

# Weather Crop Report

Week ending October 22, 2006

## PANHANDLE FINALLY RECEIVES SHOWERS

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**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Several areas of the Panhandle got some relief from the dry conditions during the week of October 16 through 22. Most rainfall fell over the Panhandle and northern Peninsula localities in Jacksonville, Jay, Live Oak, MacClenny, Marianna, Monticello, Pensacola, Quincy and Tallahassee with totals ranging from over a tenth of an inch to nearly three inches. Other areas across the State did not receive any rainfall for the week. Recorded temperatures at the major stations averaged from two to four degrees above normal with Miami, Orlando, Tampa and West Palm Beach setting record highs. Daytime highs were mostly in the 80s with a few reports in the 90s. Pleasant evening lows were in the 50s, 60s, and 70s with a couple of areas receiving at least one low in the 40s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Rains interrupted some fieldwork in the Panhandle areas with most activities back on schedule by the end of the week. Rains coupled with strong winds toppled some cotton on the ground in Santa Rosa County. Peanuts are small but yield is better than expected and near average in Santa Rosa County. Rain showers made it possible for growers in Washington County to plow the remainder crop of peanuts. Rains last week also made digging peanuts easier in some Panhandle areas, but will have little effect on helping to mature late-planted peanuts. Peanut digging was 64 percent finished by the end of the week compared with 83 percent last year and the five-year average of 87 percent completed by October 23. Peanut condition is rated 45 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 17 percent good and 3 percent excellent. Areas in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula reported short to adequate soil moisture with some pockets of very short supplies. There has been a lack of precipitation in the central and southern Peninsula areas with soil moisture rated mostly very short to short with some areas of adequate supplies.



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Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
64	83	87

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	53	35	6	33	30	7
Short	34	45	44	54	60	37
Adequate	13	20	29	13	10	33
Surplus	0	0	21	0	0	23

**VEGETABLES:** Fall crop harvesting in central and southern Peninsula areas continued to increase. Clear conditions continued to boost the growth and development of vegetables. Tomato harvesting is proceeding at a rapid pace around Quincy. Growers are still planting peppers and tomatoes in Collier County. Light harvesting was underway by the end of last week for snap beans, sweet corn and eggplant. Producers marketed light supplies of cucumbers, squash and tomatoes.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle, pasture condition is improving. Land preparation for small grain winter forage is active. Small grains (oats, rye, and ryegrass) and clover are being planted at a rapid pace since the mid-week rain. The dry spell of the past couple of months has left many ponds dry; all ponds and streams are very low. Cattle condition is mostly fair. In the northern areas, extremely dry conditions are delaying planting of winter annual forages. Cattlemen are feeding supplemental hay. Hay supplies are short with several producers looking to purchase hay. Most of the cattle are in fair condition. Many fish ponds are almost dry. In the central areas, pasture condition is very poor to good with most in fair condition. Most of the cattle are in poor to fair condition. Grass has not grown much due to drought. In the southwest, grass has all but stopped growing. Pasture condition is poor to fair and most of the cattle are in fair to good condition. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from poor to good with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	0	5	10
Poor	15	10	40	25
Fair	70	35	50	50
Good	15	55	5	15
Excellent	0	0	0	0

**CITRUS:** Several areas across the citrus region reached record or near record high temperatures this past week. Sebring recorded the highest temperature at 93 degrees, followed by Lake Alfred at 92 degrees. Rainfall continues to be sparse and behind average in all areas. Growers continue to irrigate due to lack of rain over the past several weeks. Most trees are in good condition with maturity levels on all orange varieties running slightly above average. Sugar to acid ratios are running just a little behind average for this time of season due to higher acid levels. Early oranges are showing slight color break in the southern region, while grapefruit are showing good color break in many areas. Grove maintenance includes pre-harvest mowing, herbiciding, and late supplemental sulfur spraying. A dozen packing houses and a few processing plants are open. Harvest has begun on Fallglo tangerines, Ambersweet and Navel oranges and grapefruit.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Oct 08	Oct 15	Oct 22
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	47	114	128
Ambersweet	22	22	18
Early and Mid oranges	1	13	32
Grapefruit	23	208	363
Fallglo tangerines	94	112	109

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