



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
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751 · (407) 648-6013 · (855) 271-9801 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

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Week Ending: April 12, 2015

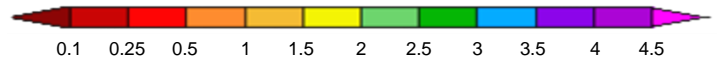
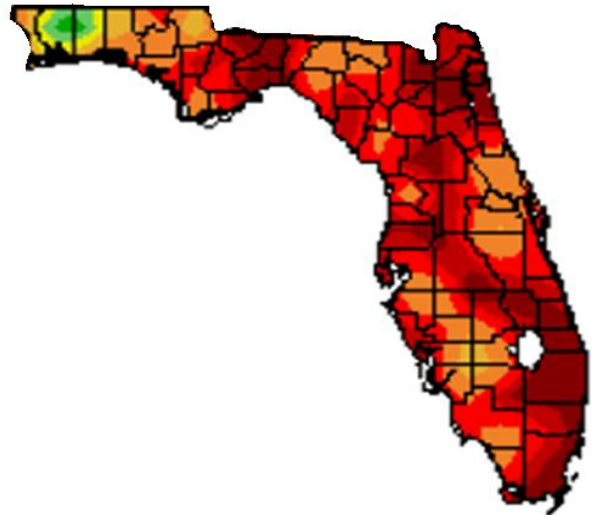
Planting Continues

Weather Summary: According to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall ranged from no rain to 3.79 inches across the State. Palmdale (Glades County) received the most rain with 3.79 inches. Per the U.S. Drought Monitor, Florida was 65 percent drought free this past week. Temperatures ranged from 59 degrees for night time lows to 93 degrees for day time highs, across the State. The highest temperature was 93 degrees in Immokalee (Collier County) and Avalon (Orange County). The lowest temperature in the State was 59 degrees in Joshua (De Soto County), Kenansville (Osceola County), and St. Lucie West (St. Lucie County).

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	0	0	0
Short	44	39	20
Adequate	51	58	75
Surplus	5	3	5

Precipitation (in)–Florida: April 6-12, 2015

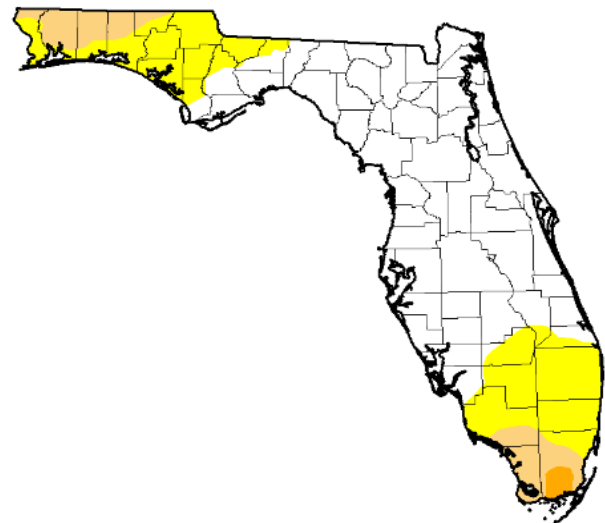


Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

U.S. Drought Monitor–Florida: April 7, 2015

Field Crops: There was an average of 6.5 days suitable for field work this past week, down slightly from 6.6 days in the previous week. The Panhandle received some rain this past weekend. Planting of corn continued in Walton and Dixie counties and was finished in Levy County. The corn in Gilchrist County was 12 inches tall. Levy County farmers were 40-45 percent done with planting peanuts.

Fruit and Vegetables: Leafy greens, watermelon, and early potatoes were planted in Flagler and Putnam counties this past week. Melons in Gilchrist County were looking good. Southwest Florida received a trace of rain to 1.5 inches. Blueberries were harvested in Charlotte and Glades counties and peaches were harvested in Charlotte County. Collier and Hendry counties had their first watermelons coming to market. Vegetables harvested in Miami-Dade County were green and pole beans, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, sweet corn, herbs, bitter melon, avocado, and other tropical fruits.



Intensity:

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

Livestock and Pastures: Cool season forages in the Panhandle were beginning to show drought stress in fields where no rain was received. Pasture quality in southwest Florida showed improvement in locations that did receive rain this past week. Statewide, the cattle condition was mostly good, while the winter forage and pasture condition was poor to good.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Current week	Previous week	Current week	Previous week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor	1	1	0	0
Poor	5	5	19	21
Fair	33	33	37	36
Good	54	55	41	40
Excellent	7	6	3	3

Citrus: Daily temperatures were about three to five degrees above average all week, reaching the mid. 80s to low 90s each day. Minimum nighttime and early morning temperatures were mostly in the 60s. Rainfall came only on the weekend, with totals the highest in the southern and central citrus production areas. Palmdale (Glades County) had 3.79 inches of rainfall. Sebring (Highlands County) had 2.48 inches of rainfall. As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated April 7, 2015, abnormally dry conditions cover Collier county, Hendry county, most of Glades county, and the southern portion of Okeechobee and Martin counties.

Valencia weekly preliminary utilization was running less than last season’s actual utilization by more than one million boxes, primarily due to a decreased availability of mature fruit for harvesting. Valencia oranges and grapefruit were the only varieties being harvested in significant amounts. All other varieties were finished, or were close to an end.

Most grove owners were still irrigating several times a week; some were applying herbicides and mowing. Field workers reported various methods of combating greening and controlling psyllid population, including tenting, steam treatment and spraying. Citrus tree bloom was over and petals were turning brown or have fallen from the trees. Small pea size fruit and larger for next season’s crop was apparent on all varieties.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	March 29, 2015	April 5, 2015	April 12, 2015
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges	10	1	0
Temples	26	6	4
Navel oranges	1	1	1
Valencia	3,839	3,361	3,587
White grapefruit	169	273	399
Colored grapefruit	310	221	152
Tangelos	1	0	1
Honey Tangerines	39	21	20
Total	4,395	3,884	4,164

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. To set-up this free subscription, send e-mail message to 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.