



FIELD CROPS

CROP PRODUCTION

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1222 Woodward St. · Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

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FLORIDA

Florida: During August, extreme heat wilted crops in some areas, while spotty showers skipped some localities, especially in the Panhandle. The heat and recent drought lowered the prospects for most dryland crop yields. Peanut stands in some fields were poor due to the earlier dry weather during germination. By mid-August, rains perked up peanut fields in Jackson County, but plants were not pegging as many nuts as usual. Near mid-August, the youngest cotton was in the early bloom stage of growth while the oldest fields showed bottom bolls opening in Santa Rosa County. Soybean rust was spotted in a few Jefferson County soybean fields. Peanut digging started in late August; however, dryland fields were five to ten days behind the usual progress in Jackson County. Producers combated spider mites and armyworms in some fields during the month. Growers baled hay during August with most getting only one cut due to the earlier drought. The August showers slowed some haymaking. Corn, cotton and peanut harvests became active in Santa Rosa and Escambia counties in early September, while peanut digging increased in Columbia, Levy, and Marion counties. Dry weather caused mouse ear infestations in some Panhandle pecan orchards. However, producers irrigated and applied pesticides to some pecans with orchards green and in good condition by the end of the month. Peanuts were rated 9 percent very poor, 14 percent poor, 47 percent fair, 20 percent good, and 10 percent excellent as of September 9.

COTTON: Based on conditions as of September 1, growers expected to harvest 82,000 acres, down 22,000 acres or 21 percent from the August estimate of 104,000 acres and down 19,000 acres or 19 percent from last year's 101,000 acres picked. Yield is forecast at 644 pounds per acre, down 141 pounds or 18 percent from August and down 145 pounds or 18 percent from last year's 789 pounds per acre. Production is set at 110,000 bales, down 56,000 bales or 34 percent from a year ago.

PEANUTS: Acreage to be dug was set at 115,000 acres, up 15,000 acres or 15 percent from the June forecast of 100,000 acres, but down 5,000 acres or 4 percent from last year's acreage of 120,000 acres. Yield is expected to average 2,700 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds from the August estimate, but up 200 pounds or 8 percent from last year's 2,500 pounds per acre. Production calculated to 310,500,000 pounds, up 30,500,000 pounds or 11 percent from the August estimate, and up 10,500,000 pounds or 4 percent from last year's crop of 300,000,000 pounds.

SUGARCANE: All acreage for harvest is set at 396,000 acres, unchanged from August estimate, but down 4,000 acres or 1 percent from the previous season's acreage of 400,000 acres. Yield is expected to average 36.9 tons per acre, down 2.1 tons per acre from the August estimate, but up 1 ton or 3 percent from last year. Production calculated to 14,612,000 tons, down 832,000 tons from the August forecast, but up 266,000 tons from a year ago.

UNITED STATES

PEANUTS: Production is forecast at 3.34 billion pounds, down 1 percent from last month and down 4 percent from last year's crop. Based on administrative data, planted area is revised to 1.23 million acres, up 3 percent from the June 1 estimate but down 1 percent from last year. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.19 million acres, up 3 percent from August but down 2 percent from 2006. Yields are expected to average 2,803 pounds per acre, down 106 pounds from last month and down 71 pounds from last year. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina) is expected to total 2.38 billion pounds, up 5 percent from August but down 5 percent from last year's level. Planted area, at 893,000 acres, is up 5 percent from June but down 6 percent from 2006. Expected area for harvest, at 866,000 acres, is up 4 percent from August but down 7 percent from 2006. Yields in the region are expected to average 2,744 pounds per acre, up 8 pounds from last month and 45 pounds above last year. Yields are higher than last year in all Southeast States except Alabama and South Carolina. Yields in Alabama and South Carolina are expected to be down 300 pounds per acre from 2006, as hot, dry conditions continue to plague the area. As of September 2, the percent of crop rated poor to very poor in the area ranged from 16 percent in Georgia to 40 percent in Alabama.

COTTON: Upland cotton harvested area, at 10.3 million acres, is down 1 percent from last month and down 17 percent from last year. Based on administrative data, planted area is revised to 10.6 million acres, down 2 percent from the June estimate and down 29 percent from last year. Area for harvest is expected to total 10.5 million acres, down 1 percent from last month and down 17 percent from 2006. Upland producers plan to harvest 10.3 million acres, down 1 percent from last month and down 17 percent from last year. American-Pima harvested area, at 289,000 acres, is down 4,000 acres from last month and down 11 percent from last year. In the Southeastern States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia), producers battled intense heat and lack of moisture during the month of August. Some producers expressed concern about plants wilting, shedding squares, and dropping bolls due to the drought conditions. However, the crop developed ahead of normal under the hot weather conditions. During the latter part of the month, the region did receive some scattered showers but not enough to offer any relief to the stressed crop. As of September 2, crop condition ratings were mostly fair to poor except in Alabama where the crop was rated mostly poor to very poor.

SUGARCANE: Production is forecast at 30.1 million tons, 1 percent above the August forecast but 12 percent below last year's production of 34.1 million tons. Growers expect to harvest 1.24 million acres, unchanged from the August forecast but down 5 percent from last year. The yield is forecast at 24.2 tons per acre, up 0.2 ton from last month but down 1.9 tons from the 2006 record high yield. Yields are at or below last year's level in all States except Colorado, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming.

CORN: Production is forecast at 13.3 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last month and 26 percent above 2006. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 155.8 bushels per acre, up 3.0 bushels from August and 6.7 bushels above last year. If realized, this would be the second highest yield on record, behind the 160.4 bushel yield in 2004. Production would be the largest on record as growers expect to harvest the most corn acres for grain since 1933. Expected yields are higher than last month across the northern and central Great Plains and Corn Belt where heavy rainfall during the month provided much-needed moisture for the crop. Yield forecasts in the southern Great Plains and Delta are also higher than last month as early harvest results are better than anticipated. Yields are unchanged or lower than August across much of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States.

SOYBEANS: Production is forecast at 2.62 billion bushels, down slightly from the August forecast and down 18 percent from last year's record high. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 41.4 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushel from last month and down 1.3 bushels from last year. Compared with last month, yields are forecast lower across the central Corn Belt, the Tennessee Valley, and the Southeast. Hot, dry conditions contributed to most of the decline, especially in Kentucky and Tennessee, down 8 bushels and 9 bushels from last month, respectively. However, yields increased from the August 1 forecast in the northern Great Plains and northwestern Corn Belt, as beneficial rains fell during the month of August.

CROP PRODUCTION: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida and United States as of September 1, 2007 with comparisons

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2006	For harvest 2007	2006	Indicated 2007		2006	Indicated 2007
	<i>Thousands</i>					<i>Thousands</i>	
FLORIDA							
Cotton	101	82	789	644	^{1/}	166	110
Peanuts	120	115	2,500	2,700	Lbs.	300,000	310,500
Potatoes:							
Winter ^{2/}	5.5	^{3/}	250	^{3/}	Cwt	1,375	^{3/}
Spring ^{2/}	22.6	27.2	285	284	Cwt	6,441	7,726
Sugarcane	400	396	35.9	36.9	Ton	14,346	14,612
Tobacco, Type 14	1.1	^{4/}	2,600	^{4/}	Lbs.	2,860	^{4/}
UNITED STATES							
Corn for grain	70,648	85,418	149.1	155.8	Bu.	1,053,4868	13,307,999
Cotton, All ^{5/}	12,731.5	10,543.0	814	811	^{1/}	21,587.8	17,812.0
Hay, Alfalfa	21,384	21,451	3.35	3.26	Ton	71,666	69,904
Hay, All Other	39,423	40,338	1.78	1.87	Ton	70,000	75,347
Peanuts for nuts	1,209	1,190	2,874	2,803	Lbs.	3,474,450	3,335,200
Potatoes:							
Winter ^{2/}	17.5	11.5	257	215	Cwt	4,495	2,473
Spring ^{2/}	67.5	70.4	293	294	Cwt	19,766	20,668
Summer ^{6/}	53.9	50.3	337	328	Cwt	18,166	16,504
Fall ^{6/}	1,121.9	1,128.4	393	^{7/}	Cwt	441,348	^{7/}
Rice	2,821	2731	6,868	7,024	^{8/}	193,736	191,829
Sorghum for grain	4,937	6,698	56.2	73.9	Bu.	277,538	494,750
Soybeans for beans	74,602	63,265	42.7	41.4	Bu.	3,188,247	2,618,796
Sugarbeets	1,303.6	1,241.4	26.1	24.2	Ton	34,064	30,090
Sugarcane for							
Sugar and seed	898.1	883.5	32.9	34.4	Ton	29,580	30,411
Tobacco, All	338.9	335.1	2,144	2,023	Lbs.	726,644	718,375
Wheat:							
Winter	46,810	52,084	38.7	40.6	Bu.	1,812,036	2,114,024
Durum	31,117	37,188	41.7	41.3	Bu.	1,298,081	1,537,262
Other spring	1,815	2,163	29.5	35.5	Bu.	53,475	76,689
Other spring	13,878	12,733	33.2	39.3	Bu.	460,480	500,073

^{1/} Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales.

^{2/} Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

^{3/} Winter potatoes combined with spring

^{4/} Estimates discontinued in 2007.

^{5/} Includes both upland and Amer-Pima cotton.

^{6/} 2006 revised

^{7/} First forecast in November.

^{8/} Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight. Includes sweet rice production.