

Weather Crop Report

DRY WEATHER KEEPS FIELD ACTIVITIES ON SCHEDULE

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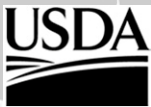
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WEATHER SUMMARY: Clear, dry conditions allowed field work to progress at a normal pace during the week of March 13 through 20. Most localities recorded no rainfall or only traces with areas in the central and southern Peninsula still at high risk for potential wild fires. MacClenny received over a quarter of an inch of rainfall and Alachua recorded the most precipitation with over half an inch. Temperatures averaged from two to four degrees above normal in the major stations. Daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s. Pleasant nighttime temperatures were in the 40s, 50s and 60s. Some areas in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula recorded at least one chilling evening low in the 30s.

FIELD CROPS: Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies continue to be depleted due to the lack of rain in most localities. Rains are needed to aid soil moisture across the State. Soil moisture supplies are mostly short to adequate with pockets of very short supplies across the State. Field preparation for spring planting continued in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas. Sugarcane harvesting is winding down with most of the mills finished for the season. Corn planting has begun on irrigated acreage in Washington County.

| Moisture Rating | Topsoil | | | Subsoil | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | This week | Last week | Last year | This week | Last week | Last Year |
| | <i>Percent</i> | | | | | |
| Very short | 17 | 10 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 1 |
| Short | 45 | 45 | 4 | 42 | 25 | 10 |
| Adequate | 38 | 45 | 79 | 50 | 70 | 74 |
| Surplus | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 15 |

VEGETABLES: Mild conditions throughout the week allowed planting and harvesting to remain on schedule. Producers marketed snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries and tomatoes.



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LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, pasture condition was poor to excellent. Most of the cattle were in good condition. In the northern areas, pasture condition was mostly fair. Warm season pasture has started to green up. Grass growth is slow due to cold night temperatures. Pastures in the Big Bend area were in fair condition due to drought. In the southwest, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in good condition. Drought is limiting grass growth. Cattle condition was mostly good. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from poor to good condition with most in good condition

| Condition | Cattle | | Pasture | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | This week | Last week | This week | Last week |
| <i>Percent</i> | | | | |
| Very poor | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Poor | 5 | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| Fair | 35 | 40 | 60 | 45 |
| Good | 60 | 50 | 25 | 30 |
| Excellent | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |

CITRUS: Daytime temperatures reached the high 70s to mid 80s several days in all areas. Rainfall was nominal in all citrus growing areas, except Immokalee at just under two-tenths of an inch. Most areas are very dry forcing citrus growers and caretakers to irrigate on a rotating basis in order to ensure good tree condition during the current bloom cycle. Many of the Valencia and grapefruit trees are in full bloom with other varieties following behind. Topping and hedging has slowed down; however, fertilizing and spraying programs are active following harvest, along with chopping and discing cover crops for fire protection. Early midseason harvest is winding down rapidly. Valencia harvesting is picking up; however, acids are still higher than normal for this time of year. About six processing plants ran this past week, with two or three more planning to open within a week or so. Grapefruit harvest has held strong the last few weeks with a larger proportion going to processing. Honey tangerines being picked for the fresh market have increased, while the majority of Temples being picked are going to processing.

| ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| Crop | Mar 05 | Mar 12 | Mar 19 |
| <i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i> | | | |
| Navel oranges | 27 | 11 | 6 |
| Early and Mid oranges | 3,104 | 2,570 | 1,132 |
| Valencia | 301 | 906 | 1,922 |
| Grapefruit | 961 | 1,003 | 939 |
| Honey Tangerines | 132 | 140 | 142 |
| Tangelos | 49 | 8 | 3 |
| Temples | 36 | 24 | 54 |

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