



**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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Week Ending: May 27, 2012

**Rainfall Missed Panhandle**

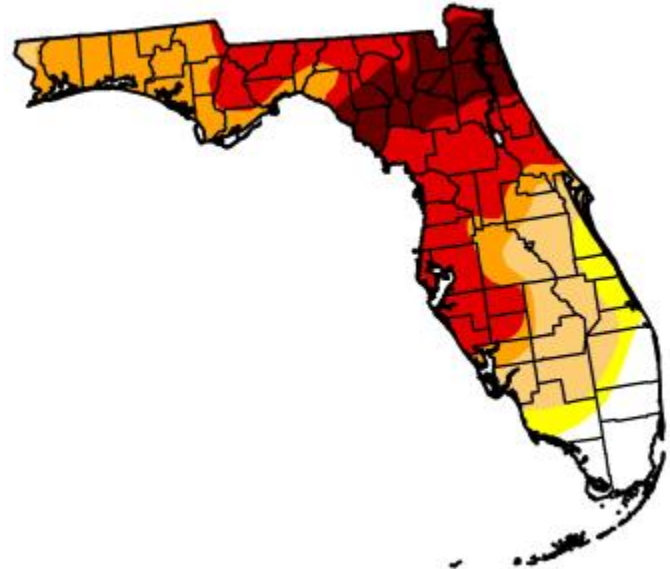
**Weather Summary:** It was a dry week across the Panhandle, but showers across parts of central and southern Florida improved crops and pastures. About one-fourth of the 36 statewide Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations recorded an inch or more of cumulative precipitation. One-half of the stations reported less than a third of an inch of rainfall. The heaviest amounts of precipitation fell at Fort Lauderdale (2.51 inches), Fort Pierce (1.84 inches), Hastings (1.22 inches), and Homestead, (1.22 inches). Producers were watching the skies for more rain as Tropical Storm Beryl was forecasted to bring more rainfall to the Atlantic coast starting on Memorial Day. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, temperatures averaged slightly above normal during the week at most major cities. Highs were mostly in the 90s with temperatures reaching 97 degrees in Marianna and Bronson.

**Soil Moisture Ratings**

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	13	33	20
Short .....	39	41	34
Adequate .....	47	25	45
Surplus .....	1	1	1

**Field Crops:** It was very dry in Santa Rosa County and the planting of cotton and peanuts stopped as producers waited for rainfall to replenish the soil moisture in fields. In Jackson County, early week showers helped improve dry soil conditions and allowed producers to plant cotton and peanut fields. More rainfall was needed to get crops off to a fast start. In Leon County, the cotton planting was virtually finished. Producers in Okaloosa County noted that some early corn appeared distressed by the dry weather. In Leon and Walton counties, producers were finishing harvesting the wheat and oat crops. Cotton and peanut producers nearly finished planting those crops. In Okeechobee County, producers were

**U.S. Drought Monitor: May 22, 2012**



Intensity:

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

chopping silage. Peanut producers continued to make good progress planting fields. At week's end, 87 percent were planted compared to 69 percent last year and the 5-year average progress of 68 percent.

**Peanut Progress**

Stage	5-year average	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Planted .....	68	69	87

**Fruits & Vegetables:** USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service reported market movement of sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, bell peppers, and tomatoes. The supply of cucumbers and bell peppers were light. The potato harvest was underway in Putnam County. In Levy County, the watermelon harvest was about 60 percent completed. The blueberry harvest came to a conclusion in Dixie County.

**Livestock and Pastures: Statewide**, showers, primarily across central and southern Florida, helped maintain pasture growth. Statewide, pasture conditions ranged from very poor to good. The condition declined from the previous week, with 65 percent rated fair or good compared to 72 percent the previous week. Drought was the main reason for limiting grass growth. Cattle producers looked for Tropical Storm Beryl to send some rain to help revive pastures. The condition of the cattle ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair or good 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 good condition with most in fair to good condition. The cattle conditions ranged from poor to excellent with most rated as good. 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 very poor to good condition with most rated good. In the **southwestern** areas of Florida, the pasture conditions ranged from very poor to good with most rated as fair. Cattle were rated as poor to good with most as fair. Producers in Okeechobee County were chopping silage. Pastures looked much better after recent rains.

**Citrus:** Daily high temperatures rose a little, reaching the lower to mid 90s across the citrus region. All but three FAWN stations recorded some precipitation this week, with Ft. Peirce receiving the most at 1.84 inches. Five stations received an inch or more of rain and nine had at least a half inch. Drought conditions improved slightly, per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated May 22, 2012, as a return to the more normal summer pattern of rainfall continued. Late orange harvesting and young tree care were the primary grove activities at this time. Of the 15 processing plants still open, all but 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	May 7-13, 2012	May 14-20, 2012	May 21-27, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Valencia.....	5,858	4,767	3,914
Navel oranges.....	2	2	1
Grapefruit.....	3	0	4
Tangerines.....	0	1	1
Total.....	5,863	4,770	3,920

**Cattle and Pasture Condition**

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	0	0	12	11
Poor.....	11	11	16	24
Fair.....	43	47	42	40
Good.....	43	40	30	25
Excellent.....	3	2	0	0

Coming soon – NASS’s annual June surveys on crops and livestock. In the first two weeks of June, NASS will survey about 140,000 U.S. producers and visit 42,000 tracts of farm land to collect information. Responses to these surveys provide the foundation for estimates in the upcoming growing year and will first be released in the *Acreage* and other reports on June 29. Watch for the survey and be sure to respond. Your information matters!

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