



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending May 6, 2007

HOT, MOSTLY DRY CONDITIONS CONTINUE

WEATHER SUMMARY: Several stations, including most of the major cities, recorded no measurable rain during the week of April 30 through May 6. Rainfall was spotty with Palmdale recording nearly three inches for the week and Alachua, Lake Alfred, and West Palm Beach reporting about an inch. Other rain totals ranged from traces to about two thirds of an inch. A cold front crossing the State on Sunday, May 6 brought most of the rain for the week. Temperatures for the week averaged from one to four degrees above normal. Most daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s while most nighttime lows were in the 50s, 60s, and 70s. Temperatures cooled after the cold front passed on Sunday. Firefighters continued to battle at least two very large wild fires near Ormond Beach and Pine Lakes. Smoke from these fires wafted over many other central and southern Florida communities.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut and cotton producers planted mainly on irrigated acreage and in fields that received recent rains. Peanut planting progress 10 percent completed. Last year, peanut planting was 13 percent finished by this date. Hay growth is very limited with supplies very short. Volusia County feed stores are rationing hay only to existing customers. Soil moisture supplies were rated very short to mostly short in the Panhandle, Big Bend, and southern Peninsula areas. Soil moisture remained very short over the central Peninsula.

Percentage of peanuts planted to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
10	13	17

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	44	45	48	44	38	50
Short	28	51	44	27	59	38
Adequate	28	4	9	29	3	12
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0

VEGETABLES: Organic vegetable harvesting is expected to begin this week in the Suwannee Valley State Farmer's Market area. Palmetto-Ruskin tomato picking is getting underway as harvesting ends around Homestead and Ft. Pierce. Squash harvest started in the Quincy area as the season nears the end in the southern Peninsula. The digging of table-type potatoes started around Palatka as the harvest of processing types increased. Birds continue to plague blueberry growers with a few producers abandoning acreage. Other vegetable and non-citrus fruit marketed during the week included snap beans, blueberries, cabbage, cantaloupes, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, okra, parsley, peppers, radishes, strawberries and watermelons.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: The pasture condition is mostly fair due to drought. In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition is very poor to good with most in poor condition. Pastures received enough moisture to stay green but are overgrazed. The cattle condition is mostly fair with ranchers feeding supplemental hay as the grass is in poor shape due to drought. In the central areas, pasture condition is very poor to fair due to drought. Forage is dying due to drought. Irrigated pastures are also suffering. Hay supplies are very short and are selling at a premium. In the southwest areas, pasture condition is very poor to fair. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from poor to good with most in good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	5	15	20
Poor	5	25	20	30
Fair	45	64	60	45
Good	50	5	5	5
Excellent	0	1	0	0

CITRUS: Short hard rain over the weekend brought only slight relief to citrus regions areas across the State. Lake Alfred recorded the most rainfall at just over an inch; Apopka and Ft. Pierce both had half an inch of rain. Canals and lake levels are very low and the dry weather is putting continual stress on the trees. High temperatures climbed to the mid-90s in the central and southern citrus areas. The new fruit for next year's crop is in various stages ranging from pea size to almost golf ball size. Valencia harvest is over five million boxes a week, with maturity levels improving as the season progresses. Grapefruit harvest is decreasing for both fresh and processing. More packinghouses have closed for the season with honey tangerines and fresh grapefruit drawing to a close. Caretakers are irrigating, mowing, removing dead trees, and hedging and topping after harvest.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Apr 22	Apr 29	May 06
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	1	2	2
Early and Mid oranges	8	12	11
Valencia	5,088	5,398	4,581
Grapefruit	1,071	683	479
Honey Tangerines	90	72	46
Temples	0	1	1

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