



# WEATHER CROP

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Week ending November 4, 2007

## TROPICAL STORM NOEL HINDERS SOME FIELD ACTIVITIES

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Light rains and gusty winds from Tropical Storm Noel slowed field work in parts of the southern Peninsula during the week of October 29 through November 4. Noel formed in the Atlantic and impacted the southern Peninsula mid-week, then proceeded north just off the eastern coast. Some northeastern and central Peninsula localities, mainly along the Atlantic coast, received outer rain bands from Noel. Rainfall ranged from none in Pensacola to nearly two and a quarter inches in Miami. Several areas received no rainfall or minimal traces for the week. Areas receiving over one inch of precipitation included Daytona Beach, Homestead, Kenansville, and West Palm Beach. Pierson and Orlando received nearly an inch of rain. Overcast skies kept most temperatures one to four degrees above normal in the major cities. Pleasant daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s. Cooler evening lows were in the 50s and 60s with some areas experiencing at least one low in the 40s. Alachua and Kenansville reported one low in the 30s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Tropical Storm Noel missed the Panhandle and areas of the northern Peninsula which allowed growers to continue harvesting field crops. Growers continued hay making with some problems of excess moisture in central Peninsula localities. The hay supply was expected to be shorter this year due to the unfavorable weather conditions this season. Armyworms continue to destroy hay fields in Baker County. Harvesting proceeded at a steady pace in Washington County with cotton harvest in full swing. The cotton crop in areas of Santa Rosa County continued to deteriorate with most of the crop in the ground. Some peanuts were lying on top of the ground with the rains too late to aid the crop in Santa Rosa County. The heavy rains during late October aided the growth of the late planted peanuts but picking was delayed up to two weeks in some areas of Jefferson County. If clear conditions persist, Jefferson County growers anticipated completing peanut harvesting within two weeks. Statewide, peanut crop condition was rated 3 percent very poor, 35 percent poor, 22 percent fair, and 40 percent good. Soil moisture supplies in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula were rated mostly short to adequate with a few pockets of very short supplies. Soil moisture supplies throughout areas in the central and southern Peninsula recorded mostly short to adequate with some areas of surplus supplies.

Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
90	89	95

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	3	1	24	7	6	30
Short	30	20	40	35	27	49
Adequate	63	76	35	57	66	20
Surplus	4	3	1	1	1	1

**VEGETABLES:** Tropical Storm Noel interrupted some field work in southern Peninsula localities due to high, gusty winds and rains by mid-week. Strong winds in Sumter County caused some damage to squash. Harvesting of most vegetables was underway with windy, wet weather increasing disease pressure in parts of Hendry County. Growers in southern Peninsula areas expected to begin harvesting radishes next week. Harvesting of tomatoes was active in Gadsden County. There were still reports of significant white flies in the Panhandle. Planting of strawberries in Palatka continued with growers irrigating as needed due to extremely dry conditions. Windy conditions from Noel caused bloom-drop on some vegetables in Pompano. Despite rains, harvesting remained on schedule for watermelons, bell peppers, and cucumbers in Suwannee Valley; green bean yields continue to be low. Harvesting was

off to a slow start in Wauchula with planting of strawberries underway. Growers in Wauchula finished planting snap beans, bell peppers, cantaloupes, cucumbers, tomatoes, and harvesting squash. Producers marketed light supplies of snap beans, Chinese cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, squash, and tomatoes.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle, pasture condition was very poor to excellent with most good; cattle condition was fair to excellent. Planting of winter graze small grains in Jefferson County was delayed due to dry soil condition. In Santa Rosa County, grass growth was not keeping up with grazing. In the northern areas, pasture condition was fair to excellent with most fair. There was notable armyworm damage in many hay fields and pastures in Baker County. In central areas, pasture condition was poor to excellent with most good and cattle condition was fair to excellent with most in good condition. Some hay harvesting was underway. Cooler weather had slowed grass growth. In the southwestern areas, pasture and cattle conditions were very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. In De Soto County, fields were being readied to plant fall ryegrass for forage. In Okeechobee County, pasture, forage, and cattle conditions have not been affected by recent rains as pasture was showing the affect of two seasons of drought. Statewide, cattle condition was fair to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	2	1	3
Poor	4	3	9	17
Fair	40	25	45	25
Good	50	60	40	50
Excellent	5	10	5	5

**CITRUS:** A high pressure system over the mid Atlantic States and Tropical Storm Noel swirling in the Atlantic Ocean created high winds but little rain in citrus-producing areas. Winds gust were from 30 to 40 mph in some areas; rainfall totals were from one tenth of an inch in Immokalee to over a half an inch in Ft. Pierce. Temperatures lowered by several degrees over the weekend, dropping to the mid 40s to low 50s in all areas on Sunday morning. Trees were generally in good condition in well-cared-for groves. Maturity levels and ratios on oranges were increasing making available more fruit to be harvested for processing. The acidity level on grapefruit was beginning to lower, allowing more fresh fruit for packing. Limited grove activity included fertilizing, spraying, herbicide applications, and irrigation. Over half of the major packinghouses have opened and started running fruit. Only two processing plants were open; however, more are planning on opening within the week. Harvested varieties included Fallglo tangerines, early, Ambersweet and Navel oranges, grapefruit, and tangelos.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Oct 21	Oct 28	Nov 04
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early oranges	16	23	51
Navel oranges	97	104	89
Ambersweet oranges	28	26	11
Grapefruit	127	165	258
Fallglo tangerines	123	91	81
Tangelos	3	2	2

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