



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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Week Ending: April 26, 2015

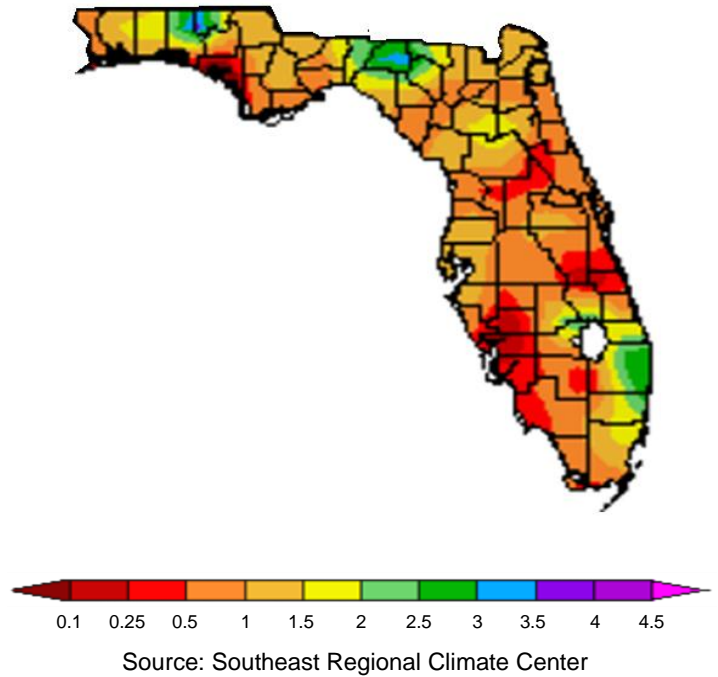
Busy Time for Farmers

Weather Summary: According to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall ranged from no rain to 2.89 inches across the State. Jay (Santa Rosa County) received the most rain with 2.89 inches. Per the U.S. Drought Monitor, Florida was 85 percent drought free this past week. Temperatures ranged from 52 degrees for night time lows to 96 degrees for day time highs, across the State. The highest temperature was 96 degrees in Fort Lauderdale (Broward County). The lowest temperature in the State was 52 degrees in Defuniak Springs (Walton County).

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	0	0	0
Short	16	22	23
Adequate	75	67	71
Surplus	9	11	6

Precipitation (in)–Florida: April 20-26, 2015

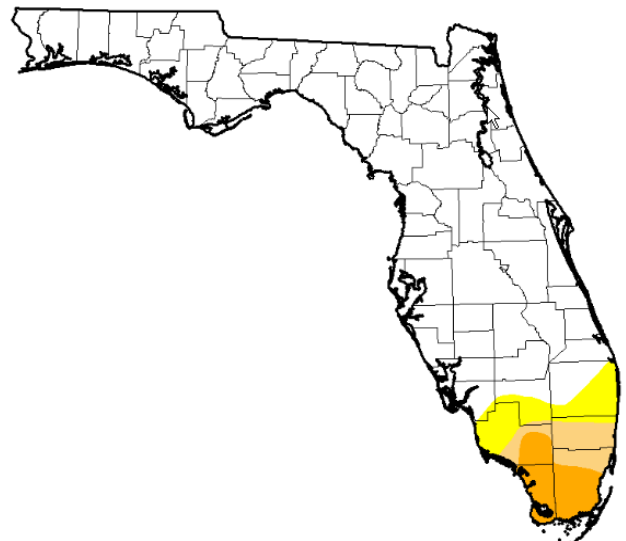


Field Crops: There was an average of 6 days suitable for field work this past week, up from 5.6 days in the previous week. Fields in Gadsden and Jackson counties were still too wet for planting this past week. Some field corn was planted in Walton County but no peanuts had been planted yet. In Washington County, cotton and peanut planting increased but then stopped on Saturday due to more rain. Field corn planting was completed in Hamilton and Gilchrist counties.

Peanut Progress

Stage	5-year average	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Planted	7	9	5

U.S. Drought Monitor–Florida: April 21, 2015



Intensity:

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

Fruit and Vegetables: Strawberry harvest began in Okaloosa County this past week. Carrots were harvested in Hamilton County. Also being harvested were cabbage, potatoes, and leafy greens in Flagler and Putnam counties. Farmers in Dixie County were planting green beans, cantaloupes, and watermelon. Vegetables

harvested in southwest Florida were cantaloupe, collards, cucumbers, kale, peppers, squash, Swiss chard, tomatoes, and watermelons. The higher temperatures have contributed to a quick end and shortened leafy greens season in south Florida. Blueberries and peaches continued to go to market.

Livestock and Pastures: In the Panhandle and south Florida, cattle and pasture condition were improving with rain received. Ranchers with excess grazing were harvesting cool season forages as hay or haylage. But ranchers in Flagler County were delayed in cutting hay due to frequent rain. 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	0	1	0	0
Poor	4	5	9	13
Fair	26	30	34	39
Good	63	57	51	44
Excellent	7	7	6	4

Citrus: Daily high temperatures were relatively warm all week, reaching the high 80s to low 90s on most days. Minimum nighttime and early morning temperatures were mostly in the upper 60s. Almost all counties in the citrus growing region had sufficient rain. Of the seventeen monitored stations, seven had more than an inch, and an additional seven had a half-an-inch or greater. As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated April 21, 2015, abnormally dry conditions have receded and now cover only Collier County, and the southern portion of Hendry County. The remainder of the citrus area is drought free.

Valencia weekly preliminary utilization was over four million boxes, but is still far less than last season's

weekly utilization at this time of the season. Only Valencia oranges had a significant amount of fruit harvested for the fresh market. All the white grapefruit that was harvested went to processing plants. All other varieties were finished or winding down for the season.

Most grove owners were irrigating to keep water in the ground and on the trees; field workers observed an abundance of spraying, and some hedging and topping. Various stages of fruit for next season's crop, from pea size to marble size, were apparent on later varieties. Fruit for next season's crop on early oranges and grapefruit in many cases is quarter size and larger.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	April 12, 2015	April 19, 2015	April 26, 2015
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges	0	2	0
Temples	4	2	0
Navel oranges	1	2	1
Valencia	3,587	4,074	4,048
White grapefruit	399	250	173
Colored grapefruit	152	85	35
Tangelos	1	0	1
Honey Tangerines	20	13	3
Total	4,164	4,428	4,261

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.