



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending August 17, 2008

RAINS AID PANHANDLE GROWTH

WEATHER SUMMARY: All areas across the State received adequate amounts of rainfall last week. Precipitation was spotted in the Panhandle, Big Bend, and central locations. Franklin, Santa Rosa, and Gadsden counties in the Panhandle received 3.28, 3.91, and 3.24 inches, respectively. Baker County in the Big Bend and Hernando County in the central Peninsula received 3.92 and 3.09 inches, respectively. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s; lows were in the upper 60s and low 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut pegging was 99 percent complete compared with 91 percent last year and a 98 percent five-year average. Scattered showers kept the peanut crop progression on schedule and increased conditions. Peanut condition was rated 20% fair, 52% good, and 28% excellent. Cotton, corn, and soybean crops were reported in good condition in Jackson County. Soil moisture was mostly adequate in all areas.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending August 17, 2008			
Stage	2008	2007	5-yr Average
<i>Percent</i>			
Pegged	99	91	98

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
<i>Percent</i>						
Very short	0	4	4	0	4	12
Short	7	15	36	9	15	43
Adequate	80	71	55	88	78	43
Surplus	13	10	5	3	3	2

VEGETABLES: Land preparation and plastic laying for vegetables proceeded on schedule with first transplants of the season in the ground. Okra continued to be marketed last week.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture and cattle were in fair to excellent condition. Most pasture was in good condition. In the central areas, pasture condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in fair condition. A small portion of pasture was in poor condition due to drought. The cattle condition was mostly fair and the balance good to excellent. In the southwest, pasture condition was very poor to excellent with most in good condition. Pasture was in poor condition due to drought. The cattle condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. Statewide, the cattle condition was mostly fair to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	1	0	1
Poor	5	4	5	4
Fair	45	25	45	25
Good	40	60	40	60
Excellent	10	10	10	10

CITRUS: Several days of short, spotty showers produced various amounts of rainfall throughout the citrus producing area. The heaviest rain, just over two inches, fell on the eastern coastal city of Ft. Pierce, while Balm, on the west coast, received an inch and a half. Daily high temperatures were in the upper 80s to the lower 90s most of the week. A high of 94 degrees was recorded in Immokalee. Growers were continuing to apply summer oil and spraying copper. Much attention was being given to psyllid control in all areas. Other activities included mowing, irrigating, and fertilizing. Where caretakers were spending sufficient time maintaining groves, the crop was progressing well. Oranges were as large as baseballs, while grapefruit were typically larger. Some color break has been observed on interior grapefruit in younger groves. Overall, conditions are good in well managed groves and the outlook was good for the next season.

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