



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending April 29, 2007

DRY CONDITIONS DELAYS FIELD CROP PLANTINGS

WEATHER SUMMARY: Virtually all areas remained dry with no precipitation in most counties across the State during the week of April 23 through April 29. Pensacola recorded the most rainfall for the week with over one and half inches of rain. Jay received nearly an inch of precipitation for the week. Apopka, Marianna and Tallahassee all received around a quarter of an inch of rainfall. Wild fire danger remained high in all areas across the Peninsula. Shifting winds fueled brush fires in southern Georgia, which blew smoke into Central Florida areas over the weekend. Temperatures in the major cities averaged from normal to two degrees above normal for the week. Daytime highs were in 80s and 90s. Nighttime lows were in the 40s, 50s, and 60s.

FIELD CROPS: Some growers in Jackson County have delayed cotton and corn planting due to continued drought conditions. Peanut planting has started in Jackson County with growers needing ample rains. Peanuts are 5 percent planted compared with 4 percent by this date last year and the five-year average of 7 percent. Growers in Marion and Levy counties are expected to begin planting next week. Soil moisture supplies in the Panhandle were rated mostly very short to short. Over the northern Peninsula, including the Big Bend area, soil moisture was rated very short to short with some pockets of adequate supplies. For the central and southern Peninsula, soil moisture was rated very short to short. Hernando and Marion counties reported short to adequate soil moisture supplies.

Percentage of peanuts planted to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
5	4	7

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	45	40	42	38	35	35
Short	51	49	29	59	55	40
Adequate	4	11	29	3	10	22
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	3

VEGETABLES: Dry, clear conditions allowed harvesting to proceed on schedule. Cantaloupe cutting was underway with light amounts available. Growers in Hernando County reported problems with thrips damage on mature blueberries as well as birds eating berries. Cabbage cutting continued to slow as the season winds down. Growers marketed snap beans, blueberries, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, greens, lettuce, parsley, peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, and watermelons.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: The pasture condition is mostly poor to fair throughout the State due to drought. In the Panhandle and northern areas, there is little livestock feed (hay and pasture) as winter small grain for grazing dwindles and permanent pasture is slow to begin growth due to drought. Those who have irrigation are using it round the clock. Forage is short, and water holes are low or dry. Cattlemen are feeding hay again. In the central areas, pasture condition is poor to fair, and in the southwest areas, pasture condition is very poor to fair. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from .very poor to excellent, with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	0	20	15
Poor	25	25	30	35
Fair	64	40	45	49
Good	5	35	5	1
Excellent	1	0	0	0

CITRUS: Only the northernmost citrus area received rainfall for the week, at just under a quarter of an inch. The lack of rainfall is beginning to show in some groves. Canal and lake levels are receding. Also, the dry weather is causing stress on the trees and accelerating the decline of damaged and unhealthy groves. Next years crop is on the trees and growers are doing their best to keep the trees healthy, so they can accommodate the new fruit. Some growers in the southwest area of the State are struggling to do so with water restrictions cutting back their usage by up to 45 percent. Valencia harvest is over five million boxes a week, with quality improving as the season progresses. Grapefruit harvest has dropped below one million boxes a week, with about three-fourths going to processing. Some east coast packinghouses have closed for the season, or are planning on closing this week. Honey tangerine harvest has dropped to less than one hundred thousand boxes per week. Caretakers are hedging, topping, and applying post bloom nutritional sprays. Extensive irrigation is being reported across the State. Resetting is taking place where there is an availability of trees.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Apr 15	Apr 22	Apr 29
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	2	1	2
Early and Mid oranges	8	8	12
Valencia	4,862	5,088	5,398
Grapefruit	999	1,071	683
Honey Tangerines	98	90	72
Temples	1	0	1

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