



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending February 25, 2007

ANOTHER WEEK OF COLD TEMPERATURES

WEATHER SUMMARY: Clear conditions allowed field work to progress at a normal pace throughout the week of February 19 through 25. Most areas received no measurable rain for the week. The danger for wildfire remains high across the Peninsula areas. Jay and Pensacola received over a quarter of an inch of rainfall. Most areas experienced some frosts and hard freezes during the week. Temperatures in the major stations were three to five degrees below normal to one degree above normal in Pensacola. Daytime temperatures were in the 60s, 70s, and 80s. Nighttime lows were in the 30s, 40s, and 50s with some areas experiencing at least one low in the 20s.

FIELD CROPS: Near freezing temperatures in the Glades area caused some freeze damage to the leaves of sugarcane. Most of the mature cane was unaffected by the cold temperatures with producers still expecting to process the cane that was minimally damaged. Sugarcane harvesting continued in the Everglades region. Both topsoil and subsoil moisture in the Panhandle is mostly short to adequate. Soil moisture supplies in the northern Peninsula were rated mostly short to adequate with a few pockets of very short supplies. Areas in the central Peninsula had mostly short to adequate soil moisture supplies for the week. Very short to short soil moisture supplies were reported for the southern Peninsula.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last Week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	34	16	4	14	16	5
Short	33	26	38	31	29	16
Adequate	33	55	46	55	51	73
Surplus	0	3	12	0	4	6

VEGETABLES: Mostly dry weather allowed planting and harvest to proceed on schedule. Producers used freeze covers and overhead irrigation to protect most vegetables from the cold. The cold weather did not cause any significant damage to vegetable fields last week. Strawberry growers continue to prepare for the annual festival in Plant City which begins in early March. Cabbage harvesting is gaining momentum as the St. Patrick's Day holiday draws near. Producers marketed snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle areas, pasture condition is very poor to good with most very poor. Water levels in stock ponds are up, but not overflowing. In the northern areas, pasture condition is very poor to fair with the poor condition due to drought and cold. Cattle are in fair condition. The winter graze and clovers are not growing. In the central areas, pasture condition varies from poor to fair with most poor. Pasture grass is dead due to the extreme cold weather of the past two weeks. The poor forage is hurting the condition of the cattle. In the southwest areas, pasture condition is very poor to fair with most in poor condition. Statewide, cattle condition is mostly fair.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	5	10	5
Poor	10	5	35	30
Fair	75	70	50	35
Good	10	15	5	25
Excellent	0	5	0	5

CITRUS: Temperatures progressively increased during the week, reaching the high 70s to low 80s in all areas by the weekend. Moderately cool nights held back the bloom temporarily, except for the extreme south where the warm weather caused limited bloom buds to begin popping out. Cultural practices in anticipation of bloom are continuing in all areas including fertilizing and hedging following harvest. Applications of pesticide are also being sprayed in all areas. Rainfall for the week was nominal in the complete citrus region. The east coast is extremely dry, with only one tenth of an inch of rainfall recorded for the month. Harvest on early and midseason oranges is down for the second week, with some processors no longer running the earlier varieties due to lack of available fruit. Navel orange harvesting, a primarily fresh variety, is virtually over for the season. Grapefruit harvest remains at about a million boxes a week, with roughly half of the crop remaining. White grapefruit is primarily going to processing, while colored grapefruit is being harvested equally for the fresh market. Honey tangerine harvesting is increasing, running over a hundred thousand boxes per week.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Feb 11	Feb 18	Feb 25
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	8	6	5
Early and Mid oranges	4,273	2,584	2,012
Valencia	10	47	730
Grapefruit	1,426	954	1,195
Sunburst Tangerines	0	1	6
Tangelos	33	26	5
Honey Tangerines	114	123	149
Temples	41	43	56

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