

# Weather Crop Report

Week ending July 23, 2006

## PANHANDLE REMAINED MOSTLY DRY

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**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Most of the southern and parts of the central Peninsula received abundant rains during the week of July 17 through 23. However, the rains skipped many northern Peninsula and Panhandle localities. Rainfall for the week totaled from about a quarter inch in Jacksonville and Pierson to over five inches in Ft. Lauderdale. Some southwestern coastal areas recorded unofficial totals of eight inches or more for the week. The danger of wild fire remained high over the Panhandle and northern Peninsula. Temperatures remained hot with daytime highs in the 80s and 90s. Nighttime lows were in the 60s and 70s. Temperatures in the major cities averaged from two degrees below to two degrees above average with the cloud cover in rainy areas of the southern and central Peninsula causing the cooler temperatures.

**FIELD CROPS:** In Jackson County, rainfall was spotty but most peanut vines look fairly good; however, peanut pod set is poor and pressure is heavy from the lesser cornstalk borer feeding on plants. Statewide, peanut condition is rated 19 percent very poor, 23 percent poor, 35 percent fair and 23 percent good. Peanuts are 90 percent pegged compared with 84 percent last year and the five-year average of 86 percent pegged by this date. Some non-irrigated cotton responded well in areas where rain fell; however, a high percentage is blooming on top which usually indicates a low yield. The continued dry conditions over the Panhandle and northern Peninsula slowed hay growth and lowered hay quality with some producers not making the earliest cuttings. The continued dry weather is causing stress to crops in Madison County and severely stunting the growth of about 20 percent of the cotton and peanuts in Santa Rosa County. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies are rated very short to mostly short in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula. Elsewhere, soil moisture is rated short to adequate. Statewide, soil moisture is rated mostly short to adequate. Hernando and Dade counties reported some areas with surplus moisture.



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Percentage of peanuts pegged to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
90	84	86

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	22	17	1	26	20	0
Short	43	37	8	51	40	5
Adequate	34	39	58	22	35	61
Surplus	1	7	33	1	5	34

**VEGETABLES:** Dade County okra harvesting continued with light supplies available. Very light supplies of grape tomatoes were also marketed with virtually all picking completed. Planting of fall crops is getting underway in the southern Peninsula.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition is very poor to good, with most in fair condition. Forages are showing classic drought stress signs. In the central areas, pasture is poor to good, with most in good condition. In the southwest, pasture is very poor to fair, with most in fair condition. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from very poor to excellent, with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	0	10	5
Poor	5	10	5	15
Fair	50	50	50	50
Good	35	35	35	25
Excellent	5	5	0	5

**CITRUS:** All citrus areas in the south and most of the central citrus region received between two and two and a half inches of rain for the week. Some southwestern coastal areas recorded higher unofficial rain totals. East coast areas around Ft. Pierce recorded just over an inch of rainfall. Temperatures remained hot with daytime highs in the low to mid 90s. Cloud cover in all areas of the citrus region dropped nighttime temperatures to the high 60s and low 70s. Growers have irrigated often throughout the year to keep the new crop and new growth on the trees in good condition. Rainfall over the last month has assisted in getting groves and trees back to normal after a dry start earlier this season. Fruit sizes on healthy orange trees are about golf-ball size, and grapefruit are on average about baseball size. Valencia harvest is finished for the season as juice processing plants are closed. Activity in the groves includes applications of summer oils, cleaning ditches, fertilizing, mowing and some irrigation.

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