



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
1222 Woodward St., Orlando, FL 32803  
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · [www.nass.usda.gov/fl](http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl)

Week ending August 31, 2008

## SOME AREAS STILL FLOODED FROM TROPICAL STORM FAY

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Scattered rainfall was received across the State last week. Hillsborough, St. Johns, Broward, and Dade counties recorded the most precipitation, between 2-3 inches. Major cities averaged highs in the upper 80s and 90s with lows in the 70s and 80s. Daytime highs were in the 90s; lows were in the upper 60s and 70s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Peanut condition was rated 4% poor, 21% fair, 56% good, and 19% excellent. Some fields still had excess moisture from Tropical Storm Fay. Santa Rosa County did not experience severe weather conditions and the peanut crop was nearing maturity. Jefferson County lost some of the pecan crop due to Tropical Storm Fay and many fields were still flooded. Areas of Jackson County that received heavy rainfall experienced more disease pressure. As fields dried, farmers applied fungicide to improve crop conditions. Soil moisture was reported as mostly adequate to surplus in the Panhandle and central Peninsulas and adequate in the southern Peninsula.

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	17
Short	10	0	40	7	2	41
Adequate	38	44	51	46	48	42
Surplus	52	56	1	47	50	0

**VEGETABLES:** Postponed field work continued in some areas due to standing water. Volusia County had difficulty getting water pumped off the fields, delaying vegetable land preparation and planting. Okra and avocados continued to be marketed last week due to a high demand.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** Pastures throughout the State varied from poor to excellent condition. Pasture flooding was reported in each area due to Tropical Storm Fay, with more flooded pastures noted in the northern and eastern counties. In the Panhandle areas, pasture condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the northern areas, pasture was in poor to excellent condition with several locations with flooded pasture. In the central and southwest areas, pasture condition was mostly good. Most pastures in St. Lucie County were very wet or flooded from the tropical storm. Statewide, cattle condition was fair to excellent with most in each area in good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	0	0	5
Poor	0	2	5	5
Fair	15	13	20	25
Good	65	65	65	55
Excellent	20	20	10	10

**CITRUS:** Late afternoon and early evening showers added additional rainfall to already drenched citrus groves. Lake Alfred had the most rainfall at almost six inches. Balm, on the west coast, had over an inch and a half. All monitored areas across the citrus belt had at least a half inch of rainfall during the last week. Growers in areas that were heavily affected by Tropical Storm Fay were still busy pumping excess water out of canals and ditches. Standing water in isolated areas may still be a problem if left in the groves too long. Some grove roads on the east coast were still under water and were not drivable. Large operations limited unnecessary traffic in order to keep saturated dirt roads from getting deep ruts and damaging the roads. Most all areas are not totally recovered from recent heavy rainfall and caretakers have not resumed normal grove maintenance activities. Those fortunate enough to have dry groves have been able to mow middles and perform basic grove maintenance. The citrus crop remains in good condition and growers and owners look forward to a good season. Oranges were as large as baseball size and grapefruit about softball size.

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