

Weather Crop Report

Week ending, August 13, 2006

DRY CONDITIONS SPARK WILD LAND FIRES

Released:
August 14, 2006
4:00 pm

Access our reports
Via the internet at
www.nass.usda.gov/fl

WEATHER SUMMARY: Daily showers dropped from traces to nearly four inches of rain during August 6 through 13. Minimal rains have not eased drought conditions with wild land fires sparked in some southern Peninsula localities. Most stations reported under an inch of rain for the week. Areas receiving over an inch of precipitation included Dover, Homestead, Jay, Miami and Okahumpka. Fort Lauderdale received over three inches. Quincy received nearly four inches. Temperatures in major cities average around normal to three degrees above normal. Daytime highs ranged from the lower to upper 90s. Evening lows were in the 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Continuous lack of precipitation is damaging several field crops in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula localities. Growers need substantial rains to elevate topsoil moisture supplies. Drought conditions have resulted in almost no pecan crop, with growers indicating a very low nut set for the year in Jefferson County. Most of the cotton crop in the Panhandle is suffering immensely and will not recover from the drought. Some cotton has shown early flowering in Jefferson County. Some peanuts in parts of Jackson County are in excellent condition with scattered rains improving the peanut condition. Ninety-eight percent of the peanuts are pegged compared with one hundred percent pegged last year and the five-year average of ninety-nine percent. Despite recent rain relieving drought in some fields, hay will be in short supply this year since fifty percent of the crop has already been lost to the drought in some Panhandle areas. Hay cutting is spotty and delayed due to localized showers in parts of Jefferson County. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies across the State are rated mostly short to adequate. Marion and Dade counties reported short to surplus moisture supplies.

Percentage of peanuts pegged to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
98	100	99

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	14	2	0	19	9	0
Short	47	53	8	45	53	6
Adequate	39	44	66	35	37	64
Surplus	0	1	26	1	1	30

VEGETABLES: Rainfall delayed some fall crop preparation in the central and southern Peninsula localities. Fall tomato and watermelon growers in Washington County have completed plantings. Okra harvesting continues active in Dade County.



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, drought continues to negatively impact pasture condition, which is mostly in poor to fair condition. In Jefferson County, cattle are spending much time in shade rather than grazing. The length of the drought has severely lowered the pasture condition in this area. In Washington County, recent rains helped improve pastures and the hay crop. In the north and Big Bend areas, pasture condition is mostly fair to good. Pasture in the central area is fair to good. In the southwest, pasture condition ranges from very poor to good as weather has been drier. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from poor to excellent. Cattle in the Panhandle and north are mostly in fair condition and those in the central and south are mostly fair to good with some cattle in excellent condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	0	3	3
Poor	1	3	16	25
Fair	43	63	53	45
Good	49	31	25	24
Excellent	7	3	3	3

CITRUS: Citrus producing counties recorded uncharacteristically dry weather for this time of year. Less than a half inch of rain was recorded in many of the monitored stations. Hot temperatures prevailed in all localities with daytime highs averaging in the mid to high 90s. Sebring reported one daytime high at 98 degrees. Growers are irrigating due to insufficient rain and hot weather, attempting to keep the new crop on the trees in good condition. Fruit sizes are still being reported as variable, with early and mid oranges larger than golf-ball size, and grapefruit as large as baseball size. Many small sizes are also being found on healthy trees. Activity in the groves is limited and includes primarily applications of summer oils, cleaning ditches, fertilizing, mowing and irrigation. Some of the larger groves that have the ability to irrigate regularly are resetting new trees.

We are encouraging all subscribers of this report to consider receiving it by email. To do so, log onto: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics by State/Florida/Subscribe to FL Reports/index.asp> Select Florida Crop-Weather. Enter your first and last name. Enter your Email address. Click on Subscribe. The report will be sent automatically each week. Or you may call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter your subscription for you.