



# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending July 31, 2011

## Hot Temperatures

**Weather Summary:** Another week of hot temperatures coupled with light rains prevailed last week. Temperatures averaged from normal to six degrees above normal. Muggy daytime highs were in the upper 90s with the heat index in the 100s for several localities. Nighttime lows were in 70s. Rainfall totals ranged from minimal traces to over one inch in several stations. Alachua and Carrabelle recorded over two inches of rain. Nearly three inches of precipitation was received in Jay. Areas reporting over three inches of rainfall included Bronson and Okahumpka. In Quincy, close to five inches of rain was recorded. Water levels still remained low in Lake Okeechobee. As of July 26, the water level was at 10.26 feet according to the South Florida Water Management District. Palm Beach and Broward counties remained under mandatory watering and irrigation restrictions.

## 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 .....	6	9	3	4	9	1
Short .....	23	32	17	27	19	29
Adequate .....	63	52	68	58	62	60
Surplus .....	8	7	12	11	10	10

**Field Crops:** Both topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies were rated mostly adequate. Peanuts continued to progress nicely with rains boosting development. Growers continued to spray in order to control disease and pests in peanut fields. Peanuts were in fair to mostly good condition, with 85 percent pegged, the same as the five-year average for this date. Last year, 79 percent of peanuts were pegged by this date. Harvesting of field corn continued across the Panhandle. In Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, younger cotton lost blooms and squares due to recent rains. If this continues, harvesting will be delayed. The grasshopper outbreak continued to impact sugarcane fields in the Everglades region.

## Peanut Progress for Week Ending:

Stage	2010	5-year average	2011
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pegged .....	79	85	85

**Vegetables:** Growers began laying plastic for fall vegetables over central and southern Peninsula areas. Tomato transplanting concluded in the Quincy area last week. Miami-Dade County growers continued to harvest okra.

**Livestock and Pastures: Statewide**, pasture and cattle condition improved from the previous week. Scattered rain helped pastures improve; however, drought was limiting grass growth. In the **Panhandle** and **northern** areas, most pasture was in good condition. The pasture improved following seasonal summer rain. However, moisture reserves and cumulative pasture performance remain in a deficit. Pasture remained poor in several locations. Armyworms caused significant damage in some heavily fertilized pastures and hay fields. The condition of the cattle ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the **central** area, pasture ranged from very poor to excellent condition with most in good condition. In the **southwestern** area, pasture ranged from poor to excellent condition with most in good condition. Most standing water from previous rains has dried up.

### Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	1	1
Poor.....	4	7	3	4
Fair.....	35	25	40	20
Good.....	55	60	50	65
Excellent.....	5	7	6	10

**Citrus:** Temperatures were in the lower to mid 70s at night and the mid to upper 90s during the day for the majority of the week. This week there was heavy, but scattered rainfall, with all but one of the stations receiving some rainfall. Amounts received ranged from 0.00 inches in Indian River, to 3.72 inches in Okahumpka. Extreme drought conditions existed in small parts of Okeechobee, Martin, St Lucie, and Palm Beach counties. Drought conditions were per the U.S. Drought Monitor; last updated July 26, 2011. Next season’s oranges are golf ball sized and next season’s grapefruit are baseball sized. Grove activity last week included resetting new trees, young tree care, applying herbicides, hedging and topping, brush removal, and fertilizer application.

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