



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending May 2, 2010

## Planting of Row Crops; Beneficial Rains

**Weather Summary:** Last week's high temperatures were in the 80s and 90s. Low temperatures were mostly in the 40s, 50s, and 60s. Rainfall was plentiful in many areas across the State. Hardee, Suwannee, Broward, and Collier counties received between two and three inches. Gadsden, Hendry, and Alachua counties each recorded 3.5, 3.7, and 4.2 inches, respectively. All other Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations collected two inches or less. Soil moisture levels were mostly adequate in all regions.

### Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	1	47	3	1	36	1
Short .....	13	37	17	14	35	11
Adequate .....	76	15	72	72	27	78
Surplus .....	10	1	8	13	2	10

**Field Crops:** Peanut planting was 30% completed. Growers in the central region were further along in planting peanuts as compared to the Panhandle and Big Bend growers. In Dixie County, corn for silage was planted. All cotton was planted in Walton County. Potato harvest progressed. In the Hastings area, potatoes were dug on a trial basis. The sizes of the potatoes were smaller than normal. Rye grass harvest was well underway. In Columbia County, some erosion occurred in field crops; leached nutrients may need to be replaced. Due to standing water, some fields may not be planted.

### Peanut Progress for Week Ending:

Stage	2009	5-year average	2010
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Planted .....	24	11	30

**Vegetables:** Tomato and pepper yields in Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, and Lee counties were reported as still below normal. Watermelon harvest may be somewhat late due to prior cold temperatures. Hot and windy conditions dried topsoil, leaving some areas in need of more rain. Cabbage harvest neared completion in Flagler County. Snap beans, blueberries, cabbage, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes moved through the market last week.

**Livestock and Pastures:** Statewide, pasture condition improved following increased soil moisture and higher temperatures. In the Panhandle areas, pasture condition was very poor to excellent. Most pasture was in good condition due to adequate rain and warm weather which contributed to excellent pasture growth. Summer annual grass started to grow following temperatures in the high 80s and low 90s. However, some pasture was in very poor to poor condition due to flooding from recent rains while in other locations pastures was hurt by drying wind with higher temperatures. Most of the cattle were in good condition. In the northern and central areas, pasture condition was poor to excellent with most in fair condition. In Marion County, windy conditions and lack of rain resulted in dry topsoil conditions. Most of the cattle were in fair condition. In the southwestern areas, pasture condition was mostly fair to good. In Brevard County, continued cool nights delayed forage growth in most areas. Soil moisture remained good for most pasture. Producers delayed or canceled pasture fertilization efforts. In the west coast, pastures looked good following improved growing conditions after recent rains improved soil moisture. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was mostly fair to good.

### Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	0	2	1
Poor .....	14	5	17	10
Fair.....	45	45	50	40
Good .....	35	45	30	45
Excellent .....	5	5	1	4

**Citrus:** Highs this week were in the mid 90s, with early morning lows ranging from the lower 40s to the lower 60s. Rainfall this week continued to be highly variable. Alachua received the most with 4.22 inches, while Citra recorded no rainfall. Growing conditions continue to be good across the citrus region. Sizes of the new oranges range from less than one quarter inch in the most northern citrus-producing counties to three eighths of an inch in the south. Most packinghouses remained open. Varieties packed included Valencia, white and colored grapefruit, and Honey tangerines. Fifteen processors were open and accepting fruit. Valencia oranges and grapefruit comprised the majority of fruit going to the plants. Grove activity last week included harvesting, young tree care, psyllid treatment, hedging and topping, brush removal, and fertilizer application.

### Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	April 18, 2010	April 25, 2010	May 2, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Temples .....	9	0	2
Valencia .....	5,229	5,958	5,839
Navel oranges .....	2	2	2
Grapefruit .....	359	351	201
Honey tangerines .....	99	85	44

This report is available, at no cost, on the NASS web site: [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). To set-up this free subscription, select Florida Crop-Weather; enter your name and your email address, click on Subscribe. This report will be sent automatically each week; or call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter the subscription for you. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Data for individual reporting stations is available at: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.