



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending May 3, 2009

RAINFALL NEEDED IN MOST AREAS

WEATHER SUMMARY: Very little rain was recorded throughout Florida and dry soil conditions remained. Most locations received only traces of rain, if any. Windy conditions in some areas dried out soils further. Santa Rosa County reported about half an inch of rain. Daytime high temperatures were in the 80s and lower 90s. In major cities, highs were 1 to 4 degrees above normal. Lows were in the 50s and 60s at night.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut planting was 26% completed. The recent lack of rain helped dry fields in the Panhandle, allowing growers to plant crops. Potato harvesting in southern locations was finishing up while potato fields in the north central region were just beginning to harvest. Potato yield and quality was reported as below last year in Flagler County. Soil moisture levels in the central and southern Peninsulas were very short to short. The Big Bend had very short to adequate soil moisture, while the Panhandle was short to adequate.

| Peanut Progress – Week Ending May 3, 2009 | | | |
|---|----------------|------|--------------|
| Stage | 2009 | 2008 | 5-yr Average |
| | <i>Percent</i> | | |
| Planted | 26 | 11 | 10 |

| Moisture Rating | Topsoil | | | Subsoil | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | This week | Last week | Last year | This week | Last week | Last Year |
| | <i>Percent</i> | | | | | |
| Very short | 49 | 36 | 21 | 38 | 29 | 15 |
| Short | 35 | 45 | 43 | 34 | 39 | 37 |
| Adequate | 15 | 17 | 35 | 26 | 30 | 47 |
| Surplus | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |

VEGETABLES: Some vegetable planting took place in the Panhandle. Blueberries were harvested in Hardee County. South Florida growers continued to harvest beans, squash, sweet corn, eggplant, and tomatoes. Okra and cantaloupe harvest was getting underway. Palatka area growers reported hail and wind damage to some squash and cucumbers due to storms in late April. Most broccoli harvesting was finished and some cabbage remained in the tri-county area. Growers used irrigation to keep their vegetables in good condition. Harvesting of tomatoes was active in Manatee County. Other vegetables marketed were peppers, cucumbers, celery, radishes, endive, escarole, collard greens, and watermelon.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: The pasture condition declined this past week due to drought. In the Panhandle, pasture condition was poor to excellent. Pastures have virtually all greened up. Livestock were grazing down the pasture as fast as it grew. Cattle condition was poor to excellent. In the north and central areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent, with most in poor condition. The pasture condition deteriorated from the previous week due to drought. The cattle condition was very poor to good, with most cattle in poor condition. Some cows were losing weight due to poor pasture. Pasture condition in the southwest was very poor to good, with most poor to good. Pastures are very short and in some cases the grass was practically gone, as most locations have received no rain in recent weeks. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to excellent, with most in fair condition.

| Condition | Cattle | | Pasture | |
|-----------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | This week | Last week | This week | Last week |
| | <i>Percent</i> | | | |
| Very poor | 2 | 5 | 10 | 15 |
| Poor | 15 | 10 | 49 | 40 |
| Fair | 45 | 55 | 30 | 35 |
| Good | 35 | 25 | 10 | 10 |
| Excellent | 3 | 5 | 1 | 0 |

CITRUS: Florida's complete citrus belt was very warm and dry with little or no rainfall in any producing area. Temperatures ranged from the high 80s to low 90s during the day and into the 60s and 70s at night. All areas were experiencing drought conditions ranging from severe to extreme. The dry weather was continuing to have an affect on surface soil moistures and on the trees. Field personnel reported seeing slight tree wilt during the heat of the day. As drought conditions continue, varying stages of water restrictions were in affect. Next year's fruit was between pea size on late oranges and marble size on early oranges. Grapefruit was slightly larger. With the exception of irrigating, caretakers were implementing limited production practices. Packing of grapefruit and Valencia oranges continued in small quantities. Some packinghouses expected to stop running fruit within the next two weeks. Despite the high juice inventory, Valencia oranges picked for processing remains very active. Honey tangerines, early oranges, and Temple harvest was nearly over for the season.

| Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended | | | |
|--|---|--------|-------|
| Crop | Apr 19 | Apr 26 | May 3 |
| | <i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i> | | |
| Early and mid oranges | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| Temples | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Valencia oranges | 6,440 | 6,424 | 6,293 |
| Navel oranges | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Grapefruit | 602 | 541 | 387 |
| Honey tangerines | 5 | 1 | 0 |

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