

Weather Crop Report

Week ending November 5, 2006

CLEAR WEATHER SPEEDED HARVEST

Released:

November 6, 2006
4:00 pm

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Virtually no rain over the Panhandle and most of the Peninsula allowed peanut, cotton, citrus and vegetable harvests to gain momentum during the week of October 30 through November 5. However, almost daily showers around Lake Okeechobee interrupted some sugarcane harvesting, while a heavy shower near the end of the week slowed some vegetable activity around Homestead. The measurable rain for the week fell in southern Peninsula localities with Miami recording nearly four and a half inches for the week; Ft. Lauderdale reported a little over two inches; Homestead, nearly an inch and two thirds; and Ft. Pierce, about a third inch. Elsewhere, most areas received no measurable rain. Temperatures in the major cities averaged from one degree above normal in Miami and Tampa, to four degrees below normal in Pensacola and Tallahassee. Daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s. Nighttime lows were in the 40s, 50s and 60s with Alachua, Jay, Monticello and Quincy reporting at least one nighttime low in the upper 30s.

FIELD CROPS: Earlier rains improved soil moisture in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula, while more recent showers increased soil moisture in the southeastern Peninsula. However, mostly dry conditions in the Big Bend area of the northern Peninsula and in the central Peninsula kept soil moisture supplies short to adequate. Jefferson, Madison, Hernando, Brevard, Okeechobee, and Dade counties reported a few areas with very short soil moisture, while Washington and Dade counties reported some areas with surplus moisture supplies. In Washington County, peanut digging and combining slowed seasonally, while cotton picking was in full swing with Hardlock bolls reportedly widespread. Sporadic rain interrupted some sugarcane cutting around Lake Okeechobee with all mills open for processing the cane into sugar and other by-products.

Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
90	98	97

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	21	44	6	29	37	5
Short	40	39	20	49	50	20
Adequate	38	16	56	21	13	59
Surplus	1	1	18	1	0	16

VEGETABLES: Harvesting increased as growers shipped crops for the Thanksgiving Day market. A very light amount of strawberries were harvested in the Plant City and Dover areas with cooler temperatures boosting berry development. In Washington County, watermelon producers completed fall crop harvesting while tomato picking continued at a very active pace. Other vegetables marketed included snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes.



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LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, pasture condition is very poor to good with most in poor condition. Cool season forages are being planted at a rapid pace. Perennial grasses have slowed tremendously in growth due to cool temperatures. Winter feed is not ready for grazing and permanent pastures are still green, but with little or no growth. Cattle condition is mostly fair. The cooler temperature is providing much better milking for dairies. Cattle are being fed supplemental hay. In the northern areas, pasture condition is very poor to fair with most in fair condition. Cattle are being fed supplemental hay. Cattle condition is very poor to fair with most in fair condition. In the central areas, pasture condition is poor to good with most in poor condition. Drought persists. Most of the cattle are in fair condition. In the southwest, pasture and cattle are in poor to good condition. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from very poor to good with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	5	10	30
Poor	10	30	40	20
Fair	45	45	30	45
Good	40	15	20	5
Excellent	0	5	0	0

CITRUS: Virtually all of Florida's citrus growing areas have been very dry. Some areas had almost no rainfall for the month of October, while November is starting out very much the same. Temperatures have been in the mid 80s during the day and cooling down to the high 50s at night. With dry, warm weather for the last few months, growers and caretakers have been forced to irrigate on a regular basis. Most trees in well-cared-for groves are in good condition with maturity levels on all orange varieties running a couple weeks ahead of last season. The majority of the picking has been for fresh fruit; processing houses are running mostly packinghouse eliminations. Grapefruit quality is very good and both colored and white grapefruit are being picked primarily for the fresh market. Grove maintenance includes pre-harvest mowing, spot herbiciding, and late supplemental sulfur spraying. Some processing plants are planning on opening for field run this week. Varieties being picked include Navels, Ambersweet, Fallglo and Sunburst tangerines and grapefruit with some early and mid-season orange varieties going to be processed.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Oct 22	Oct 29	Nov 05
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	128	125	142
Ambersweet	18	13	7
Early and mid oranges	32	64	50
Grapefruit	372	388	346
Fallglo tangerines	109	96	63
Sunburst tangerines	0	0	33
Tangelos	0	0	2

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