



# 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 May 10, 2009

## DROUGHT CONDITIONS REMAIN FOR MOST AREAS

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Traces of rain between one quarter of an inch to three quarters of an inch were received in Hernando, Collier, and Putnam counties. Okaloosa and Santa Rosa county Extension Offices reported the most precipitation of 10 and 2 inches, respectively. High daytime temperatures for the week reached the upper 80s to 90s. Throughout the State, lows dropped to the upper 50s and 60s. Major cities averaged highs in the 80s and 90s; lows ranged from the upper 50s to lower 70s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Peanut planting continued in the Panhandle with 36% completed compared to 39% a year ago. Many non-irrigated fields were waiting on moisture before planting. Field work continued in the western part of the State with cotton and peanut activity in full swing for Jackson and Escambia counties. Potato harvest continued in the tri-county area, Putnam, Flagler, and St. Johns counties. Putnam County growers began preparing cover crops. Soil moisture was mostly adequate in the Panhandle, short in the Big Bend, and very short in the central and southern Peninsulas.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending May 10, 2009			
Stage	2009	2008	5-yr Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Planted	36	39	23

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	50	49	31	39	38	15
Short	36	35	42	40	34	51
Adequate	13	15	47	20	26	34
Surplus	1	1	0	1	2	0

**VEGETABLES:** The season was almost over for some growers in southern Florida while northern area producers just began. Florida City producers harvested and packed beans, corn, eggplant, squash, tomatoes, and zucchini. In Fort Myers, growers continued to harvest collard greens. Fort Pierce producers reported peppers, cucumbers, and tomatoes in various states of planting, harvesting, and packing. Pickle cucumbers also continued to be harvested in Okeechobee County. Volume increased as melons and cantaloupe were harvested in Immokalee. Pompano city growers harvested peppers, cucumbers, eggplant, and corn. Gadsden County growers started spring planting. Cucumber harvesting began in St. Johns County while the cabbage crop was winding down in Flagler County. Watermelons were in excellent condition in Levy County. Harvesting expected to begin by end of the week. With the strawberry harvest in seasonal decline, plants were stressed due to extreme heat in Starke city. Organic harvesting began in Suwannee Valley with squash and zucchini. Peppers, squash, and tomatoes were harvested in Hillsborough County. Other vegetables marketed were blueberries, celery, sweet corn, okra, and radishes.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** The pasture condition was lower mainly due to drought. In the Panhandle, pasture condition was poor to excellent. Some pasture was in poor condition due to cooler than usual weather earlier in the spring. Cool season forage for grazing is depleted, and supplemental hay feeding has resumed. The cattle condition was poor to excellent. In the north and central areas, pasture condition was very poor to good, with most in poor to fair condition. The pasture condition deteriorated from the previous week due to drought with grass turning brown. The cattle condition was very poor to good. The cattle were not doing well due to lack of grass so cattlemen are feeding supplemental hay. Pasture condition in the southwest was very poor to good, with most poor to fair. Water holes are drying up and the water table is dropping so livestock producers are deepening wells. Warm and breezy conditions contributed to the drought, Statewide.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	5	2	20	10
Poor	20	15	39	49
Fair	45	45	30	30
Good	29	35	10	10
Excellent	1	3	1	1

**CITRUS:** Due to a high pressure system that was in control of a static weather pattern, hot and dry temperatures were felt across the Florida peninsula last week with no significant rain. Frostproof, Fort Pierce, Immokalee, Kenansville, Palmdale, Sebring, and Umatilla all reported temperatures in the high 90s during the day and the low 70s at night. East and west coastal sea breezes occurred in the late afternoon and brought showers to isolated areas. Rainfall totals were well below normal. Drought conditions continued with dry air and low humidity causing many brush fires. Immokalee had the most precipitation of any citrus area with just over half an inch reported. Citrus trees showed wilt during the heat of the day due to the lack of rainfall. With adequate use of supplemental grove irrigation systems, the citrus tree conditions were good. Some stages of grove water restrictions were reported. Next year's fruit is maturing at a good pace for both the early and late varieties of oranges. Caretakers are irrigating and are using limited production practices. The harvest of Valencia oranges for processing continues to remain very active with almost 6.5 million boxes picked. Grapefruit harvest has slowed to approximately 147,000 boxes. Packinghouses reported no Honey tangerines, Temples, or early-midseason oranges harvested.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Apr 26	May 3	May 10
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges	0	5	0
Temples	2	0	0
Valencia oranges	6,424	6,293	6,453
Navel oranges	2	2	1
Grapefruit	541	387	147
Honey tangerines	1	0	0

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.