



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending June 12, 2011

Little Relief for Drought Stressed Crops, Drying Lake Okeechobee

Weather Summary: Florida’s producers watched the skies for evidence of the beginning of the rainy season, usually well underway in June. However, they were not rewarded with the extensive showers and cooler temperatures needed to improve growing conditions for the young crops. Eight of the 36 Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations reported more than an inch of rain. The most rainfall fell at Sebring (2.58 inches) and Carrabelle (2.13 inches). The U.S. Drought Monitor rating showed that 82 percent of the land area experienced a moderate, severe, extreme, or exceptional drought. Another 11 percent of the area was rated as being abnormally dry. Nearly the entire Panhandle was rated as being in a severe or extreme drought. The southern Peninsula area was in an extreme or exceptional drought. Months of below normal precipitation continued to deplete the water level in Lake Okeechobee. The water level was three feet below normal for this time of year, and one foot above the record low of 8.82 feet set in July 2007. The South Florida Water Management District continued to monitor the declining water level for updating decisions on water restrictions. Temperatures were normal to five degrees above normal at major cities. Daytime high temperatures were in the mid 90s with extremes of 100 degrees reported at Marianna and Quincy FAWN stations. Low temperatures were mostly in the low 60s. The Florida Department of Agriculture’s Division of Forestry reported that there were 310 wildfires that covered 283,000 acres and 44 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	35	1	30	31	0	30
Short	54	27	61	53	22	57
Adequate	11	69	9	15	74	13
Surplus	0	3	0	1	4	0

Field Crops: Across the Panhandle, emerged crops withered under the hot, dry conditions. High temperatures stressed even irrigated crops. Topsoil and subsoil moisture ratings were mostly short or very short. Many Panhandle counties had cotton, corn, and peanut acreage that was replanted or will be replanted soon. In Wakulla County, there were several hundred acres of cotton that needed to be replanted mostly due to the drought, but also partially due to deer grazing the young stands. In Dixie County, crop irrigation continued. River and pond water levels were low, and some shallow wells were dry. Cotton and peanuts were planted in dry soils with hopes that a rain will help the crops emerge and thrive. Peanut planting was 96 percent completed, the same as last year, and compares with the five-year average of 93 percent. The peanut crop condition was reported as 23 percent very poor, 30 percent poor, 38 percent fair, and 9 percent good.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending:

Stage	2010	5-year average	2011
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Planted	96	93	96

Vegetables: The harvesting of most types of spring vegetables had concluded for the season. Producers continued harvesting and marketing okra, tomatoes, and watermelons. Only light amounts of cherry tomatoes were harvested. The tomato harvest continued in Gadsden County. In Okaloosa County, leaffooted bugs and stink bugs damaged tomatoes. Also, bacterial wilt disease in tomato fields was worse due to the extreme hot temperatures that reached nearly 100 degrees. The disease pressure in melons was low due to the drought. In Flagler County the potato harvest was nearly finished. Southern Florida vegetable producers were being impacted by the water limitations due to the low water levels in Lake Okeechobee.

Livestock and Pastures: **Statewide** the pasture was in very poor to good condition, with most very poor. The cattle were in very poor to excellent condition, with most in poor to fair condition. The cattle condition deteriorated due to poor pasture conditions and high temperatures. Economical supplemental hay and commodity feeds were in short supply. In the **Panhandle** and **northern** areas, the pasture condition was very poor to good, with over half the locations in very poor or poor condition. High temperatures and dry weather continued to hamper pasture and cattle conditions with a few scattered showers giving some relief to pastures. Pastures in most areas were depleted and most livestock were being fed hay. Weaning weights will be lighter this year. Creep feeding and early weaning was being implemented in some herds to provide relief for the brood cow herd. In the **central** and **southwest** areas, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent, with most pasture in poor to fair condition. Local areas have not yet benefitted from a rain last week. The cattle condition ranged from very poor to excellent, with most in poor to 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	10	10
Poor.....	14	30	40	53
Fair.....	65	50	40	30
Good.....	18	17	9	7
Excellent.....	2	2	1	0

Citrus: Temperatures remained in the mid 60s at night and the mid 90s during the day for the majority of the week. There was moderate rainfall during the week, with 18 stations receiving some rainfall, six of them receiving an inch or more. Sebring recorded the most, with 2.58 inches. Exceptional drought conditions existed in Palm Beach and Martin counties. Extreme drought conditions existed in the southeastern portion of the State, with the most severe conditions in Indian River, St Lucie, and parts of Brevard, Collier, Highlands, Hendry, and Glades counties. Twelve packinghouses and 12 processors were still running. Processing plants were running Valencia oranges and will continue to operate through mid to late June. Grove activity last week included harvesting, resetting new trees, young tree care, applying herbicides, hedging/topping, brush removal, and fertilizer application.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	May 29, 2011	June 5, 2011	June 12, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Valencia.....	4,903	4,349	3,629
Grapefruit.....	41	15	5
Honey tangerines.....	10	0	0
Total.....	4,954	4,364	3,634

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.