

# Weather Crop Report

Week ending April 30, 2006

## RAIN ALLOWED PLANTING TO PROGRESS

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**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Scattered storms brought significant rains to some Panhandle areas and just sprinkles elsewhere during the week of April 24 through 30. Nearly three inches of rain fell in Jay. Monticello recorded about an inch for the week while Alachua, Brooksville, Carrabelle, Citra, Live Oak, MacClenny, Marianna and West Palm Beach reported from a quarter to a half inch falling. Elsewhere, only a tenth inch of rain or less fell. Temperatures in the major cities averaged three to four degrees above normal for the week. Daytime highs were mostly in the 80s with several localities reporting at least one high in the 90s. Nighttime lows were in the 50s, 60s and 70s with Alachua, Live Oak, MacClenny and Jacksonville reporting at least one low in the 40s. A cold front crossing the State at the very end of the week caused most temperatures to plunge below normal.

**FIELD CROPS:** Rainfall at the end of the week aided germination and growth of peanuts and cotton, however planting has been very slow due to the dry soil. Peanuts are 5 percent planted compared with 4 percent by this date last year and the five-year average of 10 percent. Topsoil moisture supplies are rated short to mostly adequate in the Panhandle and very short to mostly short in the extreme northern Peninsula, including the Big Bend area. Elsewhere, topsoil moisture is mostly very short with scattered areas of short and adequate supplies. Subsoil moisture supplies are short to mostly adequate in the Panhandle, very short to mostly short in the extreme northern Peninsula, very short to short in north central Peninsula localities, and mostly adequate with scattered areas of short and very short supplies in southern Peninsula areas. Holmes County reported some areas with surplus moisture supplies. Statewide, surplus moisture supplies were less than half a percent.

Percentage of Peanuts Planted to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
5	4	10

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	40	51	2	35	37	1
Short	30	26	20	40	40	20
Adequate	30	23	60	25	5	65
Surplus	0	0	18	0	18	14

**VEGETABLES:** Mostly clear conditions allowed harvesting to proceed at a normal pace. Okra cutting gained momentum in Dade County. Cabbage cutting slowed seasonally. Hot temperatures affected the quality of leafy greens, such as endive, escarole, lettuce and parsley with harvest winding down. Other vegetables and non-citrus fruit marketed during the week included beans, blueberries, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, tomatoes and watermelons.



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**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle, pasture condition ranges from poor to excellent with most pasture in fair condition. The condition of small grains for grazing is declining. Permanent pastures are looking much better due to rains and warm weather. In the North, pasture is in poor condition. Grass is not growing very well due to drought. Hay feeding is active. Cattle condition is mostly poor. In the central area, pasture condition is very poor to fair. In the southwest, pasture condition is poor to fair with most in fair condition due to drought. Statewide, cattle condition varies from poor to good with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last Week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	10	15	15
Poor	40	5	35	60
Fair	45	65	45	24
Good	15	20	5	1
Excellent	0	0	0	0

**CITRUS:** Conditions were very warm and dry across the citrus belt for the first half of the week. During the last half, cooler weather arrived along with traces of rain. The most precipitation recorded in the southern citrus area was less than a quarter of an inch. Growers are continuing to irrigate to keep trees and the new crop in good condition. Generally, groves with drip irrigation look good with many showing new growth and varying amounts of new fruit that is making adequate progress. Caretakers have been busy hedging after harvest, spraying, mowing, and applying final applications of pesticides before the end of April. Many growers are beginning to apply copper based sprays to control citrus canker. Valencia harvest reached over five million boxes the past several weeks. Labor shortages due to pickers moving to other crops and possible immigration labor reform issues may cause harvest to suffer during subsequent weeks. Grapefruit harvest has slowed significantly the last two weeks with the majority going to processing. Only one processing plant will accept grapefruit after this week. Honey tangerine utilization dropped below one hundred fifty thousand boxes a week, being picked primarily for the fresh market, while Temple harvest is almost over for the season.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Apr 16	Apr 23	Apr 30
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Valencia	4,585	5,153	4,781
Grapefruit	582	368	188
Honey Tangerines	162	127	132
Temples	5	3	1

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