



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
**FLORIDA CROP PROGRESS &  
CONDITION REPORT**



In cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and the UF/IFAS Extension Service  
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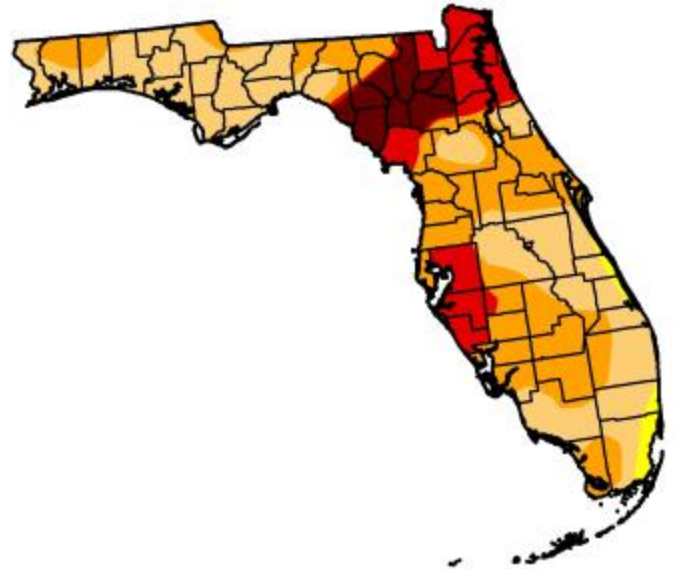
Released: April 9, 2012 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: April 8, 2012

**Hot and Dry, Rain Needed**

**Weather Summary:** Hot, dry conditions persisted during the week of April 2 through 8. Most areas received no rainfall or very minimal traces. Marianna received the most precipitation for the week recording nearly two inches. The danger for wildfire is high in most localities. Temperatures at the major stations averaged five to eight degrees above normal. Hot daytime highs were in the upper 80s to lower 90s. Pleasant evening lows were in the 40s to 60s.

**U.S. Drought Monitor: April 3, 2012**



**Intensity:**



**Soil Moisture Ratings**

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	8	2	16
Short.....	53	27	53
Adequate.....	38	66	29
Surplus.....	1	5	2

**Field Crops:** Drying conditions in most areas continued to deplete soil moisture supplies. Growers will need rains in order to plant field crops or soils will be too dry to plant. Peanut producers prepared fields for plantings which were getting underway. Peanut planting was active in Levy County. Cotton producers continued to prepare fields for plantings.

**Fruits & Vegetables:** Clear, dry conditions allowed field work and harvesting to excel last week. The dry weather increased the need for irrigation over the central

and southern Peninsula areas. Cabbage supplies declined as the season nears the end. Blueberry harvesting continued with movement expected to increase. The strawberry season concluded last week. Watermelons are ahead of schedule this season with very light movement marketed. Light harvesting of potatoes in the Hastings area began. Vegetables marketed included snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, endive, escarole, endive, bell peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes. Light supplies of celery, cabbage, and eggplant were shipped.

**Livestock and Pastures: Statewide**, the pasture condition was lower due to drought with most pastures in fair condition. Most of the cattle were in fair condition, a slight decrease from the previous week due to the lower forage condition. In the **Panhandle**, the conditions of the pastures were very poor to excellent. In Washington and Jackson counties, pastures were improving with recent rains. The cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the **northern** areas, most pastures and cattle were in poor to good condition. In the **central** areas, most pastures were in fair condition with conditions ranging from very poor to good. Dry conditions continued. In the **southwestern** areas, the pasture conditions were very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Hot, dry and windy conditions dried out soil and forages. Most of the cattle were 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	4
Poor.....	5	8	21	25
Fair.....	45	52	50	50
Good.....	45	35	22	19
Excellent.....	4	4	2	2

**Citrus:** Temperatures continued to slowly increase with highs reaching the lower 90s in most of the citrus region. Rainfall was light across the region. Ona received the most with 0.65 inches and was the only station to record more than a half-inch of rain. Eight stations recorded less than a tenth of an inch and ten recorded no precipitation at all. Drought conditions continue to worsen across the entire citrus region, ranging from abnormally dry on the eastern coast, to severe on the west coast. Drought conditions were per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated April 3, 2012. The Valencia harvest continued to average over five million boxes weekly. Abundant pea-sized and larger fruit was visible as the new crop progresses. Harvesting and young tree care, were the primary grove activities during the week.

**Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested**

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

Crop	Mar 19-25, 2012	Mar 26-Apr 1, 2012	Apr 2-8, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	1	0	0
Valencia.....	5,305	5,672	5,331
Navel oranges.....	3	2	2
Temples.....	5	4	1
Grapefruit.....	759	585	218
Tangerines.....	42	43	15
Total.....	6,115	6,306	5,567

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