



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
**FLORIDA CROP PROGRESS &
CONDITION REPORT**



In cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and the UF/IFAS Extension Service
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751 · (407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

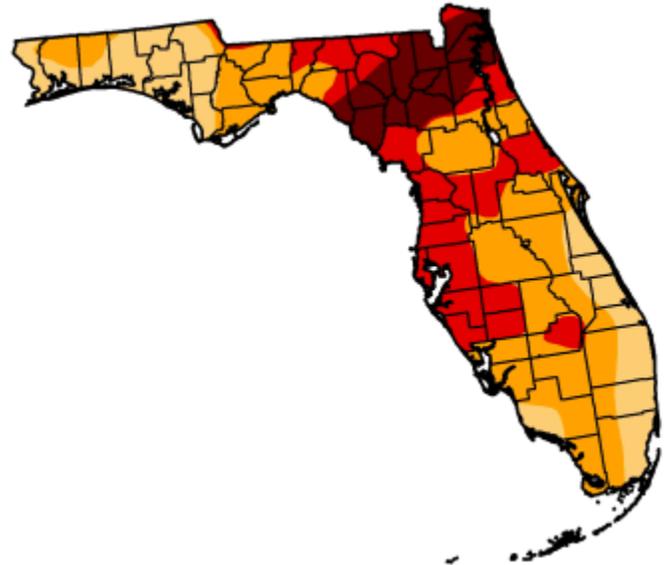
Released: April 23, 2012 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: April 22, 2012

Rains Well Received as Drought Continues

Weather Summary: This week’s rain decreased some wildfire risk and was well received by farmers. As of April 23, the Florida Forest Service reported 79 active wildfires with 14 exceeding 100 acres. Approximately 70 percent Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) Stations recorded an inch or more of rain during the week. Five of the FAWN stations received two inches or more: Homestead (4.22 in.), Citra (3.95 in.), Ocklawaha (2.52 in.), Brooksville (2.22 in.), and Hastings (2.15 in.). According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, temperatures averaged one to six degrees above normal. Drought conditions did not significantly change from the previous week with the entire State experiencing some level of drought. Topsoil moisture ratings improved with 36 percent reported as adequate or surplus compared to last week’s 21 percent. Highs were mostly in the 80s, lows in the 50s and 60s.

U.S. Drought Monitor: April 17, 2012



Intensity:



Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	29	13	21
Short	50	51	43
Adequate	21	35	35
Surplus	0	1	1

Fruits & Vegetables: Vegetable farmers irrigated due to drought. In Gadsden County, the tomato crop was in good condition. In Suwannee County, watermelons were in good condition, but harvesting had not begun. In Gulf County, cucumber and watermelon planting was underway; however, some farmers had to replant some watermelon fields. In Washington County, watermelons were ahead of schedule for an early harvest. Further south in Bradford County, squash, bell peppers, and watermelons were being planted. In Hillsborough County, cantaloupe, squash, and tomatoes were harvested. AMS market movement included: blueberries, cantaloupe, watermelon, snap beans, cabbage, sweet corn, cucumber, eggplant, okra, bell peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes. According to AMS, celery growers were finishing for the season.

Field Crops: The first report for this season’s peanut planted progress totaled 17 percent for Florida. Also in the north, cotton fields were prepared for planting. In Jackson County, cotton planting already began. In Highlands County, crops were stressed due to heat. Potato harvest continued in the Hastings area.

Peanut Progress

Stage	5-year average	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Planted	1	0	17

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most poor to fair. The low condition rating was due to drought and above normal temperatures. Cattle were being fed supplemental hay. The cattle condition was slightly lower than the previous week, with the condition ranging from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. In the **Panhandle**, pastures were in very poor to excellent condition with most in good condition. In Washington County, rain during mid-week helped pastures recover from drought stress. In the **northern** areas, the pasture and cattle conditions were mostly fair. In the **central** areas, most pastures were in poor to fair condition. In Brevard County, the water levels in many ponds used for livestock have dropped to critical levels. Pastures improved the past 10 days due to the rain. Cattle in Seminole County were being fed supplemental hay but pastures started to green-up. In the **southwestern** areas, the pasture conditions were mostly poor to fair. Rainfall helped pasture grasses. The condition of the cattle varied from very poor to good with most of the cattle 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	10
Poor.....	5	9	30	35
Fair.....	62	55	53	45
Good.....	30	33	10	9
Excellent.....	2	2	2	1

Citrus: The usual daytime high temperatures fell last week with highs reaching the upper 80s across the citrus region. Rainfall was very light across the region for most of the week with significant rain occurring towards the end of the week. All stations recorded precipitation with Citra receiving the most precipitation with 3.95 inches. Kenansville received the least with 0.38 of an inch. Drought conditions along the entire citrus region ranged from moderate on the east coast to extreme on much of the west coast. The section of severe drought in central Florida expanded. Drought conditions were as indicated by the U.S. Drought Monitor last updated April 17, 2012. The Valencia harvest continued to average over 5 million boxes weekly. Abundant fruit of various sizes were visible on trees as the new crop progressed. Harvesting and young tree care were the primary grove activities.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	Apr 2-8, 2012	Apr 9-15, 2012	Apr 16-22, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	0	0	0
Valencia.....	5,331	5,835	5,737
Navel oranges.....	2	1	2
Temples.....	1	0	0
Grapefruit.....	218	104	50
Tangerines.....	15	6	0
Total.....	5,567	5,946	5,789

To subscribe to this report, at no cost, go to the NASS website at http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp. Complete the *Subscribe to FL Reports* form, select Florida Crop-Weather and enter your first and last name and your e-mail. The drought monitor map used in this report is from the U.S. Drought Monitor website at <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu> maintained by the National Drought Mitigation Center. The precipitation and temperature data is from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) at <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.