



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending September 9, 2007

MOSTLY DRY CONDITIONS ALLOW FIELD WORK TO PROGRESS

WEATHER SUMMARY: Mostly dry, humid conditions persisted during the week of September 3 through 9 with only a few scattered showers. Daily high temperatures were mostly in the 90s with Monticello recording at least one daily high at 101. Most low temperatures were in the 60s and 70s. Temperatures at the major stations hovered around normal to one degree below normal in Jacksonville. Nearly three inches of rain fell at Frostproof. Over two inches was reported in Jacksonville, Homestead, and Kenansville. Ocklawaha and Tallahassee received over an inch of rainfall. Elsewhere, minimal traces of rainfall fell during the week.

FIELD CROPS: Most areas in Jackson County remained dry with peanut harvesting expected to be late. The exceptions were some earlier planted peanuts to be dug next week. Hot, dry weather during August accelerated maturity of early peanuts and cotton planted, which resulted in poor quality and yields in Santa Rosa and Escambia counties. Harvesting of corn, peanuts, and cotton were underway in Santa Rosa and Escambia counties. Peanut harvesting was underway in Columbia, Levy, and Marion counties. In Santa Rosa County, some cotton will be defoliated. Armyworm pressure continued to be a problem in hay fields as well as row crops in Washington County, with fields being sprayed rigorously to control worms. Armyworms started appearing in hay fields in Sumter County this past week. Despite irrigated corn yields being in good condition, the high cost of irrigation is offsetting record corn prices with growers hoping to break even in Panhandle areas. Spider mite infestations continued to spread to more fields with growers treating fields continuously in Panhandle areas. The lack of rainfall is causing mouse ear infestations on some pecans in Panhandle areas. Pecan orchards that have been sprayed and irrigated regularly were still green and in good condition. Orchards without adequate spray programs and irrigation were in poor condition with smaller nuts. Topsoil moisture across the Panhandle and northern Peninsula was rated very short to short with some spots of adequate supplies. Jackson County reported short to surplus soil moisture supplies. Mostly short to adequate supplies were reported across the central and southern Peninsula localities with some pockets of very short supplies. Hendry County reported adequate to surplus soil moisture supplies.

Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
6	4	7

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	9	7	11	19	17	12
Short	46	35	12	40	39	31
Adequate	45	57	66	41	44	46
Surplus	0	1	11	0	0	11

VEGETABLES: Vegetable and field crop planting was in high gear in central as well as in southern Peninsula areas with growers welcoming the showers. Growers continued to market light supplies of okra in Dade County. Dry conditions around the Quincy area allowed the tomato crop to improve with picking to start next month.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition varied from very poor to excellent with the poor condition due to drought and armyworms. Cattle ponds were still extremely short on water and very little hay was being harvested. Hay fields in Washington County were being sprayed rigorously to control armyworms. Cattle condition was mostly fair. In the central areas, pasture condition was fair to excellent with most in fair condition. In Pasco County, hay harvesting was ongoing and calf shipments were peaking. In Sumter County, hay fields have been very dry and armyworms were causing damage. Cattle condition was mostly good. In the southwest areas, pasture improved to mostly good due to recent rains. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most in good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This Week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	1	1	1
Poor	5	4	10	4
Fair	30	55	40	55
Good	55	35	40	35
Excellent	9	5	9	5

CITRUS: The past week in citrus producing counties was relatively dry and hot with temperatures reaching the low to mid 90s in all areas. Areas along the east coast and northern citrus growing regions received less than one tenth of an inch of rainfall. The highest precipitation recorded in citrus producing areas was in Kenansville at two inches, followed by Sebring at less than an inch. Normally, this time of year, average weekly rainfall is between one and a half to two inches. Even though citrus areas have experienced extremely dry weather over the past several months, field workers reported positive comments on tree and fruit progress. Fruit sizes on oranges are between golf ball and baseball size. Grapefruit are running larger. Summer spraying was winding down and caretakers were mowing, pulling vines, and preparing groves for harvest. Most owners were educating themselves on how to deal properly with greening and were putting steps in place to minimize the effect.

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