



# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751  
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

Week ending May 15, 2011

## Rain Needed for Field Crops

**Weather Summary:** Scattered showers occurred in some areas but skipped several localities throughout the State. Significant rains were still needed to help increase soil moisture supplies as well as decrease wild fires. According to the Florida Department of Agriculture's Division of Forestry there were 25 wild fires that exceeded 100 acres across the State. Most areas recorded traces to over one inch of precipitation. Pierson received over two inches of rain. Over three inches of rain was recorded in Alachua. Temperatures in the major cities averaged one to five degrees above normal. Hot, daytime highs were in the 90s. Pleasant evening lows were in the 50s and 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 .....	15	5	23	6	0	18
Short .....	45	14	38	52	14	44
Adequate .....	38	76	38	40	80	36
Surplus .....	2	5	1	2	6	2

**Field Crops:** Growers in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula were in need of rain to continue field crop plantings. Some producers in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties delayed planting row crops due to the dry weather. If the dry weather persists several growers anticipated not planting at all. Young cotton was dying in the fields and will need to be replanted in Washington County. Also, corn was suffering from heat and dry conditions. Peanut planting was behind schedule since rains were needed to continue planting. Peanuts planting was 32 percent completed compared with 46 percent last year by this date. The 5-year average peanut planted progress was 38 percent. Potato digging continued in the Hastings area.

## Peanut Progress for Week Ending: May 15, 2011

Stage	2010	5-year average	2011
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Planted .....	46	38	32

**Vegetables:** Vegetable harvesting continued across central and southern Peninsula areas. Blueberry shipments decreased as the season comes to an end. Snap beans and cabbage growers finished harvesting for the season. Cantaloupe harvesting was expected to increase as the season began. Watermelon growers in Marion County planned to market watermelons by the end of the month. However, watermelons in southern Peninsula areas decreased seasonally. Other vegetables harvested included sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, squash, and tomatoes.

**Livestock and Pastures:** Pasture and cattle conditions decreased **Statewide** from the previous week due to drought. In the **Panhandle** and **northern** areas, the pasture condition was very poor to excellent with over half the pasture in fair condition. The pasture condition improved slightly in a few locations that received scattered showers. Cattlemen were feeding hay, if available. In the **central** and **southwestern** areas, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. The condition decreased from the previous week due to drought. The cattle condition was very 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.....	0	1	1	5
Poor.....	5	9	19	25
Fair.....	45	50	50	55
Good.....	45	35	28	14
Excellent.....	5	5	2	1

**Citrus:** Temperatures dropped to the lower 60s at night and reached the upper 80s to lower 90s during the day for the majority of the week. Rainfall was intermittent with all areas receiving at least some precipitation. The most precipitation recorded in citrus-producing areas was in Lake Alfred at less than two inches. Extreme drought conditions exist south and east of Lake Okeechobee, with the most severe conditions in Indian River, St Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, and parts of Collier and Hendry. Most packinghouses have finished running grapefruit with a couple planning on continuing Valencia oranges for a few more weeks. Processing plants are primarily running Valencia oranges and will continue to operate through mid to late June. Grove activity included resetting new trees, young tree care, herbicide application, hedging and topping, brush removal, and fertilizer application.

### Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	May 1, 2011	May 8, 2011	May 15, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Navel oranges.....	2	2	2
Valencia.....	5,360	5,231	4,875
Grapefruit.....	324	230	141
Honey tangerines.....	25	15	6
Total.....	5,711	5,478	5,024

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.