



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending October 12, 2008

## RECENT RAINS IMPROVE PASTURES

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Heavy rains provided much needed relief in the Panhandle last week. Showers between one and two inches were reported in all areas of the State with the most precipitation received in the northern and central Peninsulas. Franklin County, 3.31 inches and Lake County, 4.44 inches. Daytime temperatures warmed up to the 80s and 90s with lows in the 60s and 70s. Major cities averaged highs in the 80s and 90s with lows in the 50s, 60s, and 70s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Peanut condition was rated 3% poor, 26% fair, 57% good, and 14% excellent. Peanut digging is 65 percent complete, compared with 51 percent last year, and a five year average progress of 58 percent. Peanut harvest was mostly complete in Santa Rosa County. Cotton harvest was underway in Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Washington counties. Cool night temperatures slowed peanut maturity in Washington, Columbia, and Gilchrist counties. Hay harvest was very active in the northern areas of the State with Calhoun County reporting second and third cuttings last week. Planting of small grains was delayed by dry soils in some areas. Topsoil moisture was mostly adequate in all areas. Subsoil was mostly adequate in the northern, central, and southern Peninsulas but short in the Big Bend.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending October 12, 2008			
Stage	2008	2007	5-yr Average
<i>Percent</i>			
Harvested	65	51	58

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
<i>Percent</i>						
Very short	4	7	11	4	6	13
Short	26	34	21	26	23	21
Adequate	58	48	63	58	60	65
Surplus	12	11	5	12	11	1

**VEGETABLES:** Growers continued to prepare land and plant vegetables. Cabbage planting continued in Flagler and St. Johns counties. Root rot was reported on a few vegetables in Hernando County, but most looked good. Cucumbers were harvested in St. Johns County. Squash harvesting began in Bradford County. Other vegetables marketed last week were eggplant, okra, and tomatoes.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** Cool season forage planting was in progress, but cooler nights and drought were limiting grass growth. In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition ranged from fair to excellent, with most in fair condition. Growing conditions were good for planting winter small grains and clover for grazing. However, forage planting in Walton County was held up by lack of adequate soil moisture. Showers over the weekend encouraged planting of small grains for forage. Summer pasture has rapidly declined in quality and quantity. Cattle condition was mostly good. In the central areas, pasture ranged from very poor to good. Rains during the past week in Osceola County have resulted in some flooded or extremely wet pastures and have hurt forage recovery. In Orange County, the still flooded pastures has caused hoof problems. Rain in areas of Sumter County turned pastures green. In the southwest areas, pasture condition was fair to excellent with most in good condition. Cattle condition was poor to good. Statewide, cattle condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	1	2	5
Poor	1	1	10	10
Fair	30	35	35	45
Good	65	55	50	35
Excellent	4	8	3	5

**CITRUS:** On average, temperatures were warmer than normal in citrus-producing counties. Highs were in the upper 80s to lower 90s in all areas. Lows dropped to the 60s and 70s during the evenings. A number of quick moving heavy thunderstorms brought rainfall to the northern, eastern, and central growing areas. Lake Alfred had almost three inches of rainfall; Apopka and Ft. Pierce had over two inches. The new crop fruit set was variable, with higher than average fruit sets on early oranges and early tangerines, and lower than average fruit sets on later varieties. Maturity levels on early and late oranges indicated the crop was ahead of recent historical averages. Grove activity included limited irrigating, herbiciding, and mowing. Colored grapefruit were showing color break in the eastern and southern regions. Scouting for canker and greening by growers and caretakers continues. Most of the packinghouses have opened and have begun shipping fruit. Only two large processing plants have begun running fruit in small quantities. Varieties being packed included early oranges (Navels, Ambersweet, and Hamlins), white and colored grapefruit, and Fallglo tangerines.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Sep 28	Oct 05	Oct 12
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and Mid oranges	19	35	39
Navel oranges	27	46	58
Grapefruit	34	71	159
Sunburst tangerines	1	0	0
Fallglo tangerines	32	66	81

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