



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending September 6, 2009

## HARVESTING IN NORTH FLORIDA, PLANTING IN SOUTH FLORIDA

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Daytime highs were in the low 90s at most locations, with Balm recording a high of 96 degrees; however, some locations in the Panhandle and the northeast only reached the upper 80s. Lows were in the upper 60s at most locations, with a few locations at 71 degrees. Monticello recorded a low of 64 degrees. Rainfall was reported at all Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) locations. Most stations reported rainfall amounts of one to two inches, but amounts varied considerably within areas. Marion and Hendry counties reported 5.69 and 5.33 inches, respectively; however, Jackson and counties in the Big Bend received less than 0.50 inches. Tropical conditions persisted across the State with high humidity and daily evening showers and thunderstorms being the norm.

**FIELD CROPS:** Peanut harvesting continued in early planted fields with more growers starting to dig. The cooler weather slowed the maturing of dry peanuts. Peanut condition was rated 1% poor, 23% fair, 63% good, and 13% excellent. Harvesting of early peanut fields was hampered by showers which caused delays in combining. Medium maturity peanuts progressed and will be ready for harvest in the next couple of weeks. Cotton and soybeans were in good condition. Early cotton was opened but picking has not started. Corn for grain harvesting was underway and complete in some locations. Haying was active throughout the State, but rainy weather slowed baling in many locations. Sugarcane was in good condition. Soil moisture was mostly adequate across the State. Some locations in the north were very short to adequate while other locations in the Panhandle, central, and south areas had some surplus moisture.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	1	0	1	0	0	0
Short	4	12	10	5	12	11
Adequate	80	74	55	75	74	52
Surplus	15	14	34	20	14	37

**VEGETABLES:** Growers continued to prepare fields for the fall production, though some land preparation was delayed at locations that received heavy rain. Vegetable producers in the southwest were pumping off excess water. Cucumbers and sweet corn were being planted in Orange and Seminole counties. Cucumbers were being harvested in the northern areas. Farmers were laying plastic and planting vegetables for the fall crop in the southern Peninsula. Some vegetable acreage in the southwest still had standing water. Vegetable planting continued across central and northern counties. The tomato crop condition was good and okra and avocados were marketed.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture was in fair to good condition with most in good condition. Land preparation for seeding winter forage was underway. The condition of the cattle ranged from fair to excellent. In the central areas, pasture was poor to excellent. Armyworms caused damage in some pastures. In the southern areas, range condition varied from poor to excellent. Some pastures had standing water from previous or recent rain. The cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most in good condition. Calves were being weaned. Statewide, most cattle were in good to excellent condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	1	0	0
Poor	2	2	1	5
Fair	12	15	14	15
Good	60	70	60	65
Excellent	25	12	25	15

**CITRUS:** A slow moving tropical wave moving east made its way across the State early in the week and brought thunderstorms and rain showers, which were heavy at times. Ona received the most rainfall at almost seven inches; Arcadia had just over three inches. Daily highs were in the upper 80s to lower 90s in all areas. Trees were responding well to the recent precipitation and long days of sunshine with limbs flushing out new growth and with fruit in good condition. New crop fruit was sizing well with little evidence of off or late bloom. Grove practices included herbiciding, mowing in preparation for harvest, fertilizing, spraying, and young tree care. Grove caretakers continued to survey groves for greening, treated trees for the citrus psyllid, and removed already infected trees.

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