



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending May 29, 2011

Planting Challenges for Panhandle Crops

Weather Summary: Cumulative rain for this week was minimal and had little impact on continued dry conditions. Most Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations reported less than one inch of rain. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, updated May 24, 54 percent of the State had severe, extreme, or exceptional drought ratings. Another 36 percent of the State was rated as abnormally or moderately dry. Exceptionally dry areas were located in extremities of the State within the western Panhandle and the southern Peninsula. Counties experiencing temperatures above 95 degrees were located in the northern and central part of the State. Evening lows were in the 50s and 60s. Temperatures averaged two to five degrees above normal.

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	29	5	34	22	3	24
Short	46	24	40	47	19	46
Adequate	25	67	25	30	71	29
Surplus	0	4	1	1	7	1

Field Crops: In northern Florida, field crops were affected by drought. In Washington and Holmes counties, corn crops showed stress. In areas in and around Santa Rosa, Escambia, Okaloosa, Walton, and Holmes counties, farmers were waiting for increased soil moisture before planting cotton. In Washington County, some emerged cotton dried up and will need to be replanted. Peanut fields in the north required irrigation. Peanut farmers must plant by June 1st in order to receive crop insurance. In the Hastings area, some potato crops were damaged due to dry conditions. Potato harvesting was underway in the tri-county area and Suwannee County.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: May 29, 2011

Stage	2010	5-year average	2011
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Planted	83	70	75

Vegetables: Planting of okra was taking place in Manatee County. In south Florida, growers completed spring harvesting for most varieties. In Polk County, some ripe tomatoes were abandoned due to dry conditions. In Gadsden County, tomato harvesting began. Market movement included sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, bell peppers, tomatoes, cantaloupes, and watermelons. For cucumbers and bell peppers, movement declined as shippers finish for the season. Movement of cantaloupes was expected to decrease after the Memorial Day holiday.

Nursery, Floriculture; Fruit: Caladiums in Highlands County were not sprouting due to lack of rain. In southern Miami-Dade, orchard workers began harvesting lychee nuts.

Livestock and Pastures: The poor to fair pasture condition improved only in areas that received scattered rainfall. In the **Panhandle and northern** areas, pasture condition continued to be rated mostly poor. Dry conditions in previous weeks made this a below average season for grazing. Moderation of temperatures helped cool season forage growth. Non-irrigated, cool season forage was approaching grazing height. The cattle condition was mostly fair. Supplemental feeding of livestock was on-going. In the **central** areas, pasture condition ranged from mostly poor to fair. The cattle condition ranged from very poor to good with most fair. More than normal supplemental feed was required due to poor forage condition. In the **southwestern** areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most in poor to fair condition. The cattle condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most poor to fair. **Statewide**, the condition of the cattle ranged from very poor 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.....	1	1	6	5
Poor.....	9	9	35	38
Fair.....	63	65	50	46
Good.....	25	22	9	10
Excellent.....	2	3	0	1

Citrus: Temperatures dropped to the mid 60s at night and reached the mid 90s during the day for the majority of the week. Three stations received some precipitation, rainfall was light. Apopka recorded the most with 1.5 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 counties. Most packinghouses finished running grapefruit with some planning to continue packing Valencia oranges for a few more weeks. Processing plants were primarily running Valencia oranges and will to continue to operate through mid to late June. Grove activity included resetting new trees, 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	May 15, 2011	May 22, 2011	May 29, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Navel oranges.....	2	1	0
Valencia.....	4,875	5,168	4,903
Grapefruit.....	141	106	41
Honey tangerines.....	6	4	10
Total.....	5,024	5,279	4,954

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.