

# Weather Crop Report

Week ending April 23, 2006

## RAINS HELP EASE DROUGHT CONDITIONS; MORE RAINS NEEDED

Released:

April 24, 2006  
4:00 pm

Access our reports  
Via the internet at  
[www.nass.usda.gov/fl](http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl)

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Mostly hot temperatures allowed fieldwork to progress during the week of April 17 through 23, but timely rains near the end of the week slowed fieldwork in some areas. Rainfall in the Panhandle ranged from traces in several areas to over two inches in Franklin County. Jackson, Jefferson and Santa Rosa counties recorded over an inch of rainfall for the week. In areas throughout the Peninsula, rainfall varied from none at Hillsborough to nearly two and half inches of rainfall in West Palm Beach. Several areas in the northern and central Peninsula received over an inch to two inches of rainfall towards the end of the week. Temperatures averaged from four to ten degrees above normal in the major stations. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s. Pleasant evening lows were in the 50s and 60s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Drought conditions have halted most planting and fieldwork in the Florida Panhandle as well as northern Peninsula areas. Rains at the end of the week helped replenish some soil moisture supplies but more rains are needed to increase supplies. Land preparation for field crops is underway in Jackson County. Rains over the weekend has allowed peanut and cotton growers to begin planting this week in Santa Rosa County. Tobacco transplanting was completed in the northern Peninsula. Growers in Hamilton County plan to begin planting peanuts next week. Topsoil moisture in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula is rated very short to short. Jefferson County reported short to adequate soil supplies. Central and southern Peninsula localities reported moisture supplies were very short to short. Palm Beach County reported adequate to surplus supplies for the week. Hernando and Dade counties reported very short to adequate soil moisture.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last Week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	51	50	2	37	45	2
Short	26	20	30	40	45	23
Adequate	23	30	60	5	10	64
Surplus	0	0	8	18	0	11

**VEGETABLES:** Warm temperatures throughout the week helped keep harvesting progress on schedule. However, rains at the end of the week in central and southern Peninsula areas slowed some fieldwork. Potato growers around Hastings plan to begin digging next week. Some watermelon vines have started setting fruit in Jefferson County. Producers marketed snap beans, blueberries, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, okra, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash and tomatoes.



United States  
Department  
Of Agriculture



National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

Florida  
Field  
Office

Benjamin F. Klugh, Jr.  
Director  
407/648-6013

Florida Department  
of Agriculture and  
Consumer Services,  
Division of Marketing  
and Development

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** Pasture condition in the Panhandle ranges from very poor to good, with most pasture in fair condition. Some ryegrass hay is being harvested for immediate sale to livestock owners in need of feed. Most pasture in the North is in very poor condition. Haying of livestock has renewed. Pasture is suffering from drought, warmer than average temperatures and wind. Cattle condition is very poor to fair. Pasture condition in the central area is poor to fair. Pasture condition in the Southwest is very poor to fair, with most in poor condition due to drought. Statewide, cattle condition varies from very poor to good, with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	10	0	15	10
Poor	5	15	60	55
Fair	65	70	24	34
Good	20	15	1	1
Excellent	0	0	0	0

**CITRUS:** Isolated showers throughout the week brought just over one and a half inches of rain to the northern citrus area and just over one inch in the eastern citrus growing region. Other rainfall totals were between no rain and one half of an inch. Temperatures in all citrus producing areas, except Ft. Pierce, reached at least 90 degrees one day during the week, with the highest being recorded in Sebring at 95 degrees. Continued dry weather and warm temperatures over the last several weeks are forcing growers to continue irrigation on a regular basis. Generally, trees are in good condition with many showing new growth and varying amounts of new fruit that is making good progress. Caretakers are busy hedging, discing, chopping, mowing cover crops and applying post bloom and nutritional sprays. Valencia harvest is fully underway, since it is the main citrus crop left to be harvested this time of year. Grapefruit is slowing down significantly with the majority going to processing. Honey tangerine utilization has been running about one hundred fifty thousand boxes a week, being picked primarily for the fresh market, while Temple harvest is relatively over for the season.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Apr 09	Apr 16	Apr 23
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Early and Mid oranges	11	2	0
Valencia	5,242	4,585	5,153
Grapefruit	800	582	368
Honey Tangerines	167	162	127
Temples	5	5	3

We are encouraging all subscribers of this report to consider receiving it by email. To do so, log onto: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Florida/Subscribe\\_to\\_FL\\_Reports/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp) Select Florida Crop-Weather. Enter your first and last name. Enter your Email address. Click on Subscribe. The report will be sent automatically each week. Or you may call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter your subscription for you.

In cooperation with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service whose county directors participate in supplying field information