



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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This report contains data collected each week from respondents across the state whose occupations provide them opportunities to discuss agricultural production with farmers in their counties as well as to make visual observations. We thank all who have contributed to this report.

May 6, 2024

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

**General**

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, May 5, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 4.8 inches at West Palm Beach International Airport (Palm Beach County). The average mean temperature ranged from 73.8°F at Daytona Beach (Volusia County) to 83.9°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

**Citrus**

Temperatures were above average in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs from the mid 80’s to the low 90’s. The hottest average readings were recorded in Clermont (Lake County) and Winter Haven (Polk County), both hitting 91 degrees, followed by Sebring (Highlands County) reaching 89 degrees. The citrus belt received localized light to moderate rainfall during the reporting period as scattered afternoon thunderstorms formed along the sea breeze boundary. The most rain fell in Kenansville (Osceola County), reporting 0.90 inches of precipitation, followed by Bartow (Polk County) and Sebring (Highlands County), both registering 0.37 inches.

According to the May 2, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, continued lack of adequate rainfall paired with higher temperatures resulted in a degradation of drought conditions in the citrus area, with moderate drought taking hold to the north and east of Lake Okeechobee, and abnormally dry conditions fixed in place in the majority of the southern and central citrus counties. The rest of the citrus growing region remained drought free.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, laying herbicide, fertilizing, mowing, hedging, topping, skirting tree canopies, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, bactericide trunk injection, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run frequently statewide. Field personnel reported next season’s fruit growing nicely.

Harvest of Valencia oranges for the fresh and processed markets trended downward, dropping below a million boxes

per week. Harvest of red and white grapefruit, along with late tangerines, was finishing out for the season. Processing plants were accepting Valencia orange packinghouse eliminations and field run fruit.

**Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested**

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Apr 14, 2024 (Preliminary)	Apr 21, 2024 (Preliminary)	Apr 28, 2024 (Preliminary)	Apr 30, 2023 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Valencia oranges .....	1,413	1,250	894	467
Red grapefruit....	1	0	0	0
White grapefruit..	0	1	0	0
Tangerines and Tangelos .....	4	3	3	0
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>1,418</b>	<b>1,254</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>467</b>

Source: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service Fruit and Vegetable Division

**Crops**

Most of the state received little to no rain throughout the week. Southern portions of the state received some scattered showers. The state experienced a very warm week causing many counties in the central part of the state to be abnormally dry. The counties that did receive some rainfall, experienced seasonal planting challenges due to wet conditions. Peanuts and cotton planting made good progress but were still in the early stages. Sugarcane and rice planting continued as planned. In Levy County, watermelons were approaching a first harvest. In Osceola, blueberries and strawberries were ready to be picked. Other crops planted and harvested included potatoes, okra, boniato, bitter melon, green beans, tomatoes, peppers, other Asian vegetables, and tropical fruits.

**Livestock and Pastures**

Cattle were in mostly good to fair condition with pastures in mostly poor to fair conditions due to dry weather.

### Crop Progress for Week Ending 05/05/24

Crop	Prev year (percent)	Prev week (percent)	This week (percent)	5 Year avg (percent)
Cotton - Planted.....	13	6	20	11
Peanuts - Planted.....	30	23	38	31

### Conditions for Week Ending 05/05/24

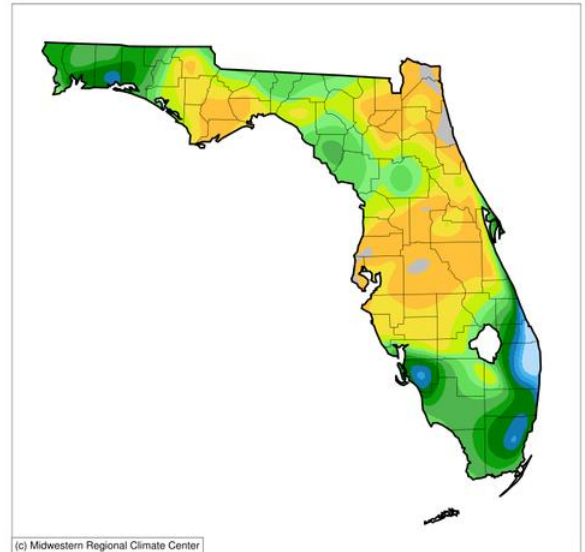
Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	1	2	34	52	11
Pasture and range.....	1	40	33	20	6

### Soil Moisture for Week Ending 05/05/24

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very Short.....		9
Short.....		38
Adequate.....		53
Surplus.....		0

### Accumulated Precipitation (in)

April 29, 2024 to May 05, 2024



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



0.01 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.5 0.75 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 4

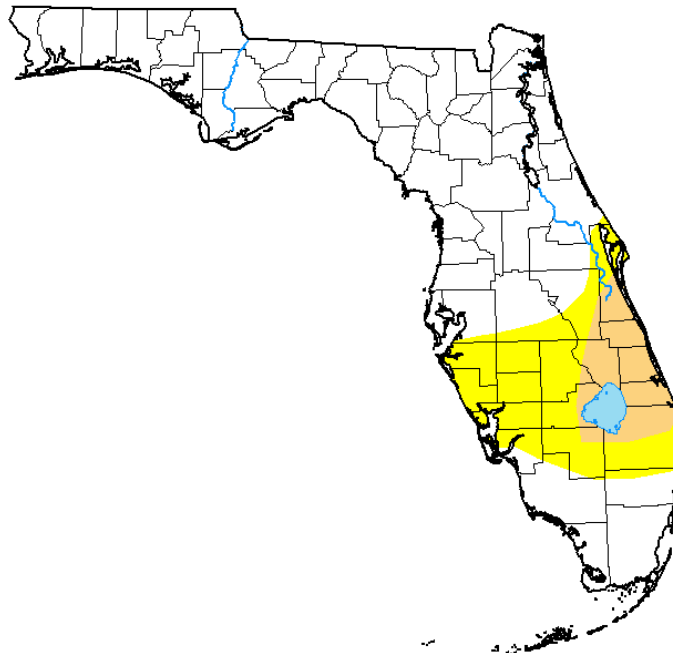
<https://mrcc.purdue.edu/CLIMATE/>

## U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

**April 30, 2024**

(Released Thursday, May 2, 2024)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



#### Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)