



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 August 28, 2011

Dry Conditions Continue Despite Rains

Weather Summary: Tropical Storm Irene bypassed the State as moderate rains continued. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor only a small portion of the State showed extreme drought conditions in and around Jackson and Gadsden counties. Severe drought conditions continued to linger in the Panhandle and areas bordering State lines. Fourteen of the 36 Florida Automated Network Stations reported an inch or more of rain. Stations recording over three inches of rain were in Fort Lauderdale, Avalon, Arcadia, and Lake Alfred. Topsoil and subsoil moisture adequate ratings increased from those of the previous week by five and six percent, respectively. Temperatures averaged one to four degrees above normal.

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	3	0	3	3	1	2
Short	25	8	20	30	12	25
Adequate	67	78	72	65	74	70
Surplus	5	14	5	2	13	3

Field Crops: High temperatures and limited rain was taking a toll on fields in Jackson County and surrounding areas. Cotton and peanut crops, especially non-irrigated portions, were stressed due to drought. In Washington County, the corn harvest was virtually completed while cotton, peanut, and soybean farmers sprayed pesticides. In Suwannee County, corn and tobacco harvesting continued. In various parts of the north, peanut harvesting was beginning soon. Peanut crop conditions did not differ greatly from that of the previous week, with 1 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Sugarcane planting preparation was underway in Palm Beach County.

Vegetables: In Highlands County and further south, land preparation took place for vegetable planting. In Miami-Dade County, sunflower and okra harvesting and replanting continued.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with 65 percent in good condition. The cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with 70 percent in good condition. In the **Panhandle**, pasture condition varied from very poor to excellent, with most pasture in fair to good condition. Summer grasses were rapidly moving from vegetative to mature stage with a decline in quality. Moisture for land preparation for winter grazing was very short. High temperatures stressed pastures and livestock. Armyworm damage reduced forage growth. Most of the cattle were in good condition. In the **northern** areas, pasture and cattle were in poor to excellent condition with most in good condition. In the **central** and **southwest** areas, pasture was in poor to excellent condition, with most in good condition. Following rain during the week, some locations had standing water while others had insufficient soil moisture. Most of the cattle were in 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.....	2	1	2	4
Fair.....	32	20	27	15
Good.....	55	70	55	65
Excellent.....	10	9	15	15

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 of the stations receiving some rainfall. Amounts received ranged from 0.19 inch in Putnam Hall, to 3.64 inches in Avalon. Drought conditions ranged from drought-free in the western half of the citrus region to severe conditions, found in small parts of Okeechobee, Martin, St Lucie, and Palm Beach counties, along the eastern and north-eastern shore of Lake Okeechobee. Drought conditions were per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated August 23, 2011. Next season’s oranges were almost baseball size and next season’s grapefruit were approaching softball size. Grove activity included resetting new trees, young tree care, applying herbicides, hedging and topping, brush removal, and fertilizer application.

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