



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



In cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the UF/IFAS Extension Service  
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Released: May 26, 2015 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: May 24, 2015

**Spotty Rain Received, Most of State is Dry**

**Weather Summary:** According to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall ranged from no rain to 3.7 inches across the State. Defuniak Springs (Walton County) received the most rain with 3.7 inches. Rainfall for most of the State was less than one inch. Per the U.S. Drought Monitor, Florida was 88 percent drought free this past week. Temperatures ranged from 60 degrees for night time lows to 98 degrees for day time highs, across the State. The highest temperature was 98 degrees in Sebring (Highlands County). The lowest temperature in the State was 60 degrees in Defuniak Springs (Walton County) and Jay (Santa Rosa County).

**Soil Moisture Ratings**

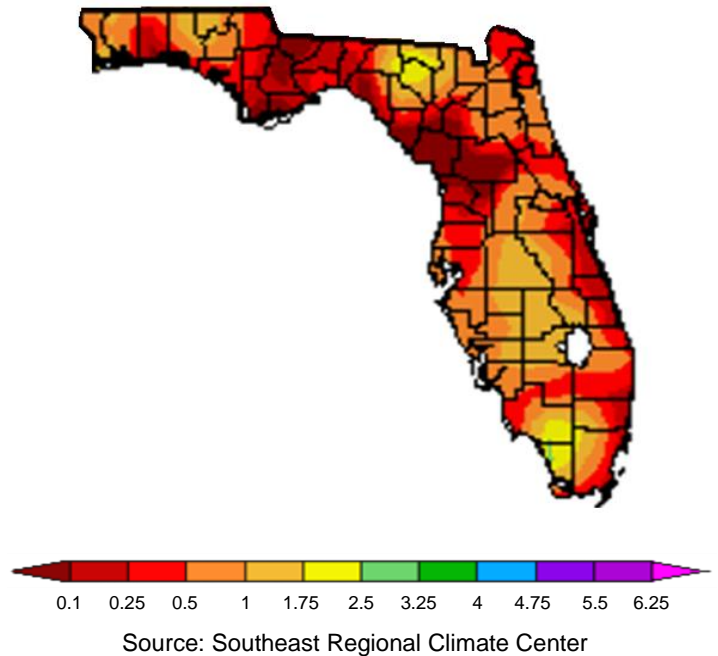
Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	2	1	1
Short .....	42	36	34
Adequate .....	53	60	60
Surplus .....	3	3	5

**Field Crops:** There was an average of 6.6 days suitable for field work this past week, the same as the previous week. Scattered rain was received across the State again this past week. Peanut planting continued in the Panhandle and north Florida but Marion County farmers had not started planting due to dry conditions. Peanuts and soybeans had emerged in Calhoun County. In Gadsden and Jefferson counties cotton also had emerged. Washington County farmers were planting cotton. Haying continued in Dixie, Pasco, Orange, and Seminole counties. Field corn harvest began in Dixie County. Rice harvest continued in Palm Beach County.

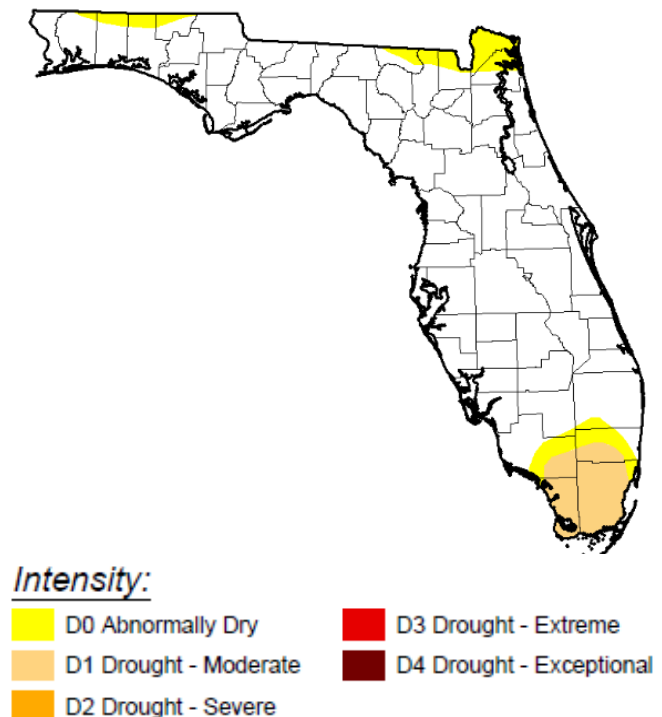
**Peanut Progress**

Stage	5-year average	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Planted .....	68	69	75

**Precipitation (in)–Florida: May 19-25, 2015**



**U.S. Drought Monitor–Florida: May 19, 2015**



**Fruit and Vegetables:** Watermelons were being harvested in Dixie, Levy, and Gilchrist counties. Potato digging started in Suwannee County. Vegetable growers in southwest Florida continued cleaning up fields and harvested the last of the watermelons, peppers, and eggplants. Sweet corn harvest was nearing its end in Palm Beach County. Crops being planted in Miami-Dade County were okra, boniato, malanga, and bitter melon. All crops in Miami-Dade County were being irrigated.

**Livestock and Pastures:** The dry conditions and high temperatures have reduced pasture quality throughout the State. Some pastures in Leon, Gadsden, Calhoun, Liberty, Gulf, Franklin, Wakulla, and Jefferson counties appeared over-grazed. Pastures in Washington County that recently received rain were improving. Statewide, the cattle condition was mostly good, while the pasture condition was fair to good.

**Cattle and Pasture Condition**

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Current week	Previous week	Current week	Previous week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	0	0	1	0
Poor.....	2	2	10	6
Fair.....	23	24	34	35
Good.....	68	67	48	52
Excellent.....	7	7	7	7

**Citrus:** High temperatures were slightly warmer than normal reaching the low to mid 90s in all citrus producing counties and as high as 98 degrees in Sebring (Highlands County). Rainfall totals were the most in the central growing area and the least in the Indian River area. Lake Alfred and Frostproof, both in Polk County, had around three inches of rainfall, while Vero Beach

(Indian River County) and St. Lucie West (St. Lucie County) both had less than one-tenth of an inch of rainfall. As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated May 19, 2015, abnormally dry conditions cover only the southern half Collier County and the southern tip of Hendry County. The remainder of the citrus area is drought free.

Weekly Valencia orange harvest reached over four million boxes, compared to 3.7 million boxes last season at this time. All other varieties were relatively finished for the season.

Field workers reported seeing irrigation running frequently. Some growers were still mowing and spraying summer oils. Hedging and topping is about finished for the season in most areas. Next season’s early oranges are about golf ball size, grapefruit are slightly larger.

**Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested**

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	May 10, 2015	May 17, 2015	May 25, 2015
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Valencia .....	4,339	4,493	4,330
White grapefruit.....	11	0	0
Colored grapefruit.....	10	1	5
Temples .....	0	0	1
Total .....	4,360	4,494	4,336

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](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp). To set-up this free subscription, send e-mail message to [listserv@newsbox.usda.gov](mailto:listserv@newsbox.usda.gov) and in the body, type “*subscribe to Florida crop weather.*” The drought monitor index used in this report originates from the U.S. Drought Monitor website. Visit <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu> maintained by the National Drought Mitigation Center. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Visit <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.