



# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751  
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · [www.nass.usda.gov/fl](http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl)

Week ending April 26, 2009

## WARM CONDITIONS DRYING SOIL MOISTURE

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** High daytime temperatures for the week ending April 26 reached the mid-80s to lower 90s. Throughout the State, lows dropped to the upper 40s and 50s. Major cities averaged highs in the 70s, 80s, and 90s; lows ranged from the upper 40s to 60s. Traces of rain were recorded throughout the State with Broward and Putnam counties receiving .82 and .66 inches, respectively.

**FIELD CROPS:** Peanut planting began in areas of the Panhandle with 9% completed. Field work continued in the western part of the State with growers preparing land for cotton and peanuts. Washington County growers planted most of their corn crop and some peanuts. Onions along with ryegrass and clover hay were harvested. In Columbia County, scattered plantings of millet and sorghum were planted to help with forage shortage. Corn and tobacco planting were virtually complete. Peanut planting was underway. Union County producers harvested oats and rye for hay. Okaloosa County reported a small percentage of cotton and peanuts planted. Walton County growers were busy preparing fields for peanuts with planting scheduled to begin in May. Flagler County growers began harvesting potatoes. Hernando, Citrus, and Sumter counties growers harvested blueberries. Soil moisture was mostly adequate in the Panhandle and Big Bend, but short in the central and southern Peninsulas.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending, April 26, 2009			
Stage	2009	2008	5-yr Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Planted	9	6	4

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	36	24	12	29	25	11
Short	45	45	34	39	41	38
Adequate	17	27	54	30	31	51
Surplus	2	4	0	2	3	0

**VEGETABLES:** Vegetable harvest increased in Collier, Hendry, Lee, and Glades counties. Tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers, and watermelons were harvested. Cabbage harvest continued in Flagler County. Gadsden County growers prepared land for spring planting. Strawberry harvest continued in Washington County. Watermelon and tomato growers experienced severe damage from the previous rainfall. Pompano city producers harvested peppers, cucumbers, eggplant, and squash. Other vegetables marketed were beans, celery, sweet corn, endive, escarole, and lettuce.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** The pasture condition was limited by cold and flooding in the Panhandle and northern counties and by drought in the central and southwest counties. In the Panhandle, pasture condition was poor to good. Permanent pasture grass provided some grazing while winter small grain forage declined seasonally. Hay feeding has declined. Cattle condition was poor to excellent. In the northern areas, pasture condition was poor to good. The condition of pasture was reduced by recent near freezing temperatures. Ryegrass and oat forage was virtually finished for the season. Some hay feeding continues. Planting of millet and sorghum was being done to alleviate the forage shortage. Supplemental hay feeding continues. In the central areas, pasture was very poor to good with drought and hot, dry wind negatively impacting forage growth. Livestock producers were feeding supplemental feed. Cattle condition was very poor to good. Pasture condition in the southwest was very poor to good with most poor to fair due to drought and hot winds. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	5	4	15	10
Poor	10	20	40	30
Fair	55	40	35	44
Good	25	35	10	15
Excellent	5	1	0	1

**CITRUS:** Florida's complete citrus belt was very warm and dry with little rainfall in any of the producing areas. Rainfall totals are deficit everywhere and in many places between one-fourth and one-half the normal for the year. The dry weather is having an affect on surface soil moisture and on the trees. Field personnel reported seeing slight tree wilt during the heat of the day. As drought conditions continue, varying stages of water restrictions were in affect. Generally, next year's fruit is between pea size on late oranges and marble size on early oranges. With the exception of irrigating, caretakers implemented limited production practices. Harvest of Valencia oranges for processing remained very active. Grapefruit harvest has slowed with most of the fruit coming from the East Coast. Very few honey tangerines, early oranges, and Temples remain to be picked.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Apr 12	Apr 19	Apr 26
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges	7	4	0
Temples	4	3	2
Valencia oranges	5,490	6,440	6,424
Navel oranges	2	3	2
Grapefruit	618	602	541
Tangelos	1	0	0
Honey tangerines	16	5	1

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](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.