



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending October 14, 2007

DRY CONDITIONS AIDED PROGRESS OF FIELD ACTIVITIES

WEATHER SUMMARY: Most localities recorded no measurable rain for the week of October 8 through 14. Only some Atlantic coast areas reported significant rainfall ranging from a little over a tenth inch at Ft. Pierce, to nearly three-fourths inch in Miami. West Palm Beach, Jacksonville, and Daytona Beach also recorded, respectively, from a quarter to almost a half inch of rain for the week. Daily temperatures averaged two to four degrees above normal. Most daytime highs were in the 80s with Tampa daily highs averaging 90 for the week. Nighttime lows were mostly in the 60s and 70s. Several northern and central Peninsula stations recorded at least one low in the 50s and several Panhandle localities reported at least one low in the 40s. The dry weather increased the danger of wildfire in most areas, especially in some Panhandle and Big Bend localities.

FIELD CROPS: The dry weather allowed peanut and cotton harvesting to progress in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula. The recent ample rains improved late plantings of peanuts with condition improving from last week. Statewide, peanut condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Santa Rosa County: The peanut crop is fair to good with digging still active. The cotton crop is very light with yields running 400 to 600 pounds per acre. Jefferson County: Peanut digging was slow due to late plantings and variable nut maturities. Hay cutting and baling were active with a very short crop expected. The pecan crop was reported as heavier than normal with some limb breakage due to recent storms. Washington County: Field crops were significantly pressured by worm infestations. Soybeans have the worst levels of white flies recorded in many years. DeSoto County: Fall armyworm infestations were very high in hay fields. Hendry County: Armyworms were affecting crops in many locations. Recent, ample rainfall caused soil moisture supplies to increase. Soil moisture in the Panhandle was rated short to adequate, while soil moisture in the Big Bend area was rated mostly very short. Elsewhere, soil moisture was rated mostly adequate. Counties reporting spots of very short soil moisture included Santa Rosa, Washington, Jefferson, Suwannee, Lake, Brevard, and De Soto. Counties reporting areas with surplus soil moisture included Jackson, Baker, Marion, Hillsborough, Brevard, and Hendry.

Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
55	40	66

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	10	12	34	13	13	30
Short	20	25	44	20	25	59
Adequate	66	51	22	66	60	11
Surplus	4	9	0	1	2	0

VEGETABLES: The dry conditions allowed ground preparations and planting to stay very active. In St. Johns County, fall cabbage planting was progressing as fields dried out from earlier storms. In Hillsborough County, strawberry transplanting was active with progress 50 to 75 percent complete. In Hendry County, the cooler, drier weather favored vegetable crop growth and development with armyworms affecting some crops. Okra harvesting continued in Dade County. Very light amounts of tomatoes were picked in the Quincy area and a very light supply of cucumbers was harvested in a few central and southern Peninsula localities. Snap bean, eggplant, pepper and squash harvesting was also getting underway. In Washington County, vegetable crops were being negatively impacted by the highest levels of white flies recorded in many years with fall crop yield potentials greatly reduced.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In Lake County, cattle and pasture were looking good. Armyworms were affecting pastures in many locations in Lake, DeSoto, and Hendry counties. In Santa Rosa County, soils were too dry to plant winter pastures. In the Big Bend area, pastures were rated mostly fair; elsewhere, pastures were rated mostly good. Statewide, cattle condition was rated mostly good. In the Panhandle and central Peninsula, cattle condition was rated fair to good. In the Big Bend area, cattle condition was rated fair. In the southern Peninsula, cattle condition was rated mostly good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	1	1	0
Poor	3	9	9	15
Fair	26	35	20	30
Good	60	45	65	45
Excellent	10	10	5	10

CITRUS: No significant rainfall was reported in the citrus region for the week. Ft. Pierce and Lake Alfred recorded only one-tenth of an inch of rain. Average daily highs were in the high 80s to lower 90s. Growers were still irrigating as needed, since yearly amounts of rainfall have remained well below average and afternoon temperatures were mostly warm. Trees were generally in good condition in well-cared-for groves; fruit sets were being reported as above average. Fruit sizes on oranges were less than baseball size. Grapefruit were running slightly larger with some increased growth observed as a result of rains earlier this month. Limited activity in the groves included fertilizing, mowing middles, cleaning groves, and getting ready for harvest. Most owners were dealing with greening as needed. Fifteen packinghouses have opened and began running fruit along with one processing plant. Two more packinghouses intend on opening in the next two weeks. Harvest has begun on Fallglo tangerines, Ambersweet and Navel oranges, and grapefruit.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Sep 30	Oct 07	Oct 14
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Navel oranges	12	41	53
Ambersweet oranges	19	20	19
Grapefruit	23	29	57
Fallglo tangerines	16	49	99

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