



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending May 17, 2009

SCATTERED SHOWERS WELCOMED

WEATHER SUMMARY: High temperatures last week were in the upper 80s to mid-90s. Lows were mostly in the 60s. Average temperatures were 3 to 5 degrees above normal. Rain came to much of the State, with Highlands County reporting over 4 inches. Lake, Orange, Hardee, and Jackson counties recorded between 3 and 4 inches of rain. Most other areas collected 1 to 3 inches of rainfall.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut planting was 40% completed. Cotton planting also took place in areas where the soil was moist enough. Washington County reported very dry conditions that prevented tilling and planting; however, small grain combining proceeded. Rain in Santa Rosa County may delay winter wheat harvest. Potato harvesting remained active. The quality of potatoes in Flagler County may be affected by recent heavy rains. Soil moisture conditions were very short to adequate in the central and southern regions. The Panhandle and Big Bend areas had short to adequate soil moisture levels.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending May 17, 2009			
Stage	2009	2008	5-yr Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Planted	40	59	40

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	27	50	40	25	39	23
Short	43	36	40	46	40	50
Adequate	28	13	20	28	20	27
Surplus	2	1	0	1	1	0

VEGETABLES: Many fields had to be irrigated to relieve drought stress, especially in the southern Peninsula. Sweet corn was harvested in Hernando County. The market for sweet corn in Hendry County was poor and significant acreage remained unsold. Blueberry harvest was nearing completion in Hernando and Glades counties. Small quantities of strawberries and squash were harvested in Bradford County. Growers in Lake and Charlotte counties harvested watermelons. Hamilton County growers had carrots and tomatoes in the fields, while the snap bean crop was harvested. Other vegetables marketed were cantaloupe, cabbage, celery, cucumber, eggplant, endive, escarole, okra, peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, and specialty items.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: The pasture and cattle condition slightly improved from the previous week. In the Panhandle, pasture condition was poor to excellent with most fair to good. Cattlemen were feeding hay. Cattle condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. Cattle were experiencing heat stress. In the northern areas, pasture was in very poor to excellent condition with most poor to fair due to drought. In the central areas, pasture was in very poor to good condition with most very poor to poor due to extreme drought. Supplemental hay feeding was active with hay supplies short. Pasture condition in the southwest was very poor to good with most poor to fair. Pasture condition improved in many places with grass greening and beginning to grow. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most fair to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	5	5	15	20
Poor	15	20	40	39
Fair	45	45	30	30
Good	30	29	10	10
Excellent	5	1	5	1

CITRUS: Temperatures ranged from the 60s at night to the low 90s during the day. Many citrus-producing areas received isolated showers three or four days during the week. Sebring had the most reported precipitation with four inches; Ft. Pierce was very dry and received less than one-tenth of an inch. Even with the recent rainfall, drought conditions continued in all citrus-growing regions. Most areas reported that crops were in good condition due to regular irrigation schedules and good maintenance practices. Valencia processing maintained the six million box level and should continue at this level into June, based on availability of fruit. A few packinghouses were open and received limited quantities of grapefruit and late oranges. Next year's fruit was maturing at a good pace for both the early and late varieties of oranges. Field personnel reported heavier fruit sets on young trees with good grove care. Caretakers were irrigating, spraying, and implementing normal production practices.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	May 03	May 10	May 17
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges	5	0	1
Valencia oranges	6,293	6,543	6,285
Navel oranges	2	1	1
Grapefruit	387	147	73

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