



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

Week ending April 4, 2010

Rain in Southern Peninsula, Drying in Panhandle

Weather Summary: High temperatures last week ranged from the mid-70s to the upper 80s. Night time low temperatures were mostly in the 40s, with a few locations in the lower 50s. In the major cities, temperatures averaged from normal to 4 degrees below normal. Rain was recorded at all Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations in the Peninsula, but the Panhandle was mostly dry. The heaviest precipitation amounts were in the central and southern regions. Collier, Desoto, Osceola, and Polk counties all collected 1.53 inches or more of rainfall. Soil moisture levels were mostly adequate to surplus.

Soil Moisture Ratings

| Moisture Rating | Topsoil | | | Subsoil | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Previous week | Previous year | Current week | Previous week | Previous year | Current week |
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short | 0 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| Short..... | 2 | 43 | 6 | 3 | 46 | 4 |
| Adequate | 60 | 26 | 79 | 55 | 28 | 77 |
| Surplus | 38 | 12 | 15 | 42 | 9 | 19 |

Field Crops: Drier conditions in the Panhandle allowed field preparations and planting to proceed at a rapid pace. Corn planting in the Panhandle was winding down and growers were busy preparing fields for peanuts, cotton, and soybeans. Tobacco was being planted in Columbia County. The condition of the potatoes in the Hastings area varied by location; those on drier ground looked good, but growth progress and condition on wetter fields was very poor. In the south, sugarcane harvest will finish at the end of the month, only one mill remained open. Beans, sweet potatoes (boniato), and okra were planted in Miami-Dade County.

Vegetables: Vegetable growers in the southern counties reported near ideal growing conditions last week; however crops were two to three weeks behind schedule from previous freezes and prolonged cold conditions. Tomato growers reported a major outbreak of bacterial speck in Lee and Hendry counties. Spring vegetable planting in the Panhandle and northern counties neared completion. Young plants benefitted from warmer and drier conditions. Snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, strawberries, and tomatoes moved through the market last week with movement below normal.

Floriculture and Nursery: Nursery and greenhouse operations were still waiting on freeze-damaged crops to green up so that freeze loss can be fully assessed. Damage appears to be heavy in some locations. Losses to fern growers varied by location, some reported minor losses while others had extensive damage, ranging up to 70 percent.

Livestock and Pastures: Seasonal temperatures and longer days have prompted summer pasture to green up. In the Panhandle area, the pasture condition was very poor to excellent with most fair. Pasture was recovering from the cold and wet conditions of February and March. Winter forage growth decreased while clover grew well. Below normal night-time temperatures inhibited pasture growth. In the northern areas, pastures started to green up but night temperatures were too cool for good growth. Hay feeding continued. The cattle condition was mostly fair to good. In the central areas, the pasture condition was very poor to good with most poor to fair. Hay stocks were low. Protein and hay supplements were being fed. Pasture was slowly emerging from winter dormancy. Most cattle were in poor to fair condition. In the southwestern areas, the pasture condition was very poor to good with most poor to fair due to cold weather. Rain and warmer temperatures greened up pasture and grass began to grow. Some pasture had standing water from recent rain. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was very poor to excellent with most fair to good.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

| Condition | Cattle | | Pasture | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Previous week | Current week | Previous week | Current week |
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very poor..... | 5 | 3 | 10 | 9 |
| Poor | 15 | 15 | 35 | 30 |
| Fair..... | 50 | 45 | 35 | 40 |
| Good | 25 | 35 | 20 | 20 |
| Excellent | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 |

Citrus: Highs this week were in the lower to mid 80s, with early morning lows in the mid to upper 40s. Immokalee received the most rainfall for the week at 2.19 inches and Clewiston received the least at 0.04 inches. Most packinghouses remained open. Varieties being packed included Temples, Valencia, white and colored grapefruit, and Honey tangerines. Fifteen processors were open and accepting fruit. Valencia oranges and grapefruit comprised the majority of fruit going to the plants. Grove activity included harvesting, mowing, psyllid treatment, hedging and topping, brush removal, fertilizer application, and ditch cleaning. All varieties experienced widespread full bloom last week.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

| Crop | March 21, 2010 | March 28, 2010 | April 4, 2010 |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | (boxes) | (boxes) | (boxes) |
| Early and mid oranges..... | 45 | 0 | 10 |
| Temples | 64 | 65 | 26 |
| Valencia | 2,374 | 3,370 | 3,689 |
| Navel oranges | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Grapefruit | 1,059 | 975 | 802 |
| Tangelos | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Honey tangerines | 124 | 137 | 113 |

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, select Florida Crop-Weather; enter your name and your email address, click on Subscribe. This report will be sent automatically each week; or call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter the subscription for you. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Data for individual reporting stations is available at: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.