



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending May 22, 2011

No Relief from Drought

Weather Summary: No rain was reported at most Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations across the State. Stations that reported measurable amounts of precipitation showed insignificant amounts to help crops and pastures. There were spotty showers reported that provided small, but welcomed amounts of precipitation. The U.S. Drought Monitor showed that 52 percent of the State had drought ratings of Severe, Extreme, or Exceptional. Another 38 percent of the State was rated as being Abnormally Dry or having a Moderate Drought. The driest areas included the western Panhandle, Miami-Dade County north to Indian River, west to Collier County, and portions of surrounding counties. Temperatures reaching into the mid-90s were common across the State. The highest temperature reported was 98 degrees at Ocklawaha. Evening lows were in the 40s and 50s. The average temperature at major cities was at or below normal. Lake Okeechobee was about three feet below normal for this time of year. The South Florida Water Management District continued to monitor the water level and may implement water restrictions. According the Florida Department of Agriculture’s Division of Forestry, there were 20 wild fires that exceeded 100 acres across the State.

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	23	2	29	18	2	22
Short.....	38	25	46	44	18	47
Adequate	38	69	25	36	76	30
Surplus	1	4	0	2	4	1

Field Crops: The wheat harvest was almost finished in Escambia County. Some corn was in the tassel stage in Suwannee County. Potato digging continued in the Hastings area. Growers in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula were in need of rains to continue field crop plantings. Cotton planting was underway in Columbia County. In Santa Rosa County, producers were planting cotton and peanuts only in fields where the soils had adequate moisture. In Washington County, some cotton emerged and then died from lack of moisture. The drought took its toll on corn and hay crops, too. Peanut planting progress was 55 percent completed compared with 67 percent last year, and the five-year average of 53 percent. Peanut planting had virtually stopped in much of the Panhandle as producers waited for rain. Peanut planting continued in Jackson and Gadsden counties although growers continued to be concerned about the dry fields. Producers in Suwannee County were finished planting peanuts except for the fields that are double-cropped behind potatoes.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: May 22, 2011

Stage	2010	5-year average	2011
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Planted	67	53	55

Vegetables: Vegetable harvesting continued across the central and southern areas. A good supply of sweet corn continued to be harvested. Other vegetables harvested included, cantaloupe, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, onions, peas, peppers, potatoes, squash, strawberries, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, and watermelons. The supply of cherry tomatoes was

fairly light. The cantaloupe harvest was underway in Washington County with a good volume expected during the coming weeks as the season peaks. Washington County producers also harvested onions, peas, beans, squash, and cucumbers. In Lafayette County, producers harvested watermelons and potatoes. In Bradford County, growers continued to harvest squash and strawberries. In Miami-Dade County, producers planted sweet potatoes and were busy with the post-harvest clean up of tomato fields. Okra fields were fairing well.

Livestock and Pastures: Pasture and cattle conditions decreased **Statewide** from the previous week due to drought. In the **Panhandle** and **northern** areas, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most in poor to fair condition. Pastures have dried up and cattlemen were feeding hay and supplements. Hay supplies were running short for cows and horses. In the **central** and **southwestern** areas, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most in poor to fair condition. Forage production was lagging behind normal due to drought. There was improvement of pastures at a few locations that received rain recently. The cattle condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	5	6
Poor.....	9	9	25	35
Fair.....	50	63	55	50
Good.....	35	25	14	9
Excellent.....	5	2	1	0

Citrus: Temperatures dropped to the upper 50s at night and reached the mid 90s during the day for the majority of the week. Rainfall was very slight, with only one station receiving more than trace amounts. Indian River recorded 0.19 inches, with eight other stations receiving between 0.07 and 0.01 inches. Extreme drought conditions existed south and east of Lake Okeechobee, with the most severe conditions in Indian River, St Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, and parts of Collier and Hendry. Most packing houses have finished running grapefruit but a couple planned to continue with Valencia oranges for a few more weeks. Processing plants were primarily running Valencia oranges and will continue to operate through mid to late June. Grove activity included resetting new trees, young tree care, applying herbicides, hedging and topping, brush removal, and fertilizer application.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	May 8, 2011	May 15, 2011	May 22, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Navel oranges.....	2	2	1
Valencia.....	5,231	4,875	5,168
Grapefruit.....	230	141	106
Honey tangerines.....	15	6	4
Total.....	5,478	5,024	5,279

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. 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.