



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1222 Woodward St., Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

Week ending May 11, 2008

DRY, LITTLE TO NO RAIN CHALLENGE SOME CROPS

WEATHER SUMMARY: Warm temperatures and little to no rain provided a dry week for farmers. Areas of De Soto, Levy, Marion, Osceola, Glades, and Collier counties received less than a fourth of an inch. St. Lucie, Dade, and Highlands counties averaged 0.95, 0.44, and 0.66 inches of rain, respectively. The highest temperature so far this year was 96 degrees in Lake County; low to mid-90s and 80s across other areas for daytime temperatures. Low daytime temperatures were in the 50s and 60s. Major cities reached highs in the 80s and 90s with lows ranging in the 40s to 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut planting continued with 44 percent completed compared to 21 percent last year. Potato harvest continued throughout St. Johns, Putnam, and Flagler counties. Several acres of cotton were replanted in Jackson County due to inadequate moisture at planting. Some damage to the crop from sand blasting was also reported. Topsoil moisture was mostly short across the State and subsoil moisture was reported adequate.

Percentage of peanuts planted to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
44	21	22

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	32	22	63	15	16	55
Short	42	45	28	53	37	26
Adequate	26	32	9	32	46	19
Surplus	0	1	0	0	1	0

VEGETABLES: Strawberry harvest was in seasonal decline in Starke. Harvesting of peppers decreased in Pompano, while the quality and quantity of eggplant was good. Most crops looked good in Suwannee Valley and Big Bend areas. The watermelon crop was negatively impacted in the southern Peninsula, Fort Myers, and Immokalee by the lack of rain and disease. However, the watermelon crop in the Panhandle's Jefferson County began to set fruit. Squash harvest began and tomatoes were expected to begin soon in Gadsden. Other vegetables marketed throughout the week were beans, blueberries, cabbage, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in poor condition due to drought. High winds and high temperatures increased the impact from the drought. The condition of cattle was mostly fair to good. In central areas, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in fair condition. Cattle condition was poor to good. In the southwestern areas, pasture was very poor to good. Hot, dry conditions lead to deterioration of pasture quality. A few scattered showers provided relief in some localized areas. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	5	5	15	20
Poor	15	25	25	15
Fair	50	30	40	30
Good	30	40	20	30
Excellent	0	0	0	5

CITRUS: The weather was warm and mild across the State this past week with one or two days of rainfall reported in citrus-producing areas. The east coast recorded isolated showers at almost an inch. The only other citrus area that received significant rain was Sebring, at one half of an inch. Fort Pierce reached a near record-high temperature at 93 degrees on Sunday; Sebring reached 94 degrees on Saturday. All other areas had at least one day reaching 90 degrees. Overall, citrus groves look good with heavy foliage and healthy looking new fruit. Some trees were showing slight afternoon wilt during the hottest hours of the day; however, most growers were running heavy irrigation to keep trees hydrated. Hedging and topping was taking place after harvest in many citrus groves across the State. Other production activities included spraying, mowing, brush removal, and resetting. Growers were combating greening by removing trees and attempting to control the Psyllids with pesticides. Harvest of Valencias was past the half way mark. Processing plants planned to be open into July and were expecting to process six million boxes a week. Grapefruit harvesting declined due to limited availability and was expected to be completed within one to two weeks. Honey tangerine harvest dropped below one hundred thousand boxes during this week for the first time since mid-January.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Apr 27	May 04	May 11
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and Mid oranges	3	0	0
Navel oranges	1	1	1
Temples	7	7	6
Valencia oranges	6,245	6,099	5,983
Grapefruit	1,009	720	476
Honey tangerines	200	151	88

We encourage all subscribers of this report to consider receiving it by e-mail. To do so, log onto: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp. Select Florida Crop-Weather. Enter your first and last name. Enter your Email address. Click on Subscribe. The report will be sent automatically each week, or you may call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter the subscription for you. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Data for individual reporting stations is available at <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.