



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending June 8, 2008

HOT AND DRY WEATHER CONTINUED

WEATHER SUMMARY: Most locations throughout the State received less than half an inch of rain last week. Hernando, Hillsborough, and Baker counties each reported 0.59 inches of rain. Live Oak, Sebring, and Palmdale received 1.2, 1.28, and 3.02 inches, respectively. High temperatures ranged from the upper 80s to 90s, with Umatilla hitting 101 degrees. Lows were in the 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: For the week ending June 8, peanuts were 93 percent planted. Last year at this time, peanuts were 77 percent planted. Potato digging continued in St. Johns County. Scattered showers in the southern Peninsula were greatly appreciated. However, crops in Indian River County were suffering due to afternoon wilting. Many growers from the Panhandle to the central Peninsula irrigated crops to compensate for dry conditions. Drought and hot temperatures in Santa Rosa County were reported as producing severe conditions for cotton. Wheat harvesting continued in Santa Rosa County. The Big Bend and central Peninsula reported very short soil moisture. The Panhandle and southern Peninsula soil moisture levels were reported as short.

Percentage of peanuts planted to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
93	77	90

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	47	43	43	43	37	54
Short	35	39	38	36	38	37
Adequate	18	18	19	21	25	9
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0

VEGETABLES: Cantaloupe and watermelon harvests slowed seasonally in St. Johns County. Harvesting of avocados began. Sweet corn season wound down in the southern Peninsula. Growers were all but finished harvesting eggplant and peppers. Producers marketed avocados, cantaloupe, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, potatoes, radishes, tomatoes, and watermelon during the week.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: The State pasture condition decreased last week due to drought. In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was very poor to good, with most in poor condition. Hot and windy conditions increased the impact of the drought. Cattle were fed supplemental hay. Cattle condition was poor to fair. In the central areas, pasture condition was very poor to good, with most in very poor to poor condition. Drought conditions have become extreme. Some cattlemen are completely out of hay. Cattle condition was very poor to good. In the southwestern areas, pasture was in very poor to good condition. However, some rain and showers fell in Desoto, Hendry, and other southwest counties. Statewide, cattle condition was mostly poor to fair.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	15	15	25	20
Poor	30	20	35	30
Fair	35	40	30	35
Good	20	24	10	15
Excellent	0	0	0	0

CITRUS: Citrus producing areas continued to experience the hot and dry weather pattern of the last few weeks. Temperatures ranged from the mid 60s to the mid to upper 90s in all citrus areas. Rainfall was sparse except for isolated but strong storms in several areas. Thunderstorms popped up in many areas as afternoon temperatures reached the upper 90's but rainfall was limited. With the continued and extensive use of irrigation, most trees looked good with heavy foliage and healthy new fruit. Hedging and topping continued into the latter part of the citrus season. Other production activities included irrigating, spraying, mowing, and brush removal. Growers combated greening by removing trees and attempting to control the psyllids with pesticides. Valencia harvest dropped below the six million box weekly amount as hot temperatures slow harvest. Availability of fruit remaining to be harvested decreased with softness of some fruit reported because of the dry and hot weather. Some processing plants plan to run Valencia oranges into the second week of July. Grapefruit utilization was declining rapidly. Honey tangerine harvest neared completion as packing houses closed for the season.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	May 25	June 1	June 8
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Navel oranges	1	1	2
Valencia oranges	5,550	5,144	4,891
Grapefruit	96	51	44
Honey tangerines	49	14	7

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