



# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending November 16, 2008

## WET SOILS IN PANHANDLE

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Rainfall was scattered around the State, with much of the Panhandle experiencing heavy showers. Several centrally located counties received half to one inch of precipitation; however, growers reported that conditions remained dry. Jefferson and Gadsden counties reported 1.63 and 4.04 inches, respectively. Daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s. Lows were mostly in the 30s, 40s, and 50s. Growers in Duval and Citrus counties reported a frost. Temperatures in the major cities averaged 1 to 3 degrees above normal.

**FIELD CROPS:** Peanut digging was 98 percent complete, compared with 96 percent last year and unchanged from the five year average. Rain caused some field work delays in the Panhandle, but relieved dry conditions. Cotton, soybean, and hay harvest continued, but were nearly finished. Sugarcane harvest was underway in Glades County. Topsoil moisture was rated short to adequate in the Big Bend and central Peninsula; mostly adequate in the Panhandle and southern Peninsula. Subsoil moisture was adequate in the southern Peninsula, but short to adequate in all other regions.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending November 16, 2008			
Stage	2008	2007	5-yr Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Harvested	98	96	98

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	4	12	10	6	13	11
Short	36	38	40	30	29	37
Adequate	56	46	48	60	55	52
Surplus	4	4	2	4	3	0

**VEGETABLES:** Cool, dry weather in the central and southern Peninsula slowed disease problems and allowed harvesting to progress. Hardee County reported that they were irrigating tomatoes. In Alachua County, snap beans and mustard greens were doing well and were being harvested. Some producers in Collier County reported problems with deer. Cabbage planting in Flagler County was 50 percent complete. Light volumes of sweet corn and radishes moved through the market. Other vegetables marketed were avocados, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, squash, and tomatoes.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** The Panhandle and northern areas reported that grass growth has slowed significantly and was about done for the season. Winter grains for forage have been slowed by cool temperatures and dry soils. Pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most in fair to good condition. In the central and southern Peninsula area, grass growth in pastures was declining and the final cuttings of hay were nearly complete. Some supplemental feeding began on livestock, especially equine. The cattle condition statewide ranged from very poor to excellent with most in the fair to good condition. Weight gains on calves have been below average due to poor protein value in grass and hay. Some producers were removing calves from pastures earlier than normal due to inadequate hay and forage.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	0	3	5
Poor	2	10	14	15
Fair	33	30	39	40
Good	59	55	43	35
Excellent	5	5	1	5

**CITRUS:** Areas along the west coast and central citrus growing region had record high temperatures midweek before dropping down to some of the coolest morning temperatures of the season on Sunday. Apopka and Lake Alfred had three quarters of an inch of rainfall for the week; all other monitored citrus areas had no significant rainfall. Caretakers applied supplemental sprays and fertilizers to maintain healthy citrus trees. Windy conditions and infrequent rainfall on the east coast dehydrated some trees, causing growers to run irrigation on a recurrent basis. Other grove activity included limited mowing and general maintenance. Harvesting is increasing with early oranges being picked for processing and plants also taking packinghouse eliminations. The fresh market for Navel oranges and grapefruit was limited but fairly consistent the past several weeks. Fallglo tangerine harvest was almost over for the season and was being replaced by the early variety Sunburst tangerines.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Nov 02	Nov 09	Nov 16
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges (Including Ambersweet)	73	302	1,042
Navel oranges	99	125	227
Grapefruit	296	422	587
Fallglo tangerines	66	45	4
Sunburst tangerines	36	150	170
Tangelos	0	4	14

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