Sugarcane Harvest Underway

**Weather Summary:** It was a dry week in Florida with temperatures averaging normal to above normal. Few of the 36 Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations reported significant amounts of precipitation. Four stations reported between one half and one inch of rainfall, eight stations reported between one inch and two inches of rainfall, and the only station to report more than two inches was at Fort Lauderdale (2.05 inches). The U.S. Drought Monitor rating of extreme drought continued for eight percent of the State and included Jackson, Gadsen, and Liberty counties, their bordering counties, and most of Nassau County. On October 3, Lake Okeechobee's water level was at 11.11 feet compared to the 14.91 feet average elevation during the 1965-2007 period. The week's temperatures averaged from normal to three degrees above normal. Temperature highs were mostly in the low 90s and lows ranged from mid-40s in northern Florida, 50s in central Florida, and low 60s to low 70s in southern Florida. Topsoil and subsoil moisture ratings of adequate or surplus were 79 percent and 75 percent, respectively.

## 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	4	4	6	3	7
Short .....	20	25	17	22	25	18
Adequate .....	70	67	70	64	65	64
Surplus .....	6	4	9	8	7	11

**Field Crops:** The sugarcane harvest season began late in the week in Glades County. In Washington and Jackson counties, the cotton harvest was underway. Cotton defoliation continued in Escambia County. Cotton picking was projected to be at least 10 days away for growers in Santa Rosa and Escambia counties. The peanut harvest was going full force with mixed yield results ranging from excellent in irrigated fields to below average in non-irrigated fields. Dry soils in Holmes County continued to hamper harvesting peanuts and planting winter crops. The peanut harvest was 41 percent complete compared with the five-year average of 33 percent. White mold was observed on many stands of peanuts in Washington County. The condition of peanuts was improved compared to the previous week. Fifty-nine percent of the crop was rated as good to excellent compared to 47 percent the previous week. The peanut crop conditions were 2% very poor, 6% poor, 33% fair, 52% good, and 7% excellent.

## Peanut Progress for Week Ending: October 2, 2011

Stage	2010	5-year average	2011
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Harvested .....	47	33	41

**Fruit and Vegetables:** The vegetable growers continued to prepare land, plant, and perform cultural activities. Green beans were germinating in Miami-Dade County. In Flagler County, preparations were underway for planting potatoes and cabbage. Producers in Putnam County were planting cabbage. The avocado harvest continued.

**Livestock and Pastures: Statewide**, pasture condition varied from poor to excellent, with 57 percent in good condition. Drought was the first limiting factor to pasture condition. Cool nights have slowed down pasture growth throughout the State. This is the first week since mid-March that there has been no pasture in very poor condition. The cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent, with most in good condition. In the **Panhandle**, pasture condition ranged from poor to excellent. After drought, cold temperatures appeared as the second limiting factor to forage growth. Dry soil condition limited the planting of winter forage, with some oats and ryegrass being planted. There was some damage to pasture from armyworms. The cattle condition was mostly good. In the **northern** areas, pasture condition ranged from fair to excellent, with most in good condition. In the **central** areas, pasture condition ranged from poor to excellent, with most fair to good. The pasture condition declined because the growing season is mostly over. In the **southwest**, the pasture condition was fair to excellent, with most in good condition. Dry, cooler weather has led to lower plant growth and lower pasture conditions. The condition of the cattle ranged from fair to good, 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.....	1	0	2	0
Poor.....	4	1	5	5
Fair.....	23	35	20	26
Good.....	65	57	60	57
Excellent.....	7	7	13	12

**Citrus:** Weather conditions were warm and mild most of the week in the citrus region. During the weekend, a cool front moved through the State dropping morning temperatures to the lower 60s in all areas. Rainfall was light throughout the citrus producing area with the exception of portions of Indian River and Polk counties. Frostproof reported the most precipitation with just over an inch and Vero Beach reported under an inch. Grove activity included limited harvesting, irrigating, applying herbicides, and mowing. Scouting for greening by growers and caretakers continued. Twenty-four packinghouses had opened and were shipping fruit; three processing plants started running fruit in small quantities. Varieties being packed included early oranges (Navel, Ambersweet, and Hamlin), white and colored grapefruit, Fallglo tangerines, and a few Nova Tangelos.

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