



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending August 24, 2008

## TROPICAL STORM FAY IMPEDED FIELD WORK

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Tropical Storm Fay caused rain totals to be extreme for most locations. Rainfall was reported in excess of 5 inches for the majority of the State. Precipitation in St. Lucie, Volusia, Jefferson, and Lake counties was recorded at 12.3, 12.5, 15.0, and 15.3 inches respectively. Several county extension agents reported quantities of rain over 15 inches. A few areas of the State were dry prior to Fay and therefore did not experience flooding. High temperatures ranged from the upper 80s to low 90s. Night time lows were in the upper 60s and low 70s. Major cities averaged temperatures that were normal to 4 degrees below normal.

**FIELD CROPS:** Peanut condition was rated 12% fair, 60% good, and 28% excellent. There is concern that heavy rains may cause disease in peanuts, but most peanut and cotton growers expected good yields. Most hay fields had substantial standing water. Pecan limb breakage from winds was mild in Duval County. Some corn in Hamilton County was ready to be harvested; however, until the moisture content is lower, harvest is delayed. Sod farmers in Brevard County experienced a substantial loss due to submersion of crops. Daily rains and flooding halted field work for many growers last week. Soil moisture levels were adequate to surplus. Complete assessments of wind and water damage for field crops have not been made at this early stage.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	0	0	8	0	0	14
Short	0	7	47	2	9	44
Adequate	44	80	42	48	88	40
Surplus	56	13	3	50	3	2

**VEGETABLES:** Tropical Storm Fay caused some delays as growers were trying to get planting underway. Lafayette County reported that cucumbers and beans were in the ground last week and may have suffered from surplus rains. Collier and Hendry counties reported that some of the plastic laid for vegetables was washed or blown away by the storms. Growers in Dade County did not report having vegetables planted yet and most avocados were already harvested. Okra and avocados continued to move through the market last week.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** Heavy rain from Tropical Storm Fay left some pastures submerged or with standing water. In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture was very poor to excellent. Because of the standing water in pastures, farmers are concerned with the possibility of foot rot. In the central areas, pasture condition ranged from poor to excellent. Lakes, ponds, streams, and road ditches were filled with water. Loopers damage in pastures was being controlled. The cattle condition was mostly good. In the southwest, pasture condition was very poor to excellent with most fair to good. Low lying areas had standing water at week's end. The cattle condition was poor to excellent. Statewide, cattle condition was mostly good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	0	5	0
Poor	2	5	5	5
Fair	13	45	25	45
Good	65	40	55	40
Excellent	20	10	10	10

**CITRUS:** Tropical Storm Fay made landfall on Tuesday morning near Ft. Myers, just south and west of several major citrus growing counties. After hitting the State, the storm moved slowly across the citrus region, drenching the Florida citrus industry but sparing it of any significant wind damage. Industry experts reported that winds were not strong enough to cause major damage to the crop; however, standing water could present a significant problem if left in the groves too long. Growers in the Indian River area that received up to 13 inches of rainfall were busy all week pumping out as much excess water as possible from the groves. Other citrus areas that had heavy rains were Immokalee at 11 inches, Sebring at over 7 inches, and Apopka at over 5 inches. Some caretakers in the central citrus growing region welcomed the rainfall where seasonal amounts were below normal. Due to the inclement weather, normal grove activities were suspended during the week. Overall, the citrus crop is in good condition and growers were ready for a good season. Oranges were just under baseball size and grapefruit about softball size. Some color break was observed on interior grapefruit in younger groves.

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