



WEATHER CROP

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Week ending September 16, 2007

RAINS DELAY SOME FIELD ACTIVITIES

WEATHER SUMMARY: Significant rains fell in many areas of the State during the week of September 10 through 16. The rain interrupted some field crop harvesting in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula and delayed some vegetable field preparations in central and southern Peninsula localities. The showers were light in some inland areas of the Peninsula. The danger of wildfire remained high in some northern Peninsula and eastern Panhandle localities. For the week, rainfall totaled from less than a tenth inch at Bronson, Live Oak, and Putnam Hall, to about five and a half inches at Orlando. The stations at Lake Alfred and Ona recorded nearly five inches while Daytona Beach and Hastings reported over four inches. Elsewhere, rain totaled from about two tenths to two and a half inches. Hot temperatures persisted with daytime highs mostly in the 90s and nighttime lows mostly in the 70s. Temperatures averaged one to two degrees above normal in the major cities.

FIELD CROPS: Frequent showers slowed corn, peanut, and cotton harvesting in Santa Rosa and Escambia counties. Early peanut and cotton harvests showed poor quality and low yields due to drought. Producers picked considerable amounts of cotton without defoliating. Late cotton and peanuts looked very good if insects can be controlled. In some Escambia County peanut fields, young nuts broke loose from hulls due to early dry weather. Peanut digging continued to slowly increase in Jackson County with spider mites and foliage feeding worms causing problems in several fields. In some localities, Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus also caused problems. Peanut condition was rated 3 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 35 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Peanut digging is 10 percent finished compared with 6 percent last year and the five year average progress of 14 percent. Stink bug and army worm infestations continued to cause problems in some western Panhandle cotton fields. In the Panhandle, corn harvesting delays were caused by not enough local grain storage facilities. Sumter County hay fields are greening up. Soil moisture supplies were rated very short to short in the Big Bend area and short to adequate elsewhere. Hendry and Jackson counties reported a few spots with surplus topsoil moisture.

Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
10	6	14

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	10	9	15	19	19	17
Short	26	46	17	25	40	39
Adequate	62	45	61	56	41	39
Surplus	2	0	7	0	0	5

VEGETABLES: Some field preparations and planting were slowed by intermittent rains. Hot, dry conditions in localities missed by scattered showers caused some transplant stress, while strong winds during storms battered recent transplants. In Hendry County, vegetable planting was in high gear. Okra harvesting remained active in Dade County. Tomato picking in the Quincy area is expected to begin during the last week of September.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Pasture condition was rated poor to fair in the Big Bend area and fair to good elsewhere. In Jefferson County, producers need rain to prepare land for winter pasture seeding and over-seeding. In drier areas of the Panhandle, pasture remained mostly poor due to dry conditions, stock ponds are at very low levels and a few ponds are completely dry. In Sumter and De Soto counties, producers combated armyworm infestations in pastures. Cattle condition was mostly rated poor to fair in the Big Bend area and fair to good elsewhere.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	1	1	1
Poor	15	5	15	10
Fair	20	30	30	40
Good	55	55	45	40
Excellent	9	9	9	9

CITRUS: Daily afternoon thunderstorms throughout the week were beneficial to growers in citrus producing areas. Lake Alfred and Ona both received almost five inches of rainfall. Immokalee had over two inches, and northern stations in Apopka and Balm had an inch and a half of rain. Typical summertime temperatures have continued, with daily highs reaching the lower to mid 90s in all areas. Field workers continuously reported positive comments on tree and fruit progress. Fruit sizes on oranges were between golf ball and baseball size. Summer spraying was winding down and caretakers were mowing, herbiciding, pulling vines, and preparing groves for harvest. Most owners continue to educate themselves on how to manage greening, and are putting steps in place to minimize the effect.

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