



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending May 18, 2008

DRY WINDS FUEL BRUSH FIRES, STRESS SOME CROPS

WEATHER SUMMARY: Dry, windy conditions continued last week with spots of rain towards the end of the week. Areas of the Panhandle and Big Bend received between half of an inch to just over two and a half inches of rain. Santa Rosa County received the most precipitation at 2.64 inches. Traces of rain were spotted in other areas, mostly throughout the central Peninsula. Major cities averaged high temperatures in the 80s and 90s; while low temperatures ranged in the 40s to 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut planting continued with 62 percent completed compared to 39 percent last year. Potato harvest continued throughout the tri-county areas. Pecan bloom was nearly complete in Jefferson County. Wheat harvest began in Santa Rosa County and pastures remained stressed due to lack of rain. Across the State, topsoil moisture was mostly very short to short and subsoil moisture was reportedly short.

Percentage of peanuts planted to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
62	39	40

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	41	32	56	24	15	52
Short	40	42	42	50	53	30
Adequate	19	26	22	26	32	18
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0

VEGETABLES: Some crops looked good last week while others deteriorated due to dry and windy conditions. Florida City harvested and packed beans, tomatoes, and okra. Fort Myers and Immokalee reported low volumes of watermelon being harvested. In Immokalee, low volume of watermelon was due to cool nighttime temperatures and disease. Cucumbers continued to be planted in Fort Pierce. Squash harvest continued throughout Gadsden. Windy conditions caused some wind burn on local, mixed vegetable crops in Palatka. Local planting reached completion in Pompano. In Starke, the local strawberry harvest was scheduled to finish last week. Suwannee Valley began harvesting green beans, cucumbers, and organic crops at the end of the week. Other vegetables marketed throughout the week were corn, eggplant, okra, peppers, radishes, and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in poor condition. Pasture remained stressed due to lack of rain. Pastures were suffering from lack of water and grass was not growing. The cattle condition was poor to good with most in fair condition. In central areas, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in poor condition. Pasture grass was dry and crisp. The cattle condition was mostly fair. In the southwestern areas, pasture was very poor to good with most in very poor condition. Hot, dry conditions have reduced pasture quality. Increasing numbers of cows are being sold for slaughter to relieve grazing pressure. Many ranchers are now out of hay. Statewide, cattle condition was 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	15	5	25	15
Poor	20	15	35	25
Fair	35	50	25	40
Good	30	30	15	20
Excellent	0	0	0	0

CITRUS: Citrus producing areas have been warm and dry with mostly mild conditions. Daytime temperatures reached highs into the upper 80s to lower 90s on several days. Ona and Sebring had roughly a quarter of an inch of rain while other areas in the rest of the citrus-producing region recorded no rainfall. Widespread, significant rainfall has not been recorded since early April. Most trees still look good with heavy foliage and healthy new fruit. Some trees were showing afternoon wilt during the hottest parts of the day. Hedging and topping continued into the later part of the citrus season. Other production activities included spraying, mowing, brush removal, and resetting. Growers were combating greening by removing trees and attempting to control the Psyllids with pesticides. Valencia processing maintained around the six million box level, with adequate availability of fruit remaining to continue this level into June. Some processing plants plan to run Valencia oranges into the second week of July. Large quantities of grapefruit utilization are over, but small amounts will continue to trickle in for several more weeks. Honey tangerine harvest went over one hundred thousand boxes this week, mostly for the processed market.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	May 04	May 11	May 18
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and Mid oranges	1	0	0
Navel oranges	1	1	2
Temples	7	6	1
Valencia oranges	5,745	5,983	6,296
Grapefruit	620	476	145
Honey tangerines	143	88	134

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