



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending May 1, 2011

## Some Relief From Dry Weather

**Weather Summary:** Above average temperatures and little precipitation was commonplace during the week of April 25 through May 1, 2011. Sporadic rains were welcomed, but were insufficient to relieve widespread dry conditions. Rainfall ranged from one third to one-half inch in Levy, Broward, Indian River, Baker, Jackson, and Putnam counties. More plentiful rain fell in the counties of Desoto (1.10 inches), Gadsden (1.47 inches), Hendry (1.47 inches), Jefferson (1.29 inches), Marion (0.72 inches), and Osceola (0.96 inches). Collier County's Immokalee FAWN station recorded the most with 3.14 inches. The U.S. Drought Monitor ratings ranged from moderate to extreme for about two thirds of Florida's counties. The extreme drought rating included St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, and Broward counties and portions of their surrounding counties. Water levels in lakes were reported to be 15 feet below average in some counties. Water restrictions remained in place in Miami-Dade County. Temperatures averaged four to eight degrees above normal in major cities. Across the State, nighttime lows were in the upper 40s to 60s and daytime highs were in the low 90s. Extremes included a low of 44 degrees in Hernando County and a high of 97 degrees in Glades and Highlands counties. The Florida Division of Forestry reported nine active wildfires that consumed more than 500 acres.

## 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 .....	17	3	10	6	1	4
Short .....	53	16	42	53	11	41
Adequate .....	29	73	45	40	77	52
Surplus .....	1	8	3	1	10	3

**Field Crops:** Peanut planting was 10 percent completed, compared with 26 percent last year, and the 5-year average of 14 percent. Hamilton and Alachua county producers made good progress planting peanuts. Jackson County producers prepared to plant peanuts. Santa Rosa County producers were waiting on rain to begin planting peanuts and cotton. In Walton County, about 20 percent of the cotton and 85 percent of the corn was planted, but it was too dry for optimum planting conditions. Producers prepared to harvest oats and wheat. Scattered showers across Washington County improved the condition of corn and provided enough moisture for producers to plant cotton and peanuts, but the storm caused wind damage to some wheat fields.

## Peanut Progress for Week Ending: May 1, 2011

Stage	2010	5-year average	2011
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Planted .....	26	14	10

**Vegetables:** Harvesting the spring crop of sweet corn continued. Potatoes were being harvested in Putnam County. The Highlands County producers harvested sweet corn and prepared to harvest potatoes and watermelons. In Charlotte, Collier, Glade, Hendry, and Lee counties, the watermelon harvest was in full swing. The hot, dry weather caused many vegetables to mature earlier than normal. Other vegetable market movement included beans, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes.

**Livestock and Pastures:** The pasture condition **Statewide** ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. The range and pasture condition in the **Panhandle** was reported to be in very poor to excellent condition. In Washington County, the ryegrass hay harvest was completed. Some cattlemen began planting summer annuals and perennials for supplemental grazing in Washington County. Many producers began to wean early or sold some animals to decrease their need for supplemental feeding of livestock. Feeding of hay, grain, and protein supplements continued throughout the State. Cattleman in **northern** counties reported pastures in mostly fair to good condition with scattered areas of excellent condition. Pasture condition was reported very poor to excellent in **central** Peninsula areas. Ranchers in **southwestern** areas reported pasture conditions varied from poor to good. Some stock ponds and water holes used for cattle had gone dry. **Statewide**, cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in fair condition.

### Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	5	0	1	1
Poor.....	15	7	24	23
Fair.....	60	50	58	44
Good.....	15	36	15	28
Excellent.....	5	7	2	4

**Citrus:** During the week of April 25 through May 1 lows were in the 50s and 60s with highs in the 90s across most of the citrus area. Twenty-two of the 25 FAWN stations recorded some precipitation; six of them recorded more than half an inch. Immokalee reported the most with 3.14 inches 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 26th. St Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, and parts of Collier, Hendry, Glades, Indian River, and Okeechobee counties experienced extreme drought conditions. Twenty-eight 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 17, 2011	April 24, 2011	May 1, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Navel oranges.....	5	2	2
Valencia.....	5,220	5,019	5,360
Grapefruit.....	853	489	324
Temples.....	1	0	0
Honey tangerines.....	117	65	25
Total.....	6,196	5,575	5,711

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.