



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending May 4, 2008

SPRING PLANTING CONTINUED UNDER MOSTLY DRY CONDITIONS

WEATHER SUMMARY: High temperatures were mostly in the mid to upper 80s; with Avalon, Ocklawaha, and Lake Alfred reaching the low 90s. The average temperatures reported in the major cities ranged from normal to 3 degrees below normal. Lows for the week ranged from the 40s in several Panhandle counties, such as Jefferson and Jackson, to upper 60s in southern counties such as Dade and Broward. Many areas throughout the State received little or no rain last week, especially in central and southern areas. Almost all locations reported less than a third of an inch. Counties reporting the most precipitation for the week were Suwannee, Baker, Alachua, and Santa Rosa with 0.40, 0.42, 0.69, and 0.91 of an inch, respectively.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut planting progress is 12 percent completed. Last year, peanut planting was 9 percent finished by this date. Land preparation and spring planting continued in the Panhandle and Big Bend with soil moisture levels short to adequate. Peanut and cotton planting were underway in Jackson County. Much needed showers in several Panhandle counties contributed to increased soil moisture and seed germination. Central and southern counties continued to see no measurable rain for crops, leaving soil moisture short to very short. Indian River County reported watering restrictions due to a continued lack of rain.

Percentage of peanuts planted to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
12	9	11

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	22	14	44	16	12	42
Short	45	32	35	37	36	36
Adequate	32	54	21	46	52	22
Surplus	1	0	0	1	0	0

VEGETABLES: Gadsden County reported all tomatoes being planted and in good condition. Although southern counties did not receive much rainfall last week, rainy and cool conditions from previous weeks may have affected pollination of the watermelon crop. Watermelon growers in Hendry County reported low yields for the week of April 28 through May 4. The following vegetables moved through the market last week: snap beans, celery, cabbage, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, okra, peas, peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was poor to excellent. Most pasture remained drought stressed and dry, cool weather kept grass growth to a minimum. The condition of cattle was poor to good. In central areas, pasture condition was very poor to good. Pasture condition was poor due to drought. Cattle condition was poor to good. In the southwestern areas, pasture was very poor to excellent. Most pasture was stressed from lack of moisture. Where irrigation was available the pumps were running. Those that still have hay are feeding it. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to good with most cattle in fair to good condition.

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

CITRUS: Temperatures in citrus-producing areas over the past week were average for this time of year. All areas recorded temperatures at least in the mid-80s, with Lake Alfred reaching just over 90 degrees. No significant rainfall has been reported since the first week of April. Trees were beginning to show slight afternoon wilt during the heat of the day. Growers were running irrigation almost daily to keep the trees and new fruit in healthy condition. Production activity included spraying, mowing, hedging and topping, brush removal, and resetting. Overall, growers have done well keeping the groves in good condition. Many growers were still pushing trees with greening, while some were treating the trees before the symptoms showed. Harvest is about half way through on Valencia. The clear weather allowed harvesting crews to work long days, keeping weekly utilization over six million boxes. Colored grapefruit harvest decreased rapidly this week due to limited availability. Honey tangerine harvest, at over one hundred fifty thousand boxes per week, continues to be harvested primarily for the processed market.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Apr 20	Apr 27	May 04
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and Mid oranges	0	4	0
Navel oranges	2	2	1
Temples	8	7	7
Valencia oranges	6,668	5,993	6,099
Grapefruit	1,160	963	720
Honey tangerines	171	176	151

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