



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending October 23, 2011

Field Crop Harvesting Mostly on Schedule

Weather Summary: It was a relatively cool week across Florida with temperatures at major cities averaging three to seven degrees below normal. Extreme lows were between 34 and 37 degrees reported at the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations at Alachua, Jay, and Monticello. Most stations reported lows in the 40s and 50s. High temperatures during the week were mostly in the low 80s. It was a dry week across the western Panhandle, northern, and central Florida with most FAWN stations reporting less than a third of an inch of rainfall. The exception was 5.12 inches of rainfall reported at Carrabelle. Most FAWN stations in southern Florida recorded between one and three inches of precipitation. Fort Pierce reported 3.16 inches and Palmdale reported 4.30 inches. As of October 23, 2011, Lake Okeechobee was at 12.85 feet, compared to the 15.06 feet average during 1965-2007.

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	2	21	1	4	14	1
Short	16	46	18	18	43	23
Adequate	62	33	63	62	42	58
Surplus	20	0	18	16	1	18

Field Crops: Soil moisture was adequate for peanut digging and the progress reached 75 percent harvested. This compared with 83 percent harvested last year and the five-year average progress is 72 percent harvested. Cotton defoliation and harvesting continued. In the Palm Beach County area, sugarcane planting and harvesting were halted due to muddy fields.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: October 23, 2011

Stage	2010	5-year average	2011
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Harvested	83	72	75

Vegetables: There was a light supply of vegetables available including cucumbers and tomatoes. When weather permitted, Miami-Dade County growers continued to cut and replant okra and prepare land for planting vegetables. Green beans were nearly ready to harvest and sweet corn had emerged to a height of about six inches. Cabbage planting continued in Flagler County. Heavy showers in St. Lucie County slowed field activities for vegetables. Producers in Palm Beach County were waiting for fields to dry before planting winter vegetables.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, the pasture condition varied from very poor to excellent with 55 percent in good condition. Drought limited pasture growth in the Panhandle and central areas while flooding lowered the pasture condition in the southwest. Permanent pasture continued to decline seasonally in quality and quantity and cattlemen were feeding supplements. The cattle condition was mostly good. In the **Panhandle**, pastures ranged from very poor to excellent condition with most fair to good. Cool season forage planting was ongoing at locations which recently received rain while pastures were stressed by drought in other locations. Some winter forages were already at three to four inches in height. In the **northern** areas, pasture condition ranged from fair to excellent, with most in fair condition. The cattle condition was mostly fair. In the **central** and **southwestern** areas, pasture conditions ranged from very poor to excellent, with most in good condition. The poor condition of the pasture was mostly due to standing water from recent rain. The condition of the cattle ranged from poor 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.....	1	1	1	1
Poor.....	1	1	4	4
Fair.....	18	30	20	35
Good.....	70	60	70	55
Excellent.....	10	8	5	5

Citrus: Temperature highs this week were in the lower 80s, with early morning lows ranging from the lower 40s to lower 50s in the citrus-producing areas. There was widely variable rainfall this week, ranging from over four inches to trace amounts. Palmdale received the most rainfall with 4.30 inches. Overall, there were normal moisture conditions in the citrus-producing region with a few southern areas showing abnormally dry conditions. Thirty-five packinghouses and seven processors have opened, with more scheduled to open this week. Varieties being packed included early oranges (Navels, Ambersweet, and Hamlins), white and colored grapefruit and Fallglo tangerines. Cultural practices included herbicide and fertilizer applications, tree removal, new tree planting, and irrigation.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	October 9, 2011	October 16, 2011	October 23, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	26	44	60
Ambersweet.....	19	14	18
Navel oranges.....	45	49	85
Grapefruit.....	184	200	236
Tangelos.....	0	0	1
Tangerines.....	79	75	98
Total.....	353	382	498

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.