



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending July 29, 2007

WIDESPREAD RAINS BOOST PASTURE GROWTH

WEATHER SUMMARY: Widespread rains during the week of July 23 through 29 boosted the growth of pasture in most areas. Rainfall ranged from traces in Citra to about four and a half inches in Ft. Pierce. Pensacola recorded over four inches while Ft. Lauderdale, Marianna, and Monticello reported less than two tenths inch for the week. Carrabelle, West Palm Beach, and Jacksonville reported around three inches; Alachua, nearly two and two thirds; and Jay, over two inches. Most other areas received from about a half inch to over an inch. In Jefferson County, some violent afternoon thunderstorms with high winds and lightning caused tree damage over much of the northern localities. Temperatures at the major stations averaged nearly normal for the week. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s while nighttime lows were in the 60s and 70s. Tallahassee reported at least one daytime high at 101.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut condition was rated one percent very poor, four percent poor, forty percent fair, forty percent good, and fifteen percent excellent. In Suwannee County, peanuts are growing well, although weeds are causing problems for some growers, while dryland peanuts are looking very good. In Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, hay growth is starting to pick up and cotton and peanuts look fair to good. The dry weather during the planting season resulted in some poor peanut stands. Peanut quality is expected to be better than last year; while corn planted early suffered from dry weather, late plantings should do well. In Jackson County, weeds are causing problems in peanut and cotton fields; the condition of peanuts and cotton is improving; some dryland acreage needs moisture. In Jefferson County, hay fields are recovering although some acreage shows permanent drought damage. The pecan crop is in fair to good condition with the June and July nut drop not as severe as it appeared earlier in the season. Soil moisture was rated mostly adequate in most central and southern Peninsula counties but varied from very short to adequate over the Panhandle and northern Peninsula. Marion, Osceola, St. Lucie, and Hendry reported spots with surplus soil moisture. Jackson, Calhoun, Leon, Jefferson, Hamilton, Suwannee, and Martin counties reported some areas with very short soil moisture.

Percentage of peanuts pegged to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
80	94	93

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	5	7	7	8	13	12
Short	15	18	32	25	40	50
Adequate	75	72	60	65	47	37
Surplus	5	3	1	2	0	1

VEGETABLES: Growers plowed land in preparation of fall crop planting in some central and southern Peninsula localities. Producers in the Quincy growing area have laid most plastic for fall crop tomatoes and expect to start transplanting within the next two weeks. Okra harvesting remained active in Dade County.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, pasture condition was mostly fair to good with some areas suffering from drought. Forage is very short for cows but is starting to grow. The pasture condition varied within counties with some isolated areas still very dry. Pastures and hay fields were recovering but ponds are still low and there has been very little hay harvested to date. The cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the northern areas, pasture condition was mostly good with some locations very poor. Pasture was improving. Cattle condition was fair; with most needing to recover after poor grazing of past weeks. In the central areas, pasture was in fair to excellent condition as most locations received plenty of rain. In the southwest, pasture condition was very poor to excellent. Sporadic rainfall over the week continues to lessen the severity of the drought. Statewide, cattle condition was poor to excellent.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	5	5	5
Poor	5	5	5	5
Fair	25	55	40	60
Good	60	30	45	25
Excellent	10	5	5	5

CITRUS: Widespread showers during July 23-29 have been helpful to many citrus groves across the State. Daily thunderstorms developed with some areas receiving short heavy rains and others lighter precipitation amounts. The east coast had over four and a half inches of rainfall for the week; the west coast had an inch and a half. All other areas recorded less than an inch. High temperatures were close to normal reaching the low to mid-90s, with the highest recorded at 96 degrees in Immokalee. Growers and caretakers continued with summer cultural practices including fertilizing, cover crop control, spraying for mites and insects, and dead tree removal. Crews scouted for greening and canker on a continual basis. Varying fruit sizes in some groves, especially on the east coast, has been observed due to multiple blooms. Overall, trees continue to make good progress with some new growth. The new crop looks good providing growers a positive outlook for this coming season.

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