



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 29, 2005

Released 4:00 P.M.

May 31, 2005

**FLORIDA
AGRICULTURE**



WEATHER SUMMARY: Mostly dry, sunny days with a few scattered showers occurred in most areas during the week of May 23 through May 29. Most stations received less than an inch of rain with several localities receiving no rain such as Alachua, Balm, Bronson, Pierson, Quincy, and Tavares. Hastings and Ona received over two inches of precipitation. Temperatures for the week averaged from around normal in Orlando and Tampa to three degrees below normal in Jacksonville. Daytime highs were mainly in the upper 80s with nearly all localities receiving at least one high in the 90s. Evening temperatures were in the 60s and 70s with some areas recording at least one low in the 50s.

FIELD CROPS: Very dry soils delayed some peanut planting with progress 80 percent finished. Last year 73 percent of peanuts were planted by this date. The five-year average progress for peanut planting is 77 percent done by this date. Growers reported peanut condition as 30 percent fair and 70 percent good. Some dryland corn in Jefferson and Washington counties showed stress from the lack of moisture during May. Most growers irrigated crops where equipment was available. Soil moisture supplies were rated short to mostly adequate with Jackson and Broward counties reporting some areas with very short top soil moisture.

PERCENTAGE OF PEANUTS PLANTED TO DATE

This year	80
Last year	73
Five-year average	77

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
<i>Percent</i>						
Very short	3	5	28	1	1	14
Short	37	55	54	24	29	67
Adequate	60	39	17	75	69	18
Surplus	0	1	1	0	1	1

VEGETABLES: Low humidity, in addition to warm temperatures, caused some producers to run irrigation sprinklers for vegetables. Vegetable harvesting remained active as producers supplied the Memorial Day demand. Producers marketed blueberries, cantaloupes, cucumbers, sweet corn, eggplant, okra, peppers, potatoes, radishes and watermelons. Light supplies of snap beans and squash were also available. Celery harvesting is virtually done. Tomato picking is slowing in southern areas with the Quincy harvest to start in about a week.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, cattle are in fair to excellent condition. Pasture is in poor to excellent condition with much in fair condition due to moisture stress. In the north and Big Bend areas, cattle and pasture are in fair condition. Pastures are short of moisture. In the central areas, spring conditions were unusually cool with adequate moisture good for pasture. In the southwest, cattle are in fair to good condition and pasture is in fair condition. Statewide, cattle are mostly in good condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	5	0	0	0
Fair	35	45	20	35
Good	55	50	75	60
Excellent	5	5	5	5

CITRUS: Rain fell in five of the seven monitored citrus producing areas, bringing over two inches in Ona and over an inch in Sebring. No rain was recorded on the west coast and in the extreme northern citrus area. Daytime high temperatures were in the low 90s and high 80s throughout the week in all areas. Lows were in the mid to high 60s. Growers are hedging, irrigating, and conducting more aggressive spray programs. There is still cleanup of trees and debris from the effects of last year's hurricanes. Harvest of Valencia oranges dropped below five million boxes a week and is continuing to decrease weekly. Grapefruit movement is down to the last few thousand boxes as harvest comes to an end. Grapefruit is going to both fresh and processing in equal amounts. Honey tangerine harvest is relatively done for the season.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED WEEK ENDED

Crop	May 15	May 22	May 29
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Late oranges	5,469	4,696	4,407
Grapefruit	85	43	9
Honey tangerines	13	1	0

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