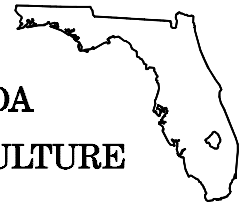




Florida Agricultural Statistics Service  
 1222 Woodward Street  
 Orlando, Florida 32803  
 407 / 648-6013

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl>



# WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending August 25, 2002

Released 4:00 P.M.

August 26, 2002

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Scattered showers brought varying amounts of rainfall to the State during the week of August 18 through August 24. Rainfall in the major cities ranged from almost 1.50 in. at Daytona Beach and Tallahassee to none in Jacksonville. Average temperatures were in the 80s for the State. Daytime highs were in the low to mid 90s. Nighttime lows were in 60s and 70s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions in the State are mostly adequate with scattered areas reporting very short, short or surplus moisture. Some areas of the State have flooded fields. Peanut harvest is starting. Cotton harvest should start in two weeks. Haying is active when weather permits. Hay quality is reported poor, with fair yields in some areas. There is severe armyworm pressure in some pasture, crops, and hay fields. Aphid populations are up in cotton. Farmers are beginning to see white fly populations in some cotton fields. Peanuts are in mostly good to excellent condition. Tobacco harvest is complete.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	Percent					
Very short	1	1	2	2	1	2
Short	11	20	17	16	28	17
Adequate	62	71	60	57	57	62
Surplus	26	8	21	25	14	19

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle and northern counties, armyworm damage is severe in many pastures and hay fields. The condition of the cattle is fair to good. The condition of the pasture and range is poor to good, depending on soil moisture. In the central area, the condition of the cattle is good and pasture is good to excellent. There is damage from armyworms in pasture and hay fields. Some pastures are flooded

along the east coast. Statewide, cattle and calves are mostly in good condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	Percent			
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	5	5	0	0
Fair	15	10	10	5
Good	65	80	85	90
Excellent	15	5	5	5

**CITRUS:** There were fewer afternoon rains this week. However, groves in all areas have sufficient to surplus moisture levels for this time of year. There is very little, if any, irrigation currently being applied. Trees of all ages in all areas have a tremendous amount of new growth as a result of the tropical-like summer weather patterns. New crop fruit is in very good condition and sizing well. Fresh fruit packing houses have field representatives testing early fruit for September shipments. Some of last year's late bloom Valencias and grapefruit are still being picked in small quantities for the fresh juice operations.

Caretakers are active mowing, chopping and discing cover crops and removing vines that are covering tree tops and are shading out new crop fruit. Dead trees are being removed and burned in all areas of the citrus belt. Resets are being planted in the larger groves where there is sufficient irrigation and maintenance. Some hedging and topping continues along with herbiciding, spraying and fertilizing.

**VEGETABLES:** Fall crop planting continues actively in southern Peninsula areas. Okra harvesting remains active in Miami-Dade County.

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In cooperation with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service whose county directors participate in supplying field information.

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U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Division of Marketing and Development

University of Florida  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences