



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: May 21, 2012 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: May 20, 2012

Peanut Planting Ahead of Schedule, Rain Needed

Weather Summary: A few scattered showers occurred in several areas during the week of May 14 through 20. Most stations reported traces to over one inch of rainfall. Tallahassee received over two inches of rain while Jacksonville as well as Sebring received nearly three inches. Over three inches of precipitation was reported in Avalon and West Palm Beach. Localities recording over four inches of rain included Homestead, Palmdale, and Putnam Hall. Rainfall totaled over five inches in Clewiston while Fort Lauderdale reported over six inches. Temperatures for the week hovered around normal to three degrees above normal. Daytime highs were in the upper 80s and lower 90s. Pleasant evening lows were in the 50s and 60s.

Soil Moisture Ratings

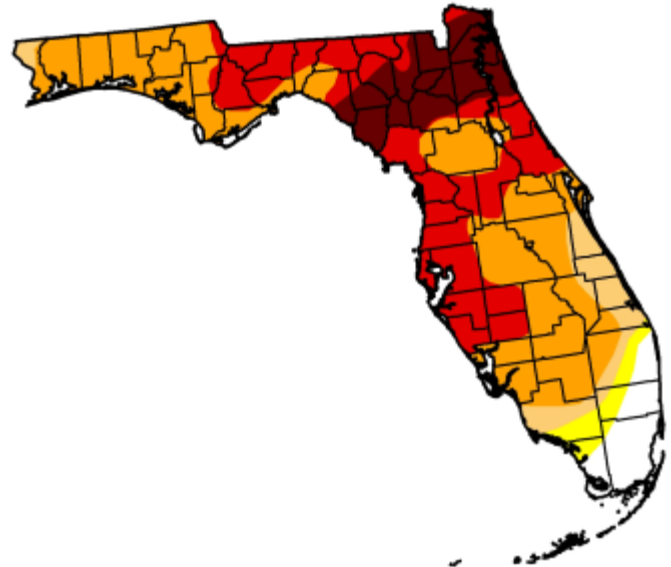
Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	23	27	13
Short	42	44	39
Adequate	33	29	47
Surplus	2	0	1

Field Crops: Soil moisture supplies improved slightly with the recent rains. Rains aided some field crop plantings for growers but more rains were still needed throughout northern Florida. Planting of cotton and peanuts was active in areas that received rains; however, areas that remained dry delayed plantings. Despite the lack of precipitation, peanut planting was 66 percent completed ahead of last year's 48 percent by this date. In Walton County, corn planting finished.

Peanut Progress

Stage	5-year average	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Planted	53	48	66

U.S. Drought Monitor: May 15, 2012



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Fruits & Vegetables: Vegetable harvesting remained active with some interruptions from the rains as producers prepare for the Memorial Day demand. Planting of sunflowers and sweet potatoes (boniatos) was active in Miami-Dade County. Quincy tomato growers continued to prepare fields for summer harvesting. Producers marketed snap beans, blueberries, cantaloupes, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, bell peppers, squash, tomatoes, and watermelons.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, showers, primarily across central and southern Florida, helped improve pasture growth. Statewide pasture conditions ranged from very poor to good. The condition improved from the previous week, with 72 percent rated fair or better compared to 56 percent the previous week. Drought is the main reason for limiting grass growth. The condition of the cattle ranged from very poor to excellent, with most in fair condition. Compared to a week earlier, the most significant change was that there were more cattle rated in good condition and fewer in fair condition. Producers were warned of pigeon fever outbreaks in both cattle and horses and recommendations were to make efforts to control flies and minimize the disease. In the **Panhandle**, pastures were in very poor to excellent condition with most in fair to good condition. The cattle conditions ranged from poor to excellent with most rated as good. Pastures in Jefferson County were observed to be stressed by the dry weather. In Washington County, pastures were improved and producers tapered off on the amount hay being fed. Some Bermuda grass hay fields in the eastern end of the county were experiencing significant pressure from armyworms and leaf hoppers. In the **northern** area, most pastures were in fair to good condition. The cattle ranged from poor to excellent condition, but most were in good condition. In the **central** area, the pastures were in poor to good condition with most rated fair. In the **southwestern** areas of Florida, the pasture conditions ranged from very poor to good, with most rated as either fair or good. Pasture conditions in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties improved markedly with recent showers. Scattered thunderstorms across St. Lucie County improved topsoil moisture and expectations were that pastures would improve soon. Cattle were rated as poor to good with most rated as either fair or good.

Citrus: Daily high temperatures dropped a little, reaching the upper 80s and lower 90s across the citrus region. All stations recorded some precipitation this week, with Clewiston receiving the most at 5.37 inches. Thirteen stations received greater than an inch of rain, and all but five had at least a half inch. Abundant fruit of various sizes were visible as the new crop progresses. Late orange harvesting and young tree care were the primary grove activities. Of the 15 processing plants still open, all except one or two were planning on being finished by the end of the month.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	Apr 30-May 6, 2012	May 7-13, 2012	May 14-20, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Valencia.....	5,775	5,858	4,767
Navel oranges.....	2	2	2
Grapefruit.....	1	3	0
Tangerines.....	3	0	1
Total.....	5,781	5,863	4,770

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	0	20	12
Poor.....	9	11	24	16
Fair.....	55	43	40	42
Good.....	34	43	15	30
Excellent.....	1	3	1	0

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