



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending August 7, 2011

Heat, Humidity Persisted Across Florida

Weather Summary: Rainfall was widespread across Florida with virtually all of the 36 Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations reporting precipitation. Indian River reported the most rainfall at 4.21 inches followed by Homestead (3.40 inches), Quincy (3.12 inches), Fort Pierce (3.09 inches), and Arcadia (3.07 inches). Seventeen FAWN stations reported between one and three inches, and nine stations reported from 0.25 to one inch of rainfall. Temperatures averaged between two to five degrees above average at major city airports. Highs were in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s. Hot days mitigated the benefits of precipitation from light rainfall, as daily evaporation averaged nearly 0.2 inches per day. The Lake Okeechobee water level as of August 8 was 10.26 feet, compared to the historic average of 13.79 feet.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	Current week (percent)
Very short	3	4	4	1	3	6
Short	17	24	30	29	18	39
Adequate	68	58	65	60	72	54
Surplus	12	14	1	10	7	1

Field Crops: Both topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies were rated short to adequate, slightly dryer than the previous week. In Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, the farmers were spraying and applying fertilizers. Cotton and peanut crops appeared to be behind schedule in development. The high temperatures were detrimental for the cotton boll development. In Washington County, showers improved crop conditions for cotton, peanuts, soybeans, and hay. Peanut producers were busy spraying for leaf spot and white mold. The corn crop was nearing maturity. Concerns were that following the corn harvest, pests in the fields will move to other nearby crops. In Madison County, the irrigated corn acreage was being harvested for silage or grain. Most dry land corn acreage had been tilled under earlier due to drought damage. Santa Rosa County crops experienced a dry week after responding well to July rains. Peanut acreage pegged was at 89 percent compared with 90 percent last year, and the five-year average. Rains helped peanut development remain on schedule. Fields that were planting later than normal continued to lag in development. Growers were treating for white mold caused by the hot, humid days. The peanut crop was rated to be in mostly good condition.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: August 7, 2011

Stage	2010 (percent)	5-year average (percent)	2011 (percent)
Pegged	90	90	89

Vegetables: In Flagler County, sorghum was still growing as a cover crop on much of the vegetable acreage. Soil moisture was just adequate, and more rainfall was desired for future preparations for planting fall vegetables. The okra harvest continued in Miami-Dade County.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, the pasture condition was unchanged from the previous week. Hot weather continued to stress pastures and livestock. The cattle were in poor to excellent condition, with most in good condition. In the **Panhandle**, pasture condition varied from very poor to excellent, with most fair to good. In the **northern** areas, pasture ranged from fair to good condition with most in good condition. The primary limiting factor was the hot weather. There was armyworm damage to some well-fertilized Bahia grass pastures. The condition of cattle was mostly fair. In the **central** and the **southwestern** areas, pastures ranged from poor to excellent condition, with most in good condition. The cattle were in fair to good condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	0	1	1
Poor.....	7	5	4	4
Fair.....	25	35	20	20
Good.....	60	50	65	65
Excellent.....	7	10	10	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. During the week there was heavy, scattered rainfall with all but one of the FAWN stations receiving some rainfall. Immokalee was the only FAWN station to report no rainfall. The most rainfall fell at Indian River, with a total of 4.21 inches for the week. 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 August 2, 2011. Next season’s oranges were larger than golf balls, and next season’s grapefruit were between baseball and softball size. 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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