



# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending May 8, 2011

## Seasonal Production Practices Continue

**Weather Summary:** Dry conditions continued across most of the State this week. According to the U. S. Drought Monitor, updated May 3, approximately 80 percent of the State had some level of drought compared to only five percent last year. All Florida Automated Weather Stations with the exception of two reported less than an inch of rain to no rain. Lows were in the 40s, 50s, and 60s, while highs were in the 80s and 90s.

## 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 .....	10	3	15	4	1	6
Short.....	42	12	45	41	11	52
Adequate .....	45	78	38	52	79	40
Surplus .....	3	7	2	3	9	2

**Field Crops:** Planting of field crops was delayed in the western Panhandle due to inadequate soil moisture. From Escambia through Washington County, farmers were hesitant to plant peanuts. Cotton farmers in Washington County planted cotton with limited soil moisture. Also in Washington County, oats and wheat were drying quickly ahead of schedule and an early harvest was expected. In Gadsden County, planted corn and peanuts showed signs of stress due to drought. Potato growers in Putnam County were digging and reported good yields.

## Peanut Progress for Week Ending: May 8, 2011

Stage	2010	5-year average	2011
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Planted .....	35	25	30

**Vegetables:** Market movement slowed for many vegetables as the season winds down. Cabbage volumes were expected to decrease as growers finish for the season. The blueberry harvest was past peak with shipments decreasing. In south Florida, movement of endive and escarole was expected to decrease as growers finish for the season. In Highlands County, watermelons were harvested. Producers in St. Lucie continually irrigated vegetable crops. Market movement included: snap beans, cabbage, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, bell peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, cantaloupes, blueberries, and watermelons.

**Livestock and Pastures:** The pasture condition **Statewide** ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair or good condition. Scattered rain showers across the State were insufficient to significantly improve pasture conditions. The range and pasture conditions in the **Panhandle** were very diverse with most pastures rated as good. Pastures in Washington County declined quickly as the dry weather continued to take its toll. Cattleman in **northern** counties reported pastures to be in mostly good condition, but about half the pastures were rated in the fair or poor categories. The pasture condition was reported to be mostly fair in the **central** Peninsula. Ranchers in the **southern** areas reported pasture conditions to be mostly fair as well. **Statewide**, cattle conditions ranged from poor to excellent with most in fair or good condition.

### Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	0	0	1	1
Poor.....	7	5	23	19
Fair.....	50	45	44	50
Good.....	36	45	28	28
Excellent.....	7	5	4	2

**Citrus:** Lows were in the 50s and 60s with highs in the 80s and 90s across most of the citrus area. This week, 22 of the 25 FAWN stations in the citrus growing areas recorded some precipitation; seven of them recorded more than half an inch. Clewiston reported the most with 3.22 inches of rainfall recorded. 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 May 3rd. St Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, and parts of Collier, Hendry, Glades, Indian River, and Okeechobee counties experienced extreme drought conditions. Twenty-six 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 24, 2011	May 1, 2011	May 8, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Navel oranges.....	2	2	2
Valencia.....	5,019	5,360	5,231
Grapefruit.....	489	324	230
Honey tangerines.....	65	25	15
Total.....	5,575	5,711	5,478

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.