



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1222 Woodward St., Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

Week ending June 17, 2007

PANHANDLE DROUGHT AFFECTING CROP GROWTH

WEATHER SUMMARY: Another week of showers in most areas brought much needed rains during the week of June 11 through 17. Rainfall totals ranged from none at Tallahassee to nearly seven inches at Fort Lauderdale. Several areas received over one inch of precipitation. Homestead and Daytona Beach received over two inches of rain for the week. Immokalee, MacClenny, and Pierson recorded over three inches of precipitation. Miami received over five inches of rain. Areas in extreme southeastern Peninsula near Dade County received over eight inches of rain. The rains helped ease the threat of wildfires active throughout the State. As of June 15, the Florida Department of Agriculture's Division of Forestry reported 130 active fires affecting 129,074 acres. Temperatures at the major stations hovered around normal to two degrees below normal. Daytime highs were in the upper 80s and 90s. Pleasant evening lows were in the 60s, 70s with few areas recording at least one low in the 50s.

FIELD CROPS: Several crops are still being affected from the prior drought with several northern areas of the State desperately needing more rains. Some growers are irrigating field crops, but some were reluctant or unable to do so due to the high energy cost. The drought conditions have damaged most field crops with some growers considering not replanting in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula. Cotton and peanuts planted in late May as well as early June have not come up as expected. About twenty percent of these crops have required replanting in Panhandle areas. Peanut condition was rated twenty percent very poor, forty percent poor, thirty-five percent fair, and five percent good. Some cotton in Santa Rosa that is suffering will not be replanted since it is getting too late in the year. Winter wheat harvest is virtually over with good yields reported in Santa Rosa County. Corn is severely hurt and unless regular rains occur very soon the late-planted corn is expected to take a major loss in Washington County. Hay supplies are extremely short across the State. Hay producers have lost one to two cuttings of hay this year due to the lack of rainfall. The shortage of hay is not only a current concern but is also for availability of hay supplies that will be needed for this upcoming winter season. Topsoil and subsoil moisture across the State is mostly very short to adequate. Dade County reported adequate to surplus soil moisture supplies.

Percentage of peanuts planted to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
96	95	98

Percentage of peanuts pegged to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
13	15	24

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	27	37	23	42	49	16
Short	36	44	38	41	41	59
Adequate	37	19	39	17	10	25
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0

VEGETABLES: Harvest is complete in most areas across the central and southern Peninsula areas. Picking increased seasonally as harvesting season for tomatoes shifted from the central areas to the northern areas. Cantaloupe harvesting is complete in Palatka. Okra harvesting is active in Dade County. Over seventy percent of watermelons were damaged due to a hail storm late last week in Washington County. Growers in the Panhandle as well as the central Peninsula areas continue to market watermelon supplies as the season slows. Producers marketed cantaloupes, eggplant, okra, potatoes, tomatoes, and watermelons.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition is mostly poor. Grass is short and pasture is so poor that cattle condition is decreasing. Stock ponds in Santa Rosa County are either dry or nearly so. Cattle are being watered from wells and require hay and or grain due to lack of sufficient pasture. Hay is in very short supply. Almost no hay has been cut to-date this year. Hay producers have lost one to two cuttings of hay this year due to lack of rain. In the central areas, pasture condition is poor to fair. Grass is beginning to grow where rain has fallen in the past couple of weeks. Rain the first week in June was beneficial for pasture. Some cattle have been shipped due to limited feed. In the southwest areas, pasture condition is very poor to fair. 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	10	20	25	40
Poor	30	25	30	30
Fair	40	45	40	25
Good	20	10	5	5
Excellent	0	0	0	0

CITRUS: Scattered afternoon showers fell in all areas of the citrus belt. Most heavily affected were locations in the southern-most area at over three inches. Some interior locations received over an inch, while others had less than one tenth of an inch. Both coastal areas received about a half an inch. Rainfall is still needed in all areas to assist the trees in maintaining moisture for next season's crop. Water restrictions are in place in southwest areas; however, even with the dry weather overall citrus trees look good. Field workers are observing good growth in next season's fruit. Valencia estimated utilization has dropped below one million boxes per week. Most processing plants are closed, with one plant planning to remain open until about the end of June. Grapefruit harvest is relatively complete for the season. Packinghouses that are still open are mostly for later variety oranges that will be utilized for storage fruit. Primarily, grove activity includes irrigation and fertilizing. Also being observed in many areas is herbiciding, mowing, and ditch cleaning.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Jun 03	Jun 10	Jun 17
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Navel oranges	1	2	1
Early and Mid oranges	12	20	3
Valencia	2,287	1,722	750
Grapefruit	31	16	27

We encourage all subscribers of this report to consider receiving it by e-mail. 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 the subscription for you.