



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending April 24, 2011

## Hot, Dry and Fires

**Weather Summary:** Most localities received no measurable precipitation during the week of April 18 through 24. Miami recorded over one inch of rainfall. Citra, Jay, and Sebring received nearly an inch of rain for the week. Dry conditions sparked eight wild fires that exceeded 300 acres across the State according to the Florida Department of Agriculture’s Division of Forestry. Temperatures averaged three to six degrees above normal in major cities. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s. Pleasant evening lows were in the 40s to 60s.

## 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.....	4	2	17	4	1	6
Short.....	45	13	53	33	14	53
Adequate.....	49	76	29	60	72	40
Surplus.....	2	9	1	3	13	1

**Field Crops:** Clear conditions in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas allowed field work to remain active. Drying conditions in most areas depleted soil moisture with supplies rated mostly short to adequate. Peanut planting was underway in Lafayette County. Peanut and cotton producers prepared fields for planting in Jackson and Okaloosa counties. Dry weather aided potato harvesting. Growers in the Hastings area began applying desiccants for table stock potatoes in order for harvesting to begin within a couple of weeks and allow “skin set.” Overall, chipper potato harvesting was behind schedule due to cooler, wet weather earlier in the season.

**Fruit and Vegetables:** Dry, clear conditions allowed harvesting to proceed on schedule. Broccoli shipments dwindled as the season ended. Cabbage cutting continued to slow as the season winds down. Squash supplies declined seasonally in central and southern Florida. Blueberry harvesting increased as the harvest peaked. Harvesting of peaches was active in Charlotte County. Watermelon picking increased slowly with a very light volume available. Other vegetables harvested included snap beans, cucumbers, eggplant, bell peppers, radishes, and tomatoes. Lighter amounts of cantaloupes, celery, sweet corn, endive, and escarole were marketed.

**Livestock and Pastures:** The pasture and cattle conditions **Statewide** ranged from very poor to excellent, but most were in fair condition, slightly lower than the previous week. Sparse rainfall kept pasture from growing. The cattle condition declined due to poor pasture, lowering lactation for the calves. In the **Panhandle** and **northern** areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Ryegrass pasture had rapidly declined due to the temperatures in the 90s and lack of rain. However, a few locations benefited from rainfall. Fertilization of pasture had been delayed due to the drought conditions. Cattlemen were feeding hay and protein supplements. The cattle condition began to decline in most locations following the decline of the pasture condition. In the **central** and **southwestern** areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Protein supplement was being fed.

### Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	5	1	1
Poor.....	9	15	10	24
Fair.....	50	60	60	58
Good.....	35	15	27	15
Excellent.....	5	5	2	2

**Citrus:** Lows were in the 50s with highs in the 80s and 90s across most of the citrus area. This week, 18 of the 25 FAWN stations recorded some precipitation; two of them recorded more than half an inch. Citra reported the most with 0.81 inch of rainfall. Drought conditions in the citrus producing area ranged from none in the west to extreme in the southeast, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated on April 19th. St Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, and parts of Collier, Hendry, Glades, Indian River, and Okeechobee counties experienced extreme drought conditions. Thirty-four packinghouses and 19 processors were still open. Harvest of Valencia oranges and grapefruit continued, with the open processing plants running grapefruit and Valencia. Grove activity included young tree care, applying herbicides, hedging and topping, brush removal, and fertilizer application.

### Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	April 10, 2011	April 17, 2011	April 24, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Navel oranges.....	4	5	2
Valencia.....	5,234	5,220	5,019
Grapefruit.....	1,028	853	489
Temples.....	43	1	0
Honey tangerines.....	94	117	65
Total.....	6,403	6,196	5,575

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](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.