



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending April 27, 2008

## DRY, WARM WEATHER, OCCASIONAL WINDS ACROSS STATE

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Average temperatures and little to no rain provided a dry week for farmers. Daytime lows across the State were in the high 40s, 50s, and 60s; highs were in the upper 80s with a maximum of 90 in Umatilla.

**FIELD CROPS:** Peanut planting began in areas of the Panhandle with 7% completed. Potato harvest continued in the Hastings area. Some cotton was planted in Jackson County where fields had sufficient moisture. Although extremely dry in areas, there was enough moisture in some parts of Jefferson County to plant soybeans, peanuts, and other spring crops. Windy conditions and lack of rainfall resulted in dry topsoil across the State. Topsoil moisture was mostly short to very short in all areas while subsoil moisture was mostly adequate.

Percentage of peanuts planted to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
7	4	4

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	14	2	44	12	3	37
Short	32	44	50	36	53	58
Adequate	54	52	6	52	44	5
Surplus	0	2	0	0	0	0

**VEGETABLES:** Field activities continued last week with squash harvested in Washington County. Warm weather helped growth of the corn crop in Jackson County. Harvesting and packing of beans, corn, squash, and tomatoes continued in Florida City. Cucumbers continued to be planted in Fort Pierce. Most spring crops looked good in Immokalee; however, some diseases were showing up in the melon fields. The local strawberry harvest continued in Starke. Other vegetables marketed throughout the week were broccoli, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, lettuce, and peppers.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was poor to good with most in fair condition. Pasture condition improved following recent rains and showers. Some acreage of winter grazing was hayed. Some cattle were being fed supplemental hay on operations where the pasture was poor. The condition of cattle was mostly good. In central areas, pasture condition was poor to good with most in fair condition. Drought is still the biggest factor in restricting grass growth. Seasonal windy conditions and lack of rainfall have hurt forage growth. The cattle were in very poor to good condition with most in fair condition. In the southwestern areas, pasture was in very poor to good condition. Two weeks without rain and high winds have been bad for forage growth. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to good with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	5	10	10	15
Poor	20	30	20	35
Fair	45	30	40	25
Good	30	25	25	20
Excellent	0	5	5	5

**CITRUS:** Temperatures in citrus-producing areas over the past week were normal for this time of year. Most days were in the mid to high 80s, while nights were in the 50s. No significant rainfall was recorded across the citrus belt. Drier weather the past couple of weeks has prompted growers to run irrigation on a more robust schedule. Overall, trees of all ages look good with lots of foliage and healthy new fruit. Growers were putting out applications of summer oils, fertilizing, and performing general maintenance on groves. New trees were being planted as available where there was sufficient irrigation to keep the trees healthy during the dry season. Harvesting crews were active again this week moving large quantities of Valencia oranges to the processors. Grapefruit harvest, at about a million boxes this week, was expected to drop off more rapidly with the availability lessening. Honey tangerine harvest, at over one hundred fifty thousand boxes per week, was being harvested primarily for the processed market.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Apr 13	Apr 20	Apr 27
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and Mid oranges	7	0	4
Navel oranges	1	2	2
Temples	6	3	7
Valencia oranges	5,905	6,231	5,993
Grapefruit	1,183	1,075	963
Honey tangerines	160	155	176
Tangelos	0	1	0

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