



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending June 5, 2011

## Rains Desperately Needed

**Weather Summary:** Dry, hot weather increased wild fire outbreaks during the week. According to the Florida Department of Agriculture's Division of Forestry there were 30 wild fires that exceeded 100 acres across the State. Hot daytime highs were in the lower to upper 90s. Marianna, Pensacola, Quincy, and Tallahassee recorded at least one daytime high in the 100s. Humid evening lows were in the 60s to 70s. Temperatures at the major cities were mostly normal to six degrees above normal. Rainfall ranged from none to minimal traces in most localities. Areas reporting over one inch of precipitation included Avalon, Brooksville, Jay, and Tampa. North Port received over two inches of rain for the week.

## 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 .....	34	1	35	24	0	31
Short .....	40	17	54	46	14	53
Adequate .....	25	76	11	29	79	15
Surplus .....	1	6	0	1	7	1

**Field Crops:** Ample rains were desperately needed to aid crop development and plantings. Soil moisture supplies remained very short to short across the State. Growers planted cotton and peanuts in dry soils in order to meet the crop insurance deadlines. The soil was too hard for strip till planting to be effective in some areas. Across the Panhandle, early planted peanuts struggled to germinate due to the hot, dry weather. Peanut crop condition was reported as 1 percent very poor, 54 percent poor, 36 percent fair, and 9 percent good. Peanut planting was 89 percent completed compared to 91 percent by this date last year. However, this was slightly ahead of the five-year average of 85 percent. Cotton was reported in poor condition with limited growth due to dry conditions. In Jackson County, some growers have had to replant cotton due to the dry weather. Dryland corn in Escambia County remained in poor condition. Only irrigated crops were thriving in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas. Potato digging remained active in the northern areas.

## Peanut Progress for Week Ending:

Stage	2010	5-year average	2011
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Planted .....	91	85	89

**Vegetables:** Most supplies declined seasonally with hot, dry temperatures limiting plant growth. Cantaloupes, sweet corn, eggplant, and bell peppers harvest concluded for the season. Cabbage harvesting in Flagler County ended with quality good but smaller sizes due to heat along with the drought conditions. Watermelon harvesting continued in central and southern Peninsula areas. Watermelon harvesting was underway in the Panhandle. Irrigated watermelons are in excellent condition; however, dryland melons were suffering. Okra picking remained active in Miami-Dade County. Harvesting of tomatoes from central and southern areas declined seasonally. Light harvesting of tomatoes in the Quincy area was underway and expected to continue through mid-July.

**Livestock and Pastures: Statewide** the pasture condition deteriorated slightly from the previous week as drought conditions continued. The condition of the cattle was lower than the previous week, with most cattle in fair condition. In the **Panhandle** and **northern** areas, the pasture condition was very poor to good, with over half the locations in poor condition due to drought. High temperatures and dry weather continued to hamper pasture and cattle conditions. Many cattle were being fed hay to compensate for the poor pasture condition. Considerable pasture in the west Panhandle was depleted, and most livestock were being fed hay. In the **central** and **southwest** areas, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent, with most pasture in poor to fair condition. A few locations were in better shape due to localized rainfall, but most of the southern Peninsula suffered from drought that started in March. The cattle condition in the central area ranged from poor to excellent, while the cattle in the southwest ranged from very poor to good condition, 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.....	1	1	5	10
Poor.....	9	14	38	40
Fair.....	65	65	46	40
Good.....	22	18	10	9
Excellent.....	3	2	1	1

**Citrus:** Temperatures dropped to the mid 60s at night and reached the mid 90s during the day for the majority of the week. There was moderate rainfall this week, with 14 stations receiving some rainfall, four of them receiving an inch or more. North Port recorded the most rainfall, with 2.21 inches. Extreme drought conditions existed in the southeastern portion of the State, with the most severe conditions in Indian River, St Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, and parts of Brevard, Collier, Highlands, Hendry, and Glades counties. Most packing houses were finished running grapefruit. Some planned on continuing Valencia oranges for a few more weeks. Processing plants were primarily running Valencia oranges and planned to operate through mid to late June. Grove activity last week included resetting new trees, young tree care, applying herbicides, hedging/topping, brush removal, and fertilizer application.

### Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	May 22, 2011	May 29, 2011	June 5, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Navel oranges.....	1	0	N/A
Valencia.....	5,168	4,903	N/A
Grapefruit.....	106	41	N/A
Honey tangerines.....	4	10	N/A
Total.....	5,279	4,954	N/A

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.