



# 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

Week ending September 21, 2008

## MOST FIELD WORK AIDED BY DRY SOILS

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** High temperatures throughout the State ranged from the 80s to low 90s. Nighttime lows were in the 60s and 70s. Significant precipitation fell on the northern part of the central Peninsula. St. Johns and Putnam counties reported 3.52 and 2.57 inches, respectively. Alachua, Volusia, and Collier counties each received just over one inch last week. All other areas recorded less than one inch.

**FIELD CROPS:** Peanut condition was rated 29% fair, 55% good, and 16% excellent. Peanut digging was 14 percent complete, compared with 13 percent last year, and a five-year average progress of 19 percent. Some field work was delayed by showers early last week. Many growers reported that more rain is needed for those crops not yet harvested. Cotton defoliation has begun on a few fields in Escambia County, but picking has not started yet. Santa Rosa County reported that cotton was doing well. Dry conditions allowed hay to be cut in many locations throughout the State. The soybean crop was looking good due to timely fungicide applications. Madison County was finishing the harvest of corn. Flagler County reported an excessive armyworm population. Topsoil moisture conditions were short to adequate, while subsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending September 21, 2008			
Stage	2008	2007	5-yr Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Harvested	14	13	19

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	5	2	6	3	1	15
Short	22	13	30	17	9	31
Adequate	61	68	63	65	67	54
Surplus	12	17	2	15	23	0

**VEGETABLES:** Producers in the central and southern Peninsulas continued to prepare for and plant fall vegetables. Martin County reported that standing water caused some delays in field work. Heavy rainfall in St. Johns County also delayed land preparations. Growers in southwest areas of the State have been helped by recent sunny conditions. Okra and avocados were marketed last week.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition ranged from fair to excellent with most in good condition. Pasture grass was growing in most areas, but growth was slowed in many locations due to drought and cooler nighttime temperatures. Pastures were showing signs of drought stress. Pasturage in many operations were still well short of average production due to earlier drought conditions. Cattle condition was fair to excellent with most in good condition. In the central areas, pasture was very poor to excellent with most fair to good. Some pastures were in very poor condition due to standing water from heavy rains over the weekend. Other pastures were still drying out from Tropical Storm Fay. There was some armyworm damage of forage. Cattle condition was fair to good with most in good condition. In the southwest areas, pasture condition was very 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	5
Poor	5	5	10	5
Fair	20	15	25	25
Good	65	75	55	55
Excellent	10	5	5	10

**CITRUS:** Most citrus producing areas had light rainfall on one or two days during the week. Only Ona and Immokalee had totals over one inch. The rest of the citrus region had between one-tenth and four-tenths of one inch. Daily high temperatures reached the lower 90s in almost all areas. Apopka in the northern citrus growing region reached 95 degrees and Sebring in the central citrus growing region reached 94 degrees. Most areas were able to conduct normal grove maintenance activity that included irrigating, spraying, mowing, pulling out old trees, and preparing for harvest. Growers were continually battling canker and greening. Scouting for diseases and removal of dead trees was occurring across the State. Some growers have chosen to abandon groves rather than spend resources trying to keep them healthy. Trees taken care of look good with heavy foliage and healthy looking fruit. In well-cared-for groves, oranges were observed as large as baseball size and grapefruit as large as softball size. Later varieties were running slightly smaller. Additional packinghouses opened this week; many more were planning on opening in the next few weeks.

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