



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending October 31, 2010

Drought Conditions Persist with Warm Temperatures

Weather Summary: Warm, dry conditions persisted in Florida. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated October 26, drought conditions were present in approximately 75 percent of the State. The Florida Automated Weather Network had one station in Santa Rosa County reporting over an inch of rain, with the remainder reporting less than an inch of precipitation or none at all. Temperatures during the past week averaged four to seven degrees above normal, with highs in the 80s and 90s.

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	23	6	34	15	2	20
Short	47	40	38	45	29	46
Adequate	30	48	27	40	63	32
Surplus	0	6	1	0	6	2

Field Crops: Harvesting of cotton was winding down. Overall, cotton was able to withstand the dry weather. Soybean harvesting was also coming to an end; however, the lack of rain hindered some pods from filling. Peanut harvesting is 93 percent complete, 21 percent greater than last year's progress, and 8 percent above the five-year average. Drought conditions hindered planting of forage and cover crops. Sugarcane harvesting continued as scheduled.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: October 31, 2010

Stage	2009	5-year average	2010
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Harvested	72	85	93

Vegetables: Fall vegetable harvesting in the north was increasing. Cool overnight temperatures continued to delay crop maturity. Producers planted and prepared vegetable fields for the winter season. Planting of cabbage took place in Highlands County and the Hastings area. Farmers in Polk County ran irrigation in strawberry fields due to dry conditions. Vegetables moving through the market were avocados, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, bell peppers, squash, and tomatoes.

Floriculture: The warmer weather during the past weeks has delayed the development of Caladium bulbs.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, pasture condition was mostly fair due to drought and seasonal decline of warm season pastures. Winter forage planting was at a standstill. In the Panhandle, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in poor condition due to prolonged drought and warm season pasture decline. There was limited preparation for planting cool season forage. The cattle condition was mostly fair. Cattle producers were feeding supplement hay due to poor pasture conditions. In the northern areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most in fair condition with some pasture overgrazed. Range and pasture forage production had virtually stopped due to dry soil conditions. The cattle condition was poor to excellent with most in fair condition. In the central areas, pasture was very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. The cattle condition was mostly fair. In the southwestern areas, pasture condition was poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Stock pond and cow well water levels were dropping. Pasture quality began to decline. The condition of the cattle was fair to excellent with most in good condition. Statewide, the condition of the cattle ranged from very poor to excellent 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.....	2	3	3	5
Poor.....	5	2	15	10
Fair.....	35	35	51	55
Good.....	50	55	30	25
Excellent.....	8	5	1	5

Citrus: Highs this week were in the lower 90s, with early morning lows ranging from the lower 50s to the lower 60s. There was very little recorded rainfall in the citrus producing area this week. Umatilla received the most precipitation with 0.73 inches. Eighteen of the twenty-five stations reported no precipitation. Overall, there were abnormally dry conditions in all of the citrus area according to the U.S. drought monitor, last updated on October 26. Indian River County is now experiencing extreme drought conditions, while surrounding counties are experiencing severe conditions. Moderate to extreme drought conditions extend over a third of the citrus area. Thirty-eight packinghouses and seven processors have opened, with a few more scheduled to open soon. Cultural practices continued, including herbicide and fertilizer application, tree removal, and irrigation.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	October 17, 2010	October 24, 2010	October 31, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	14	18	43
Ambersweet.....	24	26	20
Navel oranges.....	45	72	85
Grapefruit.....	82	169	308
Tangerines.....	82	121	97

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. 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.