



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending August 2, 2009

WARM, HUMID TEMPERATURES, EVENING SHOWERS

WEATHER SUMMARY: Summer rains, storms, and strong winds caused some crop harvest delays in several areas. Daytime temperatures reached the upper 90s with lows in the upper 60s and 70s. Major cities averaged highs in the upper 80s and 90s, lows in the 60s, 70s, and 80s. All areas received adequate amounts of rain last week. Orange and De Soto counties accumulated the most precipitation of 4.68 inches.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut pegging continued with 80% complete compared with 94% last year, and a five year average of 93%. Peanut condition rated 20% fair, 63% good, and 17% excellent. Growers in Jackson County and other areas of the Panhandle were on a two week fungicide application schedule as disease pressure increased with abundant rainfall and high humidity. Soybeans were in good condition while cotton was fair in Holmes County. Hay cutting progressed in Gulf County. Due to surplus wet conditions, hay yield was good in Bradford County, but quality was below normal. Corn silage harvest was completed in Levy County; however, fields were too wet for hay cutting. Field corn was harvested in Hamilton County. Soil moisture condition was adequate in most areas.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending August 2, 2009			
Stage	2009	2008	5-yr Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Pegged	80	94	93

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	3	1	1	3	1	3
Short	13	11	9	15	14	24
Adequate	65	70	82	64	70	71
Surplus	19	18	8	18	15	2

VEGETABLES: Watermelons were close to completion in Holmes County and growers reported a good crop for this season. Planting of the fall tomato crop began in Hamilton County. Okra and Boniato (also known as the white or Cuban sweet potato) was harvested in Miami-Dade County. There was also an abundance of Longan crop this year.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, afternoon showers continued to keep forage growth at or near seasonal normal. Pasture grass was able to catch up with grazing demand. The cattle were in fair to excellent condition with most in good condition. In the central areas, regular summer rains were good for pasture grass growth. In Flagler County, armyworm infestations were heavy in pastures, sod farms, and forage crops. Pasture in some locations was in very poor to poor condition due to drought. In the southern areas, locally heavy rains have caused localized flooding. Statewide, cattle were in poor to excellent condition with most fair to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	1	1	0
Poor	4	3	1	1
Fair	25	16	23	14
Good	55	60	55	55
Excellent	15	20	20	30

CITRUS: Seasonally hot and humid weather was present in all citrus growing areas for the week. Daily highs reached the low to mid-90s in all monitored areas. The warmest temperature was in Lake Alfred at 96 degrees. Rainfall amounts ranged from one-half inch in Balm to four and one-half inches in Arcadia. Trees and fruit looked good in well-cared-for groves. Some trees had new growth where they were hedged and topped earlier in the year. The new crop fruit was showing various sizes on grapefruit with more consistent sizes on oranges. Caretakers were busy marking and pushing unproductive trees, herbiciding, mowing, and fertilizing. Some growers were combating canker with additional copper spraying during the rainy season. Growers were using both aerial and ground spraying to reduce the citrus psyllid population that spreads greening.

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