



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending May 9, 2010

Warm Temperatures, Scattered Showers

Weather Summary: Last week's high temperatures were mostly in the 90s, except for a few locations in the Panhandle which were in the upper 80s. Low temperatures were mostly in the 60s. Thunderstorms brought heavy rainfall across parts of the Panhandle with Jackson, Franklin, Gadsden, and Santa Rosa counties receiving 4.46, 3.07, 2.42, and 2.02 inches of precipitation, respectively. Rainfall in the southern third of the State was scattered and varied from none to less than an inch. Average temperatures across the State ranged from 3 to 10 degrees above normal. Over 85% of the State reported soil moisture as adequate or surplus.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	3	50	3	1	39	1
Short	17	36	11	11	39	11
Adequate	72	13	79	78	21	79
Surplus	8	1	7	10	1	9

Field Crops: Fieldwork in the Panhandle was stopped or delayed by heavy rainfall; some operators reported rainfall amounts in excess of 8 inches. Peanut planting progress increased to 36% by weeks end, but was slowed by heavy rainfall mid-week. Flooding and erosion was reported in fields and some cotton will need to be replanted. Leaching of fertilizer was reported and some crops will need another application. Corn and tobacco were progressing well but may need supplemental nutrients. Soybean planting began and should progress over the next few weeks. Corn for silage was planted in Dixie County. Rye grass for seed and winter wheat were approaching maturity and harvest will begin shortly. New potatoes were dug in the Hastings area and cabbage harvesting was nearly complete. Sugarcane growers were cultivating, fertilizing, and applying weed control.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: May 9, 2010

Stage	2009	5-year average	2010
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Planted	35	23	36

Floriculture and Nursery: Fern growers were still recovering from winter freezes and harvest volumes were below normal. Demand for sod was increasing.

Vegetables: Tomato and bell pepper harvest in southern areas increased last week and were approaching normal levels. Watermelon and cantaloupe harvest was increasing but shipments were still light. Melons and blueberries were planted in Dixie County. Spring vegetables in northern areas and the Panhandle were reported to be in good condition. Snap beans, blueberries, cabbage, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes moved through the market last week.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide pasture condition improved due to good soil moisture and seasonally warmer growing temperatures. In the Panhandle areas, pasture condition was poor to excellent with most fair to good. Some pastures had standing water. Most of the cattle were in good condition. In the northern areas, pasture and cattle were mostly in good condition. In the central areas, the pasture condition was mostly fair, ranging from poor to excellent. Most of the cattle were in fair condition. In the southwestern areas, the pasture condition was fair to good with most good. Statewide, the condition of cattle was fair to excellent with most fair to good.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	0	0	1	0
Poor	5	10	10	5
Fair.....	45	40	40	35
Good	45	45	45	55
Excellent	5	5	4	5

Citrus: Highs were in the lower to mid 90s, with early morning lows ranging from the lower 60s to the lower 70s. Rainfall was lighter this week and still variable. Citra received the most with 2.03 inches, but eighteen of the twenty-four stations in the citrus area received less than an inch, and nine stations recorded no rainfall at all. Growing conditions continued to be good across the citrus region. Most packinghouses remained open. Varieties being packed included Valencia, white and colored grapefruit, and Honey tangerines. Valencia oranges and grapefruit comprised the majority of fruit going to the plants. Grove activity included harvesting, young tree care, psyllid treatment, hedging and topping, brush removal, and fertilizer application.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	April 25, 2010	May 2, 2010	May 9, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Temples	0	2	0
Valencia	5,958	5,839	5,761
Navel oranges	2	2	2
Grapefruit	351	201	203
Honey tangerines	85	44	22

This report is available, at no cost, on the NASS web site: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp. To set-up this free subscription, select Florida Crop-Weather; enter your name and your email address, click on Subscribe. This report will be sent automatically each week; or 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.