



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending August 5, 2007

## SCATTERED RAINS CONTINUED; PANHANDLE, SOUTHWEST STILL DRY

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Continued scattered rains during the week of July 30 through August 5 aided the growth of pasture in most areas. Rainfall ranged from less than an inch in Jefferson County to over four inches in Suwannee and Baker counties. MacClenny recorded over five inches while Homestead, Ft. Lauderdale, Kenansville, Lake Alfred, and Monticello reported less than one inch for the week. Most other areas received from one to three inches. Despite scattered showers, southwest Florida remained in a rainfall deficit with totals for the year 30 percent below normal. Temperatures at the major stations averaged nearly normal for the week. Daytime highs were in the 90s while nighttime lows were in the 70s. Tallahassee reported at least one daytime high at 97.

**FIELD CROPS:** Peanut condition was rated one percent very poor, three percent poor, forty-nine percent fair, thirty-eight percent good, and nine percent excellent. In Suwannee County, peanut condition was reported as fair, although weeds are causing problems for some growers. In Washington County, cotton and peanuts are facing increased weed pressure. In Jackson County, irrigated peanuts are progressing normally, while dry land peanuts are behind schedule due to drought-induced stress. In Jefferson County, hay growth is starting to pick up but afternoon showers were hindering baling. Soil moisture was rated mostly adequate in most central and southern Peninsula counties but varied from very short to adequate over the Panhandle and northern Peninsula. Marion and St. Lucie counties reported spots with surplus soil moisture. Jackson, Jefferson, Calhoun, Washington, Gadsden, Hendry, and Dade counties reported some areas with very short soil moisture.

Percentage of peanuts pegged to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
85	95	97

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	5	5	2	8	8	9
Short	13	15	50	17	25	53
Adequate	76	75	47	69	65	37
Surplus	6	5	1	6	2	1

**VEGETABLES:** Favorable weather allowed growers to continue preparation for fall crop planting in some central and southern Peninsula localities. In Washington County, some late melons and collards were being harvested. Okra harvesting remained active in Dade County.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle, pasture condition was mostly fair. Pasture is coming back following recent rains. Forages in Jackson County are green, but growth has been slow in most locations. Several cattlemen cut weedy grass for feed. Ponds and streams in Jefferson County are dry. Growing conditions for hay fields and pasture in Washington County are greatly improved following rainfall of last week. In the northern areas, pasture condition was mostly fair. Cattle condition ranged from fair to excellent. In the central areas, pasture condition ranged from fair to excellent with most in fair condition. In the southwest, pasture condition was very poor to excellent with most in good condition. Soil moisture condition favoring production of crop and livestock in Martin County improved due to the recent heavy showers. Statewide, cattle condition was mostly fair to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	0	1	5
Poor	5	5	5	5
Fair	45	25	40	40
Good	45	60	45	45
Excellent	5	10	9	5

**CITRUS:** All citrus regions experienced another week of good rainfall. On Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, continuous rain bands crossing the State from the west saturated many central and northern citrus areas. Some areas in the southern region had heavy rainfalls on Thursday and recorded up to three inches in one hour. All monitored citrus areas in the State recorded at least an inch or more of rainfall, while isolated surrounding areas received more than an inch. Warm, tropical air produced typical August temperatures in the low to mid 90s on several days. Sebring had the highest recording at 96 degrees. Growers and caretakers were busy fertilizing, spraying summer oils, and controlling cover crops. With the recent rains and warm weather, well-cared-for trees look healthy. The fruit looks good and growers have a positive outlook for the upcoming season.

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