



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
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Week Ending: April 29, 2012

Crop Planting Making Good Progress

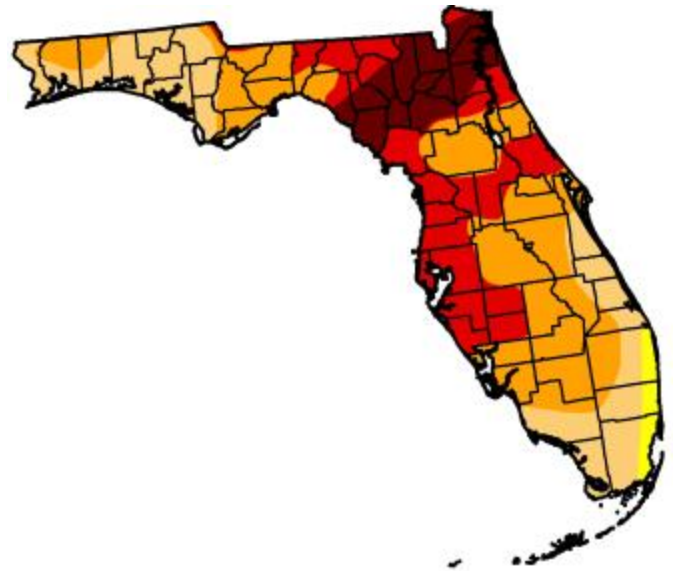
Weather Summary: Nighttime temperatures were on a roller coaster during the week with lows dipping down into the 40s and low 50s on Monday through Wednesday night before rebounding to warmer more seasonal temperatures later in the week. Weekly temperatures averaged one to five degrees below normal at major Florida cities. Weekly highs were mostly in the high 80s. The cooler temperatures helped mitigate the impact of the week's dry weather. After scattered showers at the beginning of the week, it was dry most of the rest of the week. Only four of the 36 Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations recorded more than a half inch of rainfall: Fort Lauderdale (3.38 inches), Homestead (2.28 inches), North Port (0.62 inch), and Belle Glade (0.57 inch). The entire State experienced some level of drought, but drought conditions did not significantly change from the previous week other than some area's drought rating changed from severe to moderate. The most exceptional drought is a band of land that spreads from Jacksonville southwest to the Gulf. Since January 1, the rainfall in the Daytona Beach and Jacksonville areas has been between seven and nine inches below normal. The water level at Lake Okeechobee as of April 29 was 11.68 feet compared to the average of 13.63 feet during the years 1965-2007. The fire danger remained high in many areas of the Sunshine State. There were 95 active wildfires with 12 wildfires with over 100 acres burning as of April 27.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	Current week (percent)
Very short.....	21	12	15
Short.....	43	46	50
Adequate.....	35	40	35
Surplus.....	1	2	0

Field Crops: Producers planted field crops despite dry conditions that reminded them of last year's dry spring. At week's end, 21 percent of the peanut crop had been planted. In Gulf and Washington counties, soil conditions were very dry and planting stopped until it rains again. After the cold snap early in the week,

U.S. Drought Monitor: April 24, 2012



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Jackson County producers were out in full force planting cotton and peanuts. In Gadsden and Santa Rosa counties, field preparations for planting field crops were underway. In Santa Rosa County, the temperatures dropped to the low 40s, and producers waited until it warmed up again to plant any crops. A few fields of cotton were planted. In Okaloosa County, about 40 percent of the cotton crop was planted. Wheat fields showed disease. In Columbia County it appeared that the drought had stressed the wheat crop. Preparations continued planting cotton and peanuts. In Holmes County, field preparations for planting corn continued. Producers were mowing fields in preparation for the first cutting of hay.

Peanut Progress

Stage	5-year average (percent)	Previous year (percent)	Current week (percent)
Planted.....	11	7	21

Fruits & Vegetables: Occasional high winds early in the week stressed the vine crops. The supply was light for peppers other than bell peppers, okra, and radishes. In Gilchrist County, the melon crops were maturing well and it appeared that the harvesting will begin in about another 10 days. In Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties, windy conditions were drying the soils. The tomato fields in Gadsden County appeared to be in good shape. Many of the vegetable fields were being irrigated. Harvesting of some vegetable crops was declining seasonally. A light volume of watermelons were being harvested. Blueberries were being harvested in Charlotte, Glades, and Lee counties, but the volume was very light.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, the pasture conditions ranged from very poor to excellent with most poor to fair. Pastures were short as drought continues to hold back forage growth. Winter small grain forage had ended, with feeding of hay and supplements needed to carry the cattle until the summer grasses are ready. Cows are calving and need extra nutrition. The cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most in fair to good condition. In the **Panhandle**, pastures were in very poor to excellent condition with most in fair to good condition. Pasture conditions continued low due to drought and the livestock condition suffered due to poor pasture. In the **northern** and **central** areas, most pastures were in poor to fair condition, while the cattle were in fair to good condition. In the **southwestern** areas, the pasture conditions were mostly poor to fair. Weekend rainfall helped the potential for improved pasture conditions. The condition of the cattle varied from poor to good, with most in fair to good condition.

Citrus: Temperatures remained the same with highs reaching the upper 80s across the citrus region. Rainfall was very light across the region again this week. Twelve stations recorded precipitation with North Port receiving the most at 0.62 of an inch. Belle Glade was the only other station to record more than a half-inch. Seven of the twelve recorded less than a tenth of an inch. Drought conditions along the entire citrus region ranged from moderate on the eastern coast to extreme on much of the west coast. The area of extreme drought west of Lake Okeechobee had disappeared, but the drought conditions in the remainder of the citrus area remain unchanged. Drought conditions were per the U.S. Drought Monitor; last updated April 24, 2012. The Valencia harvest was over 6 million boxes this week. Abundant fruit of various sizes were visible, as the new crop progressed. Harvesting and young tree care were the primary grove activities. Currently, 18 packinghouses and 14 processors remained open.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	Apr 9-5, 2012	Apr 16-22, 2012	Apr 23-29, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Valencia.....	5,835	5,737	6,151
Navel oranges.....	1	2	2
Grapefruit.....	104	50	8
Tangerines.....	6	0	0
Total.....	5,946	5,789	6,161

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	10	3
Poor.....	9	11	35	32
Fair.....	55	49	45	45
Good.....	33	38	9	19
Excellent.....	2	1	1	1

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