



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending August 8, 2010

## Hot, Humid, and Hit and Miss Showers

**Weather Summary:** For the week of August 2 through August 8, high temperatures ranged from mid 90s to low 100s. Nighttime lows were in the 70s. Average temperatures for the week were one to four degrees above normal. Typical summer showers dropped rainfall in excess of five inches for some locations while leaving other areas with only trace amounts. FAWN (Florida Automated Weather Network) stations that recorded the greatest rainfall amounts during the week included Lake, Hardee, Sarasota, and Hernando counties, reporting 5.13, 4.63, 3.32, and 3.19 inches, respectively. Most other stations reported between one quarter to three inches of precipitation. Overall soil moisture conditions improved slightly, but areas that missed the showers dried quickly from excessive heat and farmers ran irrigation to maintain soil moisture.

## 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 .....	10	1	3	10	1	2
Short .....	35	16	22	20	17	18
Adequate .....	49	68	60	60	70	73
Surplus .....	6	13	15	10	12	7

**Field Crops:** Field crops improved in areas that received rainfall, but most areas were in serious need of a soaking rain. Rain at this stage of crop progress is critical for developing cotton bolls and nut growth. In non-irrigated fields and locations that missed beneficial rains, crops suffered due to extreme heat and low soil moisture. Peanut condition was rated 11 percent poor, 9 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Peanuts were 92 percent pegged compared with 84 percent last year, and the five-year average of 93 percent. Some early-planted peanuts were dug in Levy County. Corn harvest was underway in many areas. Some growers waited for the dry-down before combining. Soybean growers reported significant deer damage. Cotton was stressed in areas of low soil moisture. White mold was problematic in areas that received several showers and producers treated fields to control the mold. Sugarcane was in excellent condition in most areas and rapid development occurred under near ideal growing conditions.

## Peanut Progress for Week Ending: August 8, 2010

Stage	2009	5-year average	2010
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pegged .....	84	93	92

**Vegetables:** Vegetable producers were busy preparing land and laying plastic mulch for fall planting. Okra and light supplies of avocados were marketed last week.

**Livestock and Pastures:** The pasture condition decreased slightly due to drought and heat stress. In the Panhandle and northern areas, the condition of the pasture was poor to excellent with most fair to good. The condition of the pasture grass was down in volume and quality. The cattle condition was fair to excellent with most in good condition. However, some cattle deaths were reported from heat stress. In the central areas, pasture condition was poor to excellent. Pasture improved at some locations following scattered rainfall. The cattle condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the southwestern areas, the range was in poor to excellent condition with most in good condition. Statewide, cattle were in poor to excellent condition with most in good condition.

**Cattle and Pasture Condition**

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

**Citrus:** Highs this week were in the mid to upper 90s, with early morning lows in the low 70s. Okahumpka received the most precipitation with 5.13 inches. Palmdale received the least with 0.21 inches of precipitation recorded. Mild drought conditions continued in Indian River County and began to affect the surrounding counties as well. Growing conditions continued to be good across the citrus region. Cultural practices included 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.

This report is available, at no cost, on the NASS web site: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Florida/Subscribe\\_to\\_FL\\_Reports/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp). To set-up this free subscription, select Florida Crop-Weather; enter your name and your email address, click on Subscribe. This report will be sent automatically each week; or call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter the subscription for you. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Data for individual reporting stations is available at: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.