



**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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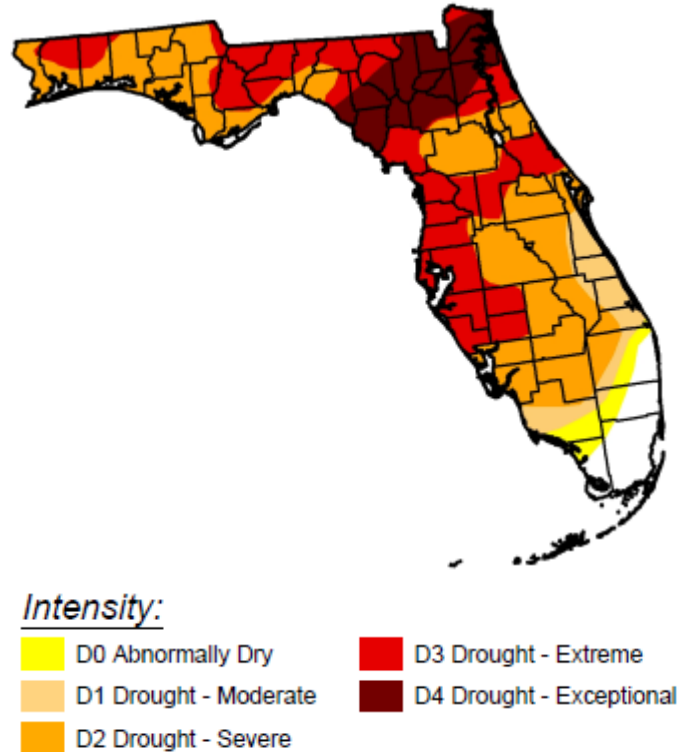
Released: May 7, 2012 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: May 6, 2012

**Crop Planting Progressing Without Many Interruptions**

**Weather Summary:** It was a generally dry week and producers continued to plant crops and harvest hay and vegetables with few interruptions. Locally, heavy showers caused producers to pause, but the rainfall was welcomed to alleviate the dry conditions. It was a hot week and temperatures climbed as the week progressed with highs reaching the low 90s. The highest temperatures were recorded at Bronson (96 degrees) and MacClenny (95 degrees). The temperatures at major cities ranged from one to eight degrees above normal except at Miami where temperatures averaged one degree below normal. Low temperatures were mostly in the low to mid 60s. Many of the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations recorded little or no rain during the week. Only four of the 36 stations recorded more than a half inch: Jay (1.38 in.), Avalon (0.74 in.), Homestead (0.64 in.), and Fort Lauderdale (0.63 in.). Rainfall accumulation recorded at major cities since March 1, 2012 was two to four inches below normal except at Miami and West Palm Beach. The latest U.S. Drought Monitor data showed much of the Sunshine State with drought except for southern counties. The most exceptional drought is a band of land that spreads from Jacksonville southwest to the Gulf. The water level at Lake Okeechobee as of May 6, 2012 was 11.61 feet compared to the average of 13.46 feet during the years 1965-2007. In St. Lucie County, surface irrigation sources were adequate, but there was concern about the future needs of the citrus and vegetable crops. The fire danger remained high in many areas of the Sunshine State. There were 90 active wildfires with 14 wildfires with over 100 acres burning as of May 4, 2012.

**U.S. Drought Monitor: May 1, 2012**



**Field Crops:** Some producers planted field crops despite dry conditions. At week's end, 40 percent of the peanut crop had been planted compared to 21 percent the previous week. In Jackson and Okaloosa counties, peanut and cotton planting was steadily moving forward. In Gadsden, Levy, and Washington counties fieldwork stopped as producers waited for more rain. In Washington County, the oat harvest was underway in some parts of the county, but many fields needed another week or two to ripen. It appeared that some wheat fields did not get enough chill hours during the winter for wheat to properly develop grain heads. Irrigated crops were doing well, but there was concern about the seed planted in soils with marginal moisture.

**Soil Moisture Ratings**

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	15	14	19
Short .....	50	44	49
Adequate .....	35	40	32
Surplus .....	0	2	0

**Peanut Progress**

Stage	5-year average	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Planted .....	24	24	40

**Fruits & Vegetables:** USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) reported market movement of snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, bell peppers and other peppers, okra, squash, and tomatoes. Potatoes were being harvested in Flagler County. In Gilchrist County the watermelon harvest continued. In Charlotte County the watermelon harvest continued and harvest of other vegetables was seasonally ending. In Miami-Dade County, the harvesting of all winter vegetables was coming to an end.

**Livestock and Pastures: Statewide,** the pasture conditions ranged from very poor to excellent with most poor to fair. Hay and supplements were fed to compensate for the poor pasture condition. The condition of the cattle ranged from poor to excellent with most in fair condition. In the **Panhandle**, pastures were in poor to good condition. Pastures in the area continued to suffer from drought and this negatively impacted the cattle condition. Spring ryegrass hay, usually fed in the winter months, was being fed now. In the **northern** areas, most pastures were in poor to good condition, while the cattle were in fair to good condition. In the **central** areas, some wells and water ponds were drying up resulting in water having to be transported to livestock. Grass was just not producing in most other pastures. In the **southwestern** areas, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most poor to fair. In Collier County, rains during the previous week helped maintain pasture conditions. Pastures in Okeechobee County were greening up. The conditions of the cattle varied 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	0	3	5
Poor.....	11	10	32	35
Fair.....	49	53	45	45
Good.....	38	35	19	14
Excellent.....	1	2	1	1

**Citrus:** Temperatures increased slightly with highs reaching the lower 90s across the citrus region. Rainfall was very light across the region again this week. Twelve stations recorded precipitation with Avalon receiving the most at 0.74 of an inch. Seven of the 12 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 drought conditions in the citrus area remain unchanged. Drought conditions were per the U.S. Drought Monitor; last updated May 01, 2012. The Valencia harvest declined from the previous week. Abundant fruit of various sizes were visible as the new crop progresses. Harvesting and young tree care were the primary grove activities at this time. Currently, 18 packinghouses and 14 processors remained open.

**Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested**

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

Crop	Apr 16-22, 2012	Apr 23-29, 2012	Apr 30-May 6, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Valencia.....	5,737	6,151	5,775
Navel oranges.....	2	2	2
Grapefruit.....	50	8	1
Tangerines.....	0	0	3
Total.....	5,789	6,161	5,781

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