

Weather Crop Report

PANHANDLE DROUGHT AFFECTING CROP GROWTH

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Although most of the Peninsula received abundant rains during the week of July 3 through 9, most of the Panhandle remained dry. Ponds in some northern and Panhandle areas are dry and the danger of wild fire is very high. Rainfall for the week totaled from none in most Panhandle and some northern Peninsula localities to about seven and a half inches in Balm. Some unofficial rain totals of over eight inches were reported for spots along the southwestern coast and a few coastal localities in the Big Bend area. Temperatures for the week averaged near normal in the major cities. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s while nighttime lows were in the 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Irrigated peanuts and cotton are developing normally. However, dryland crops are suffering from drought in the Panhandle and some northern Peninsula areas with yield prospects reduced significantly. Peanut condition is rated 30 percent very poor, 27 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 18 percent good and 1 percent excellent. Peanuts are 45 percent pegged compared with 57 percent last year and the five-year average of 70 percent pegged by this date. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies are short to adequate, statewide. Panhandle and northern Peninsula soil moisture is mostly very short, while central and southern Peninsula soil moisture is short to adequate.

Percentage of peanuts pegged to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
47	57	70

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	25	11	0	23	16	0
Short	28	40	11	50	34	4
Adequate	45	47	53	25	40	59
Surplus	2	2	36	2	10	37

VEGETABLES: Tomato picking in the Quincy area slowed seasonally. Dade County growers continued to market okra. Most watermelon picking finished up during the week. Southern and central Peninsula growers cleared fields and prepared ground for fall crop planting.



United States
Department
Of Agriculture



National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

Florida
Field
Office

Benjamin F. Klugh, Jr.
Director
407/648-6013

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

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, pasture condition ranges from very poor to excellent, with most in poor condition due to prolonged drought. Stock ponds are very low or dry. In the northern areas, pasture condition is very poor to poor. In the central areas, pasture is poor to excellent. In the southwest, pasture condition is poor to good, with most pasture in poor condition. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from very poor to excellent, with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	0	10	5
Poor	5	15	30	20
Fair	60	60	30	45
Good	25	20	25	25
Excellent	5	5	5	5

CITRUS: Thunderstorms and showers midweek brought seven and a half inches of rain just south of Tampa and over three inches to the northern citrus area. Ft. Pierce had the third highest weekly total at just over one and a half inches of rainfall. The southern citrus region recorded the least for the week. High temperatures the past week were in the low to mid 90s in all areas; Lake Alfred recorded the highest temperature at 95 degrees. Trees irrigated and well cared for early in the season overall look good. Fruit is progressing well with oranges about golf-ball size, and grapefruit running on average about baseball size. Harvest is relatively over for all varieties except the later maturing Valencia oranges. Valencias are still being picked for the season, with labor shortage being reported a problem as workers are transitioning to other crops. The season, which normally ends around June 30, will continue this year to at least the third week of July. Juice processing plants will remain open to get as many Valencia oranges as possible. Activity in the groves includes applications of copper sprays for canker and disease control, nutritional sprays, cleaning ditches, fertilizing, mowing and irrigating .

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Jun 25	Jul 02	Jul 09
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Valencia	2,695	1,701	N/A

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