



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending September 20, 2009

RAIN ABUNDANT IN NORTH FLORIDA

WEATHER SUMMARY: Last week high temperatures reached the 80s and 90s. Nighttime lows were in the upper 60s and lower 70s. Precipitation was not recorded at all of the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations. The central and southern Peninsulas received the least rain with most collecting less than one inch all week. A few locations in the central and southern Peninsulas did receive over two inches. The Big Bend and Panhandle areas recorded the most rainfall for Florida with many areas collecting over two inches. Jackson, Gulf, and Franklin counties received 4.08, 5.50, and 6.17 inches, respectively.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut conditions were rated 1% poor, 37% fair, 41% good, and 21% excellent. Peanut harvesting was 21% complete compared to 13% last year at this time and a 5 year average of 15%. Rain caused delay of peanut harvesting and spraying for many growers in the Panhandle and Big Bend. Some cotton growers reported that rainfall had adverse effects on bolls that were opening. Rain also prevented the application of growth regulator and cotton was getting too big in many fields. The harvesting of corn continued in Columbia and Hamilton counties with good yields reported. Hay baling continues, but armyworms were still causing problems in some fields. Sugarcane growers in Glades and Hendry counties applied fertilizer. Soil moisture levels were mostly adequate to surplus throughout the State.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending September 20, 2009			
Stage	2009	2008	5-yr Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Harvested	21	13	15

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	0	0	5	0	0	3
Short	5	10	21	8	11	16
Adequate	70	65	61	65	62	65
Surplus	25	25	13	27	27	16

VEGETABLES: Land preparation for fall vegetables was well underway. Drier weather in south Florida toward the end of the week helped producers get back on schedule. Some fields have been planted recently. Columbia County in the Big Bend reported that frequent rain has increased disease pressure. Preparations for cabbage planting in Putnam County were delayed by rain. Last week okra and avocados were marketed.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture was in poor to good condition with most in good condition. Shorter days and cooler temperatures slowed the growth of the grass and hampered haying. Land preparation and seeding of small grains for winter forage was limited by rain. In Santa Rosa County, pasture condition improved but it was too late to provide significant amounts of hay in that area. The condition of cattle was mostly good. In the central areas, pasture was poor to excellent with armyworms causing damage. In the southwestern areas, the range condition varied from poor to excellent. Grass growth in Lee and Collier counties were limited by low soil moisture. Cattle condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. Statewide, most cattle were in good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	5	2	5	2
Fair	15	13	20	20
Good	65	65	60	55
Excellent	15	20	15	23

CITRUS: Short, spotty showers on a few afternoons this past week produced about one-half-inch of rainfall in the northwestern citrus producing area. Immokalee in the southern citrus producing region received almost two inches of rain, the majority of which came over the weekend. Temperatures were warm again reaching the lower 90s across the complete citrus growing area and dropping to the 70s at night. Five packing houses have opened and were accepting early oranges to include Ambersweet and Navel oranges. One processing plant intends to open next week. Growers and caretakers were mowing in preparation for harvest, spraying, running limited irrigation, and providing young tree care. They continued to survey groves for greening, to treat trees for the citrus psyllid, and to remove already infected trees.

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