

# Weather Crop Report

Week ending June 4, 2006

## MORE RAINS ARE NEEDED TO AID CROP DEVELOPMENT

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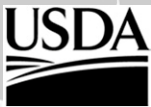
**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Scattered storms helped alleviate dry conditions in several areas across the State during the week of May 29 through June 4. The scattered nature of the recent rains left some areas dry with the danger of wildfire high. Some localities received traces of rainfall. Areas receiving over one inch of precipitation included Alachua, Fort Pierce, Jay, Live Oak, Orlando, Palmdale, Tallahassee and Tampa. Bronson and Frostproof recorded over two inches of rainfall for the week. Temperatures at the major stations hovered around normal. Hot daytime highs were in the upper 80s and lower 90s. Pleasant evening temperatures were in the 60s and 70s with some areas recording at least one low in the 50s.

**FIELD CROPS:** More rains are needed in the Panhandle for growers to complete peanut planting. Lack of rainfall in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula localities is hindering some growers from applying timely herbicides as well as fungicide applications to peanuts. Peanut condition is rated sixteen percent poor, seventy-five percent fair and nine percent good. Peanut planting is 87 percent finished compared with 93 percent planted by this date last year and the five-year average of 88 percent completed. In Jefferson County, earlier moisture caused significant scab on pecans; however, current moisture stress may cause pecans to drop nuts. Soil moisture across the State is rated mostly very short to adequate.

Percentage of peanuts planted to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
87	93	88

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	40	55	1	33	50	0
Short	30	35	7	22	30	10
Adequate	30	10	67	45	20	88
Surplus	0	0	25	0	0	2

**VEGETABLES:** Most field activities remained on schedule despite scattered rains. Producers marketed cantaloupes, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, potatoes, radishes, tomatoes and watermelons.



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**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle, pasture is in very poor to good condition, with most in fair condition. Pasture is green but drying out due to drought since early May. Bahia pasture is greasy-grey and crisp. The cattle are in fair to good condition. In the northern areas, livestock are being fed supplemental hay. In the central areas, pasture condition is very poor to good, with most in poor condition. Cattlemen are still feeding hay and running out shortly. Pastures are not growing due to lack of moisture. In the southwest, pasture condition is poor to good. Statewide, the cattle condition is mostly fair.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	5	10	20
Poor	15	35	35	50
Fair	50	50	30	25
Good	20	10	25	5
Excellent	15	0	0	0

**CITRUS:** Temperatures across the citrus belt continued with hot and humid conditions all week. Highs ranged from 90 degrees in Ft Pierce to over 94 degrees in Lake Alfred. Along with the hot, humid conditions, afternoon seabreezes brought widely scattered thunderstorms. All areas recorded some rainfall during the week ranging from less than one half inch at Lake Alfred to over two inches at Frostproof and Immokalee. All citrus areas are still well below average rainfall for the year and non-irrigated groves continue to show signs of stress. Valencia estimated harvest is running slightly below 5 million boxes weekly and harvest labor shortages continue to be reported. Activity in the groves has slowed some, with some growers applying copper sprays to control citrus canker, seasonal nutritional sprays, and mowing and removing brush from groves. Grapefruit harvest is winding down for the season, with most going to processing. Honey tangerine harvest is also coming to an end. Many packinghouses are closed for the season with only Valencia oranges being packed in volume.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	May 21	May 28	June 4
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Valencia	3,622	4,923	4,493
Grapefruit	13	42	6
Honey Tangerines	78	28	9

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