



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
**Florida Crop Progress
and Condition Report**



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the UF/IFAS Extension Service
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April 30, 2018

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General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, April 29, 2018. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 5.9 inches in Juno Beach (Palm Beach County). The average mean temperature ranged from 64.9°F in Milton (Santa Rosa County) to 80.0°F in Marathon (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were typically warm for this time of the year in the citrus growing region. Most days were in the low to high 80s. The highest temperatures were in Arcadia (Desoto County) and Ortona (Glades County) at 90°F. Avon Park (Highlands County) and Plant City (Hillsborough County) both reached 89°F.

Rainfall was very sporadic. Several stations in citrus producing counties recorded between one and two inches of rainfall, while other stations in the same counties recorded less than half an inch. The most rainfall was in the Arcadia (Desoto County) at 2.43 inches. In Polk County, the most rainfall was in Polk City at 0.74 inches, and in Hendry County, Clewiston had the most rainfall at 0.90 inches. According to the April 26, 2018 U.S. Drought Monitor, conditions were the same as the previous week. All citrus producing counties south of Lake Okeechobee were affected by moderate to severe drought. In the northern, central, and Indian River District citrus areas, moderate drought conditions continued in Orange, Osceola, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin counties. Several of the remaining citrus producing counties were abnormally dry.

Valencia harvest hit the peak of its season. During April, harvesting amounts were between two and a half to three million boxes per week. Based on the tentative closing dates of processing plants, harvest should begin to slow in the next week or two. Scheduled closing dates for plants are from the first week to the third week of May.

Packinghouses continue to pack fresh Valencia oranges as quality fruit becomes available. According to the Market

News Bulletin, dated April 23, 2018, “Storage fruit will most likely run until mid-June if the supply lasts.”

Next season’s fruit is progressing well. Oranges, on average, are as large as marble size on most trees, and some are slightly larger. Fieldwork picked up with caretakers pushing old trees and putting them in burn piles. Grove owners also ground sprayed, fertilized, and conducted general grove maintenance. Irrigation ran regularly.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Apr 15, 2018	Apr 22, 2018	Apr 29, 2018	Apr 30, 2017
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Valencia oranges.....	2,778	2,587	2,379	3,555
White grapefruit.....	0	0	0	4
Red grapefruit	0	0	0	8
Tangerines and Tangelos.....	1	0	0	10
Total	2,779	2,587	2,379	3,577

www.citrusadministrativecommittee.org

Fruits and Vegetables

Crops planted included bitter melon, boniato, malanga, and okra. Crops harvested included blueberries, cucumber, eggplant, green beans, malanga, okra, peaches, peppers, radishes, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and watermelons.

Livestock and Pastures

Pasture quality varied across the state, but in general, livestock continued to require feed supplements. Producers in Jackson and Volusia counties planted pastures.

Field Crops

Producers in Jackson County harvested rye grass, hay, and baleage. Potato harvest began. Sugarcane harvest continued in Glades and Hendry counties with an extended harvest expected due to delays earlier in the season.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 4/29/18

Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	3	4	9
Short.....	35	29	24
Adequate.....	60	64	62
Surplus.....	2	3	5

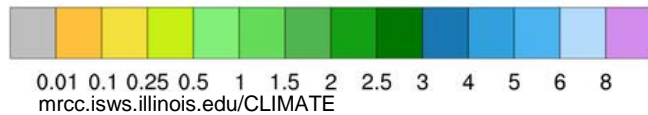
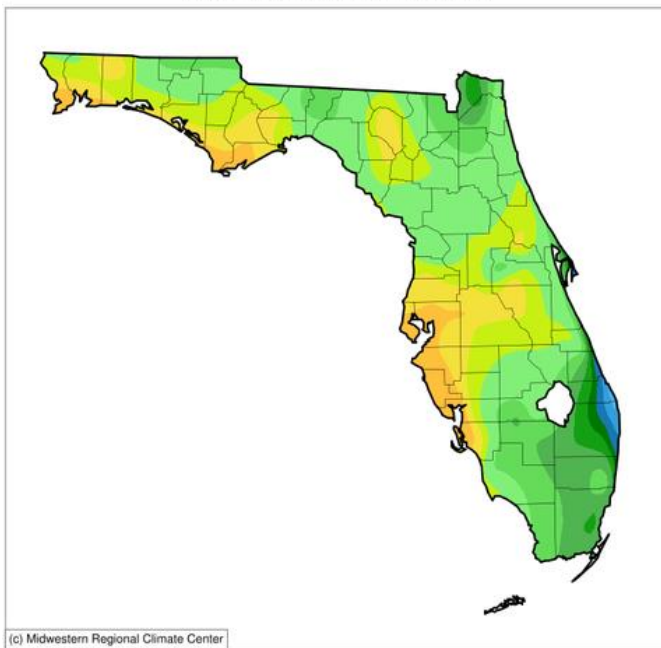
Crop Progress for Week Ending 04/29/18

Crop stage	This week	Prev week	Prev year	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Planted	9	1	9	NA
Peanuts - Planted.....	21	12	19	13

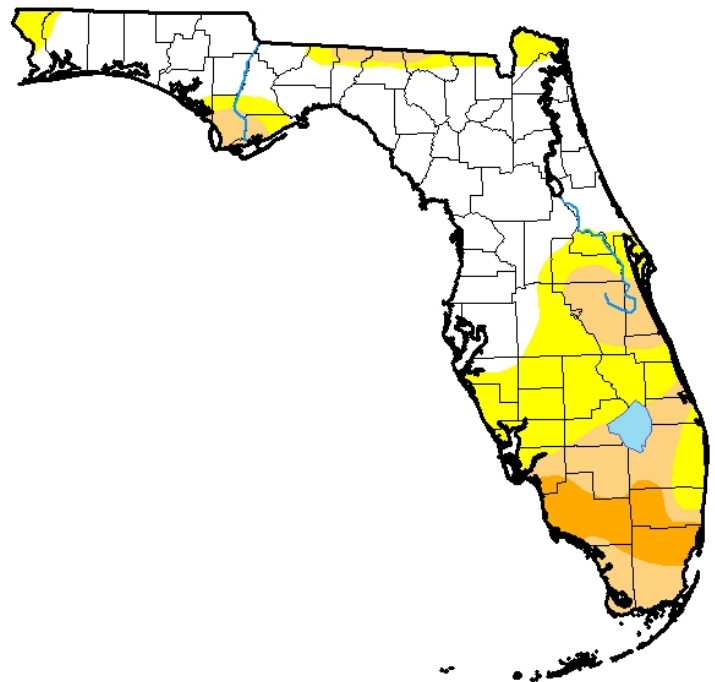
Condition for Week Ending 4/29/18

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	1	4	42	48	5
Pasture & range....	1	14	57	27	1

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
April 23, 2018 to April 29, 2018



U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



Intensity:

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

April 24, 2018 (Released Thursday, April 26, 2018)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>