

# Weather Crop Report

Week ending October 29, 2006

## MORE WELCOMED RAIN

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**WEATHER SUMMARY:** A cold front crossing the State mid to late week brought welcomed rains to nearly all localities during October 23 through 29. From one to nearly three inches of rain fell in the Panhandle and parts of the northern Peninsula, while several central and southwestern areas recorded a half to two inches for the week. Homestead, Orlando, Miami and Ft. Lauderdale reported a third inch or less rain falling during the week. The rains lessened the danger of wild fires in central areas; however, more rain is needed. Strong winds toppled trees in the Panhandle and Big Bend area as the storms passed. Temperatures in the major cities averaged two to six degrees below normal. Daytime highs were in the 70s, 80s and 90s while nighttime lows ranged from the 30s and 40s in the Panhandle and some northern and central Peninsula localities to the 50s and 60s in central and southern Peninsula areas.

**FIELD CROPS:** Topsoil moisture supplies improved over the Panhandle and northern Peninsula, but remained mostly the same in other areas where less rain fell. Subsoil moisture remained about the same in most regions. Washington County reported spots of surplus moisture. The mid to late week rainfall slowed cotton and peanut harvests in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula. In Santa Rosa County, growers mostly completed peanut harvesting while cotton picking was over 65 to 70 percent finished at the end of the week. Peanut and cotton yields averaged below normal in Jefferson County. Peanuts on dryland heavier soils in the northwestern corner of Madison County needed more moisture to be harvested. In Washington County producers geared up to harvest the last of this year's hay crop.

Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
80	94	95

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	44	53	9	37	33	4
Short	39	34	32	50	54	36
Adequate	16	13	38	13	13	41
Surplus	1	0	20	0	0	19

**VEGETABLES:** Clear conditions during most of the week permitted planting and harvesting to stay on schedule in the central and southern Peninsula. The picking of beans and bell peppers is getting underway, while the harvesting of corn, cucumbers, eggplant, other peppers, squash and tomatoes is increasing with light amounts available. In Washington County, fall tomato and watermelon harvests are in full swing with watermelon picking to wind down over the next 10 to 14 days. Okra harvesting in Dade County is slowing seasonally. Strawberry transplanting is complete.



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**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle, pasture condition is very poor to good, with most in fair condition. The ponds are still dry and there is no new growth in the pastures. The planting of winter small grains for grazing is proceeding. Recent rain facilitated the establishment of cool season annual pastures. Bahia pastures are greening up after recent rain. The cattle condition is mostly fair. Much of this year's calf crop has been sold. In the northern areas, very little winter grazing has been planted as the soil is too dry. Hay supplies are short. Cattlemen are feeding supplemental hay. Most of the cattle are in fair condition. In the central areas, pasture condition is mostly very poor due to drought. Drought is hurting the pasture growth. Most of the cattle are in poor condition. In the southwest, pasture condition is very poor to good, with most in fair 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	30	5
Poor	30	15	20	40
Fair	45	70	45	50
Good	15	15	5	5
Excellent	5	0	0	0

**CITRUS:** Cooler temperatures early in the week came close to record lows. The western and lower interior citrus region recorded temperatures in the low to mid-40s on Tuesday morning. Rainfall later in the week came on one or two days, bringing over an inch to three of the seven monitored stations. Growers are irrigating in most areas to compensate for lack of rain over the past several weeks. Most trees are in good condition with maturity levels on all orange varieties still above average. Sugar to acid ratios are just a little behind average for this time of season due to higher acid levels. Grapefruit quality is extremely good in the Indian River area, with packouts on fresh fruit higher than normal. Grove maintenance includes pre-harvest mowing, herbiciding, and late supplemental sulfur spraying. Some growers are applying multiple applications of copper for canker control. A couple more packing houses and processing plants opened this week, primarily to run Navel oranges and grapefruit. Harvest continues on Fallglo tangerines and Ambersweet oranges.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Oct 15	Oct 22	Oct 29
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	114	128	125
Ambersweet	22	18	13
Early and Mid oranges	13	32	64
Grapefruit	208	372	388
Fallglo tangerines	112	109	96

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