

# Weather Crop Report

Week ending May 14, 2006

## RAINS ALLOW PANHANDLE PLANTING TO RESUME

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**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Significant showers fell over the Panhandle and parts of the northern and central Peninsula during the week of May 8 through 14. Most of the southern Peninsula received a quarter inch or less of rain for the week. Homestead and Ft. Lauderdale reported no rainfall; nearly seven inches fell in Carrabelle. Hail accompanied the rains in Gadsden County with no reports of significant crop damage occurring. Temperatures in the major cities averaged from 2 degrees below to 2 degrees above normal during the week. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s while nighttime lows were in the 50s, 60s and 70s. Tallahassee and Ona reported at least one low in the 40s. Wild fire danger remains high in central and southern areas and in some northern Peninsula localities with a significant muck fire in Brevard County producing heavy smoke.

**FIELD CROPS:** The rain allowed field work to resume in most areas of the Panhandle and northern Peninsula. Growers resumed peanut and cotton planting as field conditions permitted. However, some planting was delayed by wet ground in Jefferson County. Peanut planting is 20 percent completed compared with 27 percent planted last year by this date and the five-year average of 37 percent. Pecans show a good catkin bloom in Jefferson County. Soil moisture supplies improved across the Panhandle with Jefferson, Holmes and Washington counties reporting areas having surplus moisture. The central and southern Peninsula remained dry with soil moisture rated very short to short.

Percentage of peanuts planted to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
20	27	37

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	35	49	2	35	52	1
Short	40	46	27	30	38	21
Adequate	21	5	69	35	10	76
Surplus	4	0	2	0	0	2

**VEGETABLES:** Mostly dry conditions over the southern and central Peninsula allowed harvesting to proceed on schedule with growers starting shipments to meet the Memorial Day demand. Celery cutting is virtually finished with only a very light amount marketed during the week. Producers continued to cut very light supplies of cabbage with harvesting near the end. Other vegetables and non citrus fruit marketed during the week included beans, blueberries, cantaloupes, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, tomatoes and watermelons. Very light amounts of endive and escarole were also shipped during the week.



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**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle, most pasture and cattle are in fair to good condition. Pasture grass is growing following recent rain, reducing supplemental hay feeding. In the North, most pasture is in fair condition. Hay feeding is active. Pasture is finally starting to grow after receiving some rain. In the central areas, pasture condition is mostly poor and cattle are in poor to good condition. In the southwest, pasture is in very poor to fair condition. 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	1	5	5
Poor	25	9	60	45
Fair	65	70	30	49
Good	10	20	5	1
Excellent	0	0	0	0

**CITRUS:** Rain finally came to the State, but only reached the northern citrus area in significant quantities. Almost two inches fell in Apopka, where few citrus groves remain. All other citrus growing areas had less than a half of an inch. Daytime temperatures reached the high 80s to low 90s in all areas, with a high of 94 degrees in Sebring. Groves with minimal irrigation are showing signs of stress from lack of water. Some areas have reported less than half of an inch of rain in the last six weeks. The southern area is extremely dry, giving groves with low maintenance an abandoned and uncared-for look. Growers are applying copper sprays to control citrus canker, conducting canal maintenance and herbiciding. Valencia harvest continues to be the main effort and will be picked heavily into June. Grapefruit harvest is beginning to wind down for the season with the majority going to processing. Honey tangerine utilization dropped below one hundred thousand boxes last week, being picked primarily for the fresh market.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Apr 30	May 07	May 15
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Valencia	4,781	5,062	4,785
Grapefruit	188	136	67
Honey Tangerines	132	117	98
Temples	1	2	0

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