



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending May 25, 2008

## GROWERS WELCOMED RAIN ACROSS THE SUNSHINE STATE

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Hot, humid, and windy conditions continued. Most areas received above a half of an inch of rain. DeSoto, Franklin, St. Lucie, and Hardee counties received 2.40, 2.52, 2.47, and 2.49 inches, respectively. The most precipitation fell in Broward and Collier counties; each received 3.05 and 5.17 inches, respectively. Daytime highs were in the high 80s and 90s with lows in the 50s, 60s, and 70s. Major cities averaged highs in the 80s and 90s; lows in the 60s, 70s, and 80s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Peanut planting continued with 76 percent completed compared to 49 percent last year. Harvest of wheat and other small grains continued in Jackson and Santa Rosa counties with good yields reported on irrigated fields. Potato harvest continued throughout the tri county areas. St. Johns County potato growers reported around 50 percent of the fields dug. Planting of cotton and peanuts continued in Escambia County. Topsoil moisture was mostly short across the State and subsoil moisture was reported as adequate.

Percentage of peanuts planted to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
76	49	60

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	27	41	70	11	24	53
Short	53	40	22	61	50	33
Adequate	20	19	8	28	26	14
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0

**VEGETABLES:** Crop conditions were good last week. Florida City continued to harvest and pack okra. Fort Myers producers reported better quantity and quality of watermelons for the week ending on May 25. Squash harvest continued throughout Gadsden County and pepper harvest was reported to begin in the next couple of weeks. Growers harvested cantaloupe in the St. Johns County area. Starke County producers finished their strawberry harvest. Suwannee Valley continued harvesting green beans, cucumbers, and organic crops. Wauchula reported good progress on the completion of their eggplant harvest. Other vegetables marketed throughout the week were sweet corn, eggplant, peppers, radishes, and tomatoes.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** The State pasture condition improved in general last week, but drought still limited grass growth. In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was very poor to good, with most in fair condition. The cattle condition was poor to good with most in good condition. Cattle were being fed supplemental hay in several areas as pasture has not recovered yet. In central areas, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in poor condition. The cattle condition was very poor to good. In the southwestern areas, pasture was poor to good with most in fair condition. Pastures improved following showers the past week. 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	5	15	5	25
Poor	10	20	30	35
Fair	60	35	50	25
Good	25	30	15	15
Excellent	0	0	0	0

**CITRUS:** Citrus producing areas experienced normal average temperatures this week with lows in the mid-60s at night and reaching the mid to low 90s during the day. All areas received much needed rainfall from widely scattered thunderstorms that moved across the State. Amounts ranged from traces of rain in the Hillsborough area to over five inches recorded at Immokalee. Interior areas received up to two inches in some areas, but very little in others. This was the first significant rainfall recorded since early April. Irrigation continued where needed to maintain tree vigor. Most trees look good with heavy foliage and healthy new fruit. Hedging and topping continued into the latter part of the citrus season. Other activities in citrus groves included irrigating, spraying, mowing, and brush removal. Growers were combating greening by removing trees and attempted to control the Psyllids with pesticides. Valencia processing was still running around the six million box level weekly, with adequate availability of fruit remaining to continue this level into June. Some processing plants planned to run Valencia oranges into the second week of July. Large quantities of grapefruit utilization were over, but small amounts were to trickle in for several more weeks. Honey tangerine harvest was nearing completion with packinghouses closing for the season.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	May 11	May 18	May 25
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Navel oranges	1	2	1
Temples	6	1	0
Valencia oranges	5,983	6,296	5,330
Grapefruit	476	145	117
Honey tangerines	88	134	60

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