



# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending September 18, 2011

## Dry Conditions Affect Peanut Harvest

**Weather Summary:** This week's temperatures were between the high 50s and the high 90s. Average temperatures ranged from two degrees below to two degrees above normal. Three of the 36 Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations reported over an inch of rain and were located in St. Lucie, Hendry, and Marion counties. Fourteen FAWN stations reported no rainfall. The U.S. Drought Monitor showed 54 percent of the State had abnormally dry conditions, which included eight percent of the State with extreme drought conditions. Lake Okeechobee was regulated at 10.93 feet, approximately two and a half feet below average. Topsoil and subsoil moisture levels rated short or very short increased by 14 and 8 percent, respectively.

## 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 .....	4	9	4	3	5	4
Short .....	16	24	30	15	19	22
Adequate .....	63	63	61	62	69	64
Surplus .....	17	4	5	20	7	10

**Field Crops:** Low soil moisture affected peanut harvesting and stressed cotton crop in northern Florida. Growers reported difficulty with peanut digging due to hard, dry soils in Washington and Santa Rosa counties. Peanut crop conditions were 3% very poor, 6% poor, 51% fair, 36% good, and 4% excellent. In Jackson County, cotton defoliation will begin soon in early planted and irrigated fields. Sugarcane growers were preparing to plant young cane. Land preparation for potatoes took place in the Hastings area.

## Peanut Progress for Week Ending: September 18, 2011

Stage	2010	5-year average	2011
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Harvested .....	22	14	10

**Vegetables:** Land preparation and planting for fall vegetables was on schedule. Growers irrigated fields due to dry conditions. In Miami-Dade County, avocado harvesting took place.

**Livestock and Pastures: Statewide**, pasture conditions varied from very poor to excellent with 60 percent in good condition. The cattle condition ranged from very poor to excellent with 75 percent in good condition. The condition of summer pasture in the Panhandle and northern counties rapidly declined in quality and quantity. In the **Panhandle**, pasture condition varied from poor to excellent with most fair to good. Drought was the primary limiting factor on pasture condition. Pastures declined seasonally with cooler fall temperatures. Cattlemen were preparing land for planting winter forage. Most cattle were in good condition. In the **northern** area, pasture ranged from poor to excellent condition with most in good condition. Cattle were in fair to excellent condition with most in good condition. In the **central** area, pasture ranged from poor to excellent condition with most in good condition. Drought limited grass growth. In the **southwest**, the condition of the pasture was poor to excellent with most in good condition. The condition of the cattle was fair 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	2
Fair.....	23	15	20	20
Good.....	70	75	62	60
Excellent.....	5	8	13	17

**Citrus:** Temperatures were in the upper 60s to the lower 70s at night and the lower to mid 90s during the day for the majority of the week. This week, rainfall was lighter, with 15 of the 25 stations receiving some rainfall. Amounts received ranged from 0.01 inch in Okahumpka, Indian River, and Immokalee, to 1.88 inches in Ft Pierce. Drought conditions ranged from drought-free in the western half of the citrus region to severe conditions, found in small parts of Okeechobee, Martin, St Lucie, and Palm Beach counties, along the eastern and north-eastern shore of Lake Okeechobee. Drought conditions were per the U.S. Drought Monitor; last updated September 13, 2011. Grapefruit were beginning to break color. Nine packinghouses have begun making limited shipments, consisting of Hamlin and Ambersweet oranges, Fallglo tangerines, and grapefruit. Grove activity included resetting new trees, young tree care, application of fall miticide, and irrigation as needed.

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