



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 November 9, 2008

DRY, COOL CONDITIONS FOR FIELD WORK

WEATHER SUMMARY: Mostly dry last week with showers of less than half an inch reported around the State. Daytime temperatures reached highs in the 70s to the low 80s with lows temperatures in the 30s and 40s. Major cities averaged highs in the 70s and 80s with lows in the 40s, 50s, and 60s.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut digging was 94 percent complete, unchanged from last year, and two percent below the five year average progress of 96 percent. Peanut and cotton harvest was near completion in many counties with good yields reported. Early frost damaged about 500 acres of peas in Columbia County. Hay was harvested in Calhoun and Orange counties. Soil moisture was mostly adequate in the Panhandle and southern Peninsula but short in the Big Bend and central Peninsula.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending November 9, 2008			
Stage	2008	2007	5-yr Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Harvested	94	94	96

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	12	5	8	13	7	13
Short	38	22	39	29	24	39
Adequate	46	61	50	55	60	48
Surplus	4	12	3	3	9	0

VEGETABLES: Planting and harvesting continued with a good harvest of cucumbers in Fort Pierce. Florida City began snap bean harvest and tomatoes continued in Gadsden County. Immokalee reported a light harvest on squash and cucumbers. Cabbage and broccoli were planted in the St. Johns, Putnam, and Flagler counties. Farmers irrigated strawberry plants in Plant City. Other vegetables marketed were sweet corn, eggplant, okra, and peppers.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in fair condition. The poor condition was due to frost and drought. In Jefferson County, most winter graze of small grains, ryegrass, and clover was planted but needs rain. Pastures in Washington County have declined significantly due to heavy frosts last week. Winds from a cold front significantly dried up surface moisture and greatly reduced pasture productivity and also have created marginal planting conditions for cool season forages. Hay feeding has started early due to the early frost. Small grain forage planting continues in Colombia County. Cattle condition was fair to good. In the central areas, pastures ranged from very poor to good with most in fair condition. In Pasco County, dry, cool weather has ended warm season pasture growth. In the southwest areas, pasture condition was very poor to excellent with most in good condition. Cool temperatures and no rain limited forage growth. Cattle condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. Statewide, cattle condition was fair to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	2	5	0
Poor	10	11	15	2
Fair	30	38	40	30
Good	55	46	35	60
Excellent	5	3	5	8

Citrus: Mild weather covered the complete citrus belt with warm afternoons and cool evenings and mornings. Rainfall was less than one-tenth of an inch in the complete growing area, causing most owners to implement regular irrigating schedules. The quantity and quality of fruit continues to be reported good in all areas. Ratios were being reported ahead of last season on all orange varieties; grapefruit ratios were about the same. Few caretakers are resetting groves at this time due to the availability of trees. Grove activity included limited harvesting, herbiciding, and mowing. Scouting for greening and removal of affected trees was continuing in many areas. Over 40 major packinghouses have opened with only a couple of large houses remaining to open. Varieties being packed included early oranges (Navels, Ambersweet, and Hamlin), white and colored grapefruit, and early tangerines (Fallglo and Sunburst). Processing was still very limited at this time, mostly for packinghouse eliminations. About a half dozen plants were open and three more are planning to open this week.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Oct 26	Nov 02	Nov 09
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges	52	73	302
Navel oranges	110	99	125
Grapefruit	302	296	422
Fallglo tangerines	110	66	45
Sunburst tangerines	7	36	150

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