



# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending August 12, 2007

## GAINS IN SOIL MOISTURE LIMITED BY EXTREME HEAT

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Recent rains during the week of August 6 through August 12 increased soil moisture in some areas, but others remained very dry. Rainfall events concentrated in certain counties and ranged from less than an inch in most counties to over one inch in Hillsborough, Orange, Hernando, Collier, Polk, and Gadsden. De Soto, Franklin, and Jefferson counties reported over two inches of rain for the past week. Despite the increase in shower activity, the extreme high temperatures limited the gains in soil moisture. Temperatures at all the major stations averaged above normal for the week. Daytime highs were in the upper 90s while nighttime lows were in the 70s. All counties reported daytime high temperatures above 93 degrees. Marianna and Palmdale reported at least one daytime high at 100 and 104 degrees Fahrenheit, respectively.

**FIELD CROPS:** Peanut condition was rated two percent very poor, five percent poor, forty percent fair, thirty seven percent good, and sixteen percent excellent. In Washington County, peanuts and cotton production levels were reported as below normal, but seemed to be improving slightly with this week's showers. In Jackson County, the peanut crop was looking good, but not pegging as many nuts as expected. In Jefferson County, some areas were still relatively dry with pastures wilting. Most hay producers in Jefferson and Marion counties started cutting hay, but afternoon thunderstorms were hindering baling activities. In Sumter County, hay fields that were recently cut got wet from this week's rain. 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. Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Washington, Gadsden, Hamilton, and Hendry counties reported some areas with very short soil moisture.

Percentage of peanuts pegged to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
90	98	99

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	3	8	12	13	5	18
Short	42	17	48	49	13	46
Adequate	54	69	40	37	76	35
Surplus	1	6	0	1	6	1

**VEGETABLES:** This week's rainfall delayed some fall vegetable crop preparation in some central Peninsula localities. In Washington County, snap beans and some squash were being planted. Okra harvesting remained active in Dade County.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle, pasture condition was mostly fair. Some locations were still dry with pastures wilting. Ponds and streams are dry. Hay for livestock was reported in short supply in Leon County. There have been some cattle sold off as the hay supply is short and little hay was harvested until well into the second half of the growing season. In the northern areas, pasture condition was mostly fair and cattle condition ranged from very poor to good with most in fair condition. In the central areas, pasture condition was poor to good. The heat index has been very high and livestock were nestled under shade. In Sumter County, armyworms have arrived. In the southwest, pasture condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Statewide, cattle condition was mostly fair.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	0	0	1
Poor	10	5	15	5
Fair	50	45	50	40
Good	35	45	30	45
Excellent	4	5	5	9

**CITRUS:** This past week was extremely hot in all citrus producing areas. Lake Alfred had a record high of 98 degrees on Saturday; all other areas were in the mid to high 90s and some near record highs on one or two days. Although most areas are below average rainfall for the year, normal summer rains have eased the severity of water shortages. Total rainfall for the past week was between two tenths of an inch on the east coast to almost two inches on the west coast. Caretakers are busy fertilizing, spraying summer oils, and controlling cover crops. The combination of the heat and dry air has caused growers to run irrigation on a regular basis. Fruit sizes on early oranges are slightly larger than golf-ball size and smaller on late oranges. For the most part, in well-cared-for groves, the fruit looks good and growers have a positive outlook for the upcoming season.

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