



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

Week ending July 25, 2010

Field Crops Can't Beat the Heat

Weather Summary: Temperatures in Florida were 1 to 3 degrees above normal with average highs between the upper 80s and mid 90s. Low temperatures were in the mid 70s to low 80s. In the south, Collier, Miami-Dade, Sarasota, Highlands, and Hardee counties recorded over 2 inches of rain. Parts of the north and central regions recorded no rain during the reference week. Twelve percent or less of the reported soil moisture levels was short or very short.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	1	1	2	0	1	2
Short	25	12	15	12	15	12
Adequate	67	69	70	78	69	75
Surplus	7	18	13	10	15	11

Field Crops: County extension agents and farmers reported hot and dry conditions throughout parts of the State, but row crops in the northern regions seemed to be most affected by high temperatures. Non-irrigated field crops were stressed by dry weather. Overgrazed pastures were struggling in the heat. Disease problems were reported in some cotton fields. Hay was harvested with few disruptions from rain. The peanut crop condition was 2% poor, 16% fair, 65% good, and 17% excellent. Seventy-five percent of the peanuts had pegged, above the 55% from the previous week and 65% from last year, but below the five-year average of 82%.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: July 25, 2010

Stage	2009	5-year average	2010
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pegged	65	82	75

Vegetables: In the south, vegetable growers were preparing fields and laying plastic for fall crops. Fall tomatoes were being planted in the north. Limited vegetables were moving through the market with light supplies of avocados and okra.

Livestock and Pastures: The condition of pasture decreased slightly from last week due to drier conditions. In the Panhandle and northern areas, the condition of the pasture was poor to excellent with most good. Pasture was stressed by an unusually hot summer and grass growth was limited in some areas. The cattle condition was poor to excellent with most good. In the central areas, the pasture condition was poor to excellent, with the condition lower due to reduced rainfall and insect damage. The cattle were in fair to excellent condition with most in good condition. In the southwest areas, the range condition was mostly good, some locations received rain but others were hurt by drought so the condition ranged from very poor to excellent. Some ranchers were conducting seasonal mowing of summer pastures. Some cattle shipping had started with the main shipping season starting in a few weeks. Statewide, most of the cattle were in good condition. Some calves were a bit lighter than unusual due to the poor pasture conditions earlier in the year.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	0	2	0	1
Poor	1	3	1	1
Fair.....	25	15	19	15
Good	64	60	60	55
Excellent	10	20	20	28

Citrus: Highs this week were in the mid to upper 90s, with early morning lows in the low to mid 70s. Immokalee received the most precipitation with 2.71 inches. Ocklawaha received the least, with no precipitation recorded. Seventeen of the twenty-five stations reported less than an inch of rain. Mild drought conditions have been reported in Indian River County this week, marking the first time this season that any drought condition was reported in the citrus producing area. Growing conditions continued to be good across the citrus region. Cultural practices continued, including limited fertilizations, hedging, irrigation, and the resetting of young trees. Some summer sprays were applied as rainfall permitted. Growers continued using both aerial and ground spraying for citrus psyllid control.

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