



Florida Agricultural Statistics Service
 1222 Woodward Street
 Orlando, Florida 32803
 407 / 648-6013

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl>

WEATHER & CROP NEWS



Week ending May 16, 2004

Released 4:00 P.M.

May 17, 2004

WEATHER SUMMARY: Scattered showers occurred in some but not all areas during the past week of May 9 through May 15. Rainfall totals for the week were mostly less than a quarter of an inch. Apopka, Live Oak, and Putnam Hall had over one half of an inch while Citra reported nearly an inch and a quarter. Temperatures at the major stations averaged from one degree below normal at Key West to two degrees above normal at Tampa and West Palm Beach. Daytime highs were in the 80s with one area reaching the 90s. Nighttime lows ranged from the 50s to the 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Cotton and peanut planting continued at an active pace in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula. In some areas, most of the peanuts are planted but fields are needing more rain to give the crops a good start. Most fields of corn were in good condition. Haymaking was active in many areas. Irrigated crop production is progressing well. Most areas report short to adequate soil moisture supplies while Davie reported very short topsoil moisture and Wauchula reported surplus moisture supplies. As a general rule, most areas could use more rain.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	5	10	21	4	10	11
Short	40	30	39	38	35	36
Adequate	49	59	40	52	54	53
Surplus	6	1	0	6	1	0

VEGETABLES: Vegetable harvesting activities continued to prepare for the Memorial Day demand. Vegetables and non-citrus fruit available include snap beans, blueberries, cabbage, cantaloupes, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, okra, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, tomatoes and watermelons.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and north areas, pastures are just now starting to respond to rain which fell the end of last week. Warm, dry, and windy conditions together with cool nights are keeping grass growth to a minimal. In the central counties, the condition of cattle varies from fair to good, with most in fair condi-

tion. In the southwest, most of the cattle are in good condition, with a range of poor to good. Range condition varies from very poor to good, with most in good condition. Statewide, cattle are mostly in fair to good condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	5	0	0	0
Poor	10	10	5	5
Fair	40	70	35	45
Good	45	20	60	50
Excellent	0	0	0	0

CITRUS: Dry and warm weather covered the citrus belt this week with daytime high temperatures reaching into the mid and upper 80s and lows into the mid 60s. No rainfall was recorded the entire week. Growers in all areas returned to frequent irrigation to maintain surface moisture levels. Cultural practices are continuing including fertilizations and hedging following harvest. Scouting for insect populations is active to protect fresh fruit crops. Several fresh fruit packinghouses have closed for the season as tangerine and grapefruit harvest nears completion. Other packinghouses continue to pack Valencia oranges for domestic and export. Processing plants are receiving and processing fruit with weekly volumes of grapefruit declining. Valencia orange harvest is at peak levels, near eight million boxes weekly.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED WEEK ENDED

Crop	May 2	May 9	May 16
Navel oranges	3,000	2,000	1,000
Valencia oranges	8,982,000	7,813,000	8,378,000
Grapefruit	896,000	650,000	310,000
Honey tangerines	67,000	45,000	16,000
Temples	5,000	0	0

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In cooperation with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service whose county directors participate in supplying field information.