



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: May 13, 2012

Field crop planting delayed due to drought

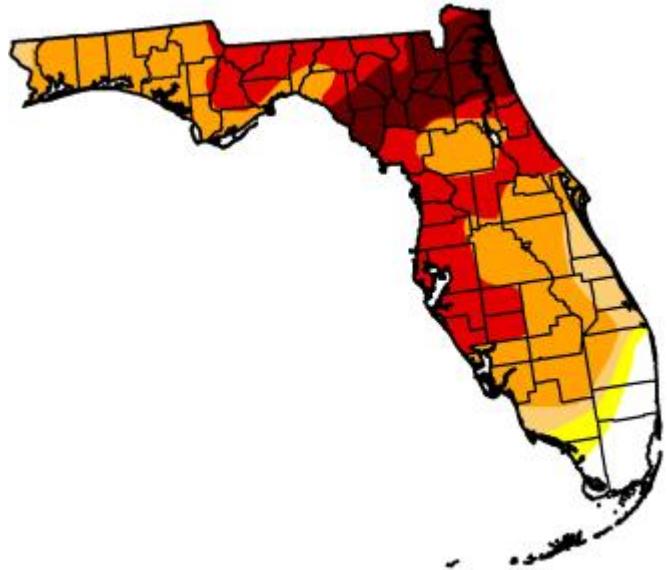
Weather Summary: Minimal showers this past week did not affect the State's overall drought conditions. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, soil moisture conditions were nearly unchanged from the previous week with 82 percent of the State experiencing severe to exceptional drought. Wildfire activity increased slightly from the previous week, with 119 active wildfires of which 14 covered 100 acres or more. Approximately one-third of the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) Stations recorded an inch or more of cumulative rain. Homestead (2.43 in.) and Quincy (2.05 in.) recorded two inches or more. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, temperatures averaged one to four degrees above normal. Topsoil moisture ratings were consistent with that of the previous week. High temperatures ranged between the mid 80s and mid 90s. Lows were in the 50s and 60s.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
Very short.....	(percent) 19	(percent) 21	(percent) 23
Short.....	49	40	42
Adequate.....	32	38	33
Surplus	0	1	2

Field Crops: Seasonal planting continued in north Florida. Recent rains allowed for farmers to continue planting peanuts and cotton. In Okaloosa County, rains may augment insect problems. In Columbia County, oats, rye, and wheat were harvested for seed, and drought delayed planting within the county. Also in Levy County, peanut planting was delayed due to lack of moisture. Peanut planting progress is currently at 55 percent. In Flagler and Putnam counties, potato harvesting continued.

U.S. Drought Monitor: May 8, 2012



Intensity:

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

Peanut Progress

Stage	5-year average	Previous year	Current week
Planted.....	(percent) 37	(percent) 31	(percent) 55

Fruits & Vegetables: Harvesting was underway in vegetable fields. In Washington County, squash was harvested. In Gadsden County, tomato crops were in good condition. In Gulf County, field peas were planted. In Hillsborough County, cantaloupe was harvested. Watermelon was harvested in Levy County. In southern Florida, watermelon growers were harvesting rapidly to meet Memorial Day holiday demands. AMS market movement included: blueberries, cantaloupe, watermelon, snap beans, sweet corn, cucumber, eggplant, okra, bell peppers, squash, and tomatoes. Radishes were finished for the season.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent. The condition decreased slightly from the previous week with drought limiting grass growth. The condition of the cattle ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. In the **Panhandle**, pastures were in very poor to good condition with most fair to good. In Jefferson, Leon, and Washington counties, rain late in the week gave pastures a temporary reprieve; however, in Santa Rosa County dry conditions impacted pastures. The cattle condition ranged from fair to good. In the **northern** areas, most pastures were in fair condition, while the cattle were in poor to excellent condition, but most were fair. In the **central** areas, the pastures ranged from very poor to good condition with most poor to fair. Drought held fast, with some wells, lakes, and stock ponds depleted in west Orange County. In the **southwestern** areas, the pasture condition was more or less evenly distributed across very poor to good. Pasture condition improved in Glades and Charlotte counties following rain showers. The condition of the cattle ranged from poor to good with most in fair condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	0	1	5	20
Poor.....	10	9	35	24
Fair.....	53	55	45	40
Good.....	35	34	14	15
Excellent	2	1	1	1

Citrus: Daily high temperatures remained about the same, reaching the lower 90s across the citrus region. Seven stations recorded more than an inch of precipitation with Palmdale receiving the most at 1.76 inches. Of the remaining eighteen stations, Balm was the only FAWN station in the citrus area to record no precipitation last week. The moderate rainfall was insufficient to alter the drought pattern. Abundant fruit of various sizes were visible as the new crop progresses. Late orange harvesting and young tree care were the primary grove activities at this time. Of the 18 processing plants still open, all except one or two are planning on finishing by the end of the month.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	Apr 23-29, 2012	Apr 30-May 6, 2012	May 7-13, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Valencia.....	6,151	5,775	5,858
Navel oranges.....	2	2	2
Grapefruit.....	8	1	3
Tangerines.....	0	3	0
Total.....	6,161	5,781	5,863

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