



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending March 4, 2007

## GROWERS WELCOMED SHOWERS

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Welcomed rain fell in several areas during the week of February 26 through March 4. Rainfall totaled from less than a tenth of an inch at Orlando to two and half inches at MacClenny. Over one inch of precipitation fell last week at Bronson, Brooksville, Citra, Marianna, Miami, Pensacola, Putnam Hall, Quincy, and Tallahassee. Several areas received over a half an inch of precipitation. There were some wild land fires during the week due to persisting drought conditions. The danger for wildfire remains high across the Peninsula areas. Temperatures for the week averaged from 3 to 8 degrees above normal. Daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s while nighttime lows were in the 40s, 50s, and 60s. Jay, Live Oak, Marianna, and Quincy recorded at least one nighttime low in the 30s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Sugarcane harvesting continued in the Lake Okeechobee area. Despite showers last week topsoil and subsoil moisture remains mostly short. Significant rains are needed to elevate soil moisture supplies especially in the central and southern Peninsula areas. Soil moisture supplies in the Panhandle were short to mostly adequate. Topsoil moisture supplies are rated short to adequate in the northern Peninsula. Areas throughout the central and southern Peninsula had mostly very short soil moisture with a few pockets of adequate supplies. Marion County reported adequate to surplus soil moisture.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	39	34	1	19	14	2
Short	36	33	27	51	31	24
Adequate	25	33	71	29	55	74
Surplus	0	0	1	1	0	0

**VEGETABLES:** Rainfall caused few interruptions in planting and harvesting, with most on schedule. Cabbage cutting around Hastings and other areas is increasing as growers begin to meet the St. Patrick's holiday demand. Potato digging is active in the Hastings region. Other vegetables and non-citrus fruit available included snap beans, 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 fair due to cold and drought. Ranchers are feeding hay but supplies from last season are short. Winter forage is not abundant, but sufficient to get to early greening of permanent pastures barring a hard freeze. Pasture is overgrazed in most areas. In the northern areas, pasture condition is poor to fair. The condition of cows and pasture is really poor. In the central areas, pasture condition varies from very poor to good. Warmer temperatures have initiated pasture growth once again. In the southwest area, pasture condition is very poor to fair with most in poor condition. Statewide, cattle condition is poor to good with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	5	15	10
Poor	10	10	50	35
Fair	65	75	30	50
Good	25	10	5	5
Excellent	0	0	0	0

**CITRUS:** Daytime temperatures in the citrus producing region were above average for the week, reaching the mid to high 80s in several areas. The warm temperatures have spawned bloom in many citrus groves. Bloom is being reported in various stages, from beginning of bloom buds to pea-size fruit. A more complete bloom is expected in the next couple weeks. Many of the groves are being hedged and topped, with tree maintenance this time of year a top priority, in preparation for next year's crop. Applications of pesticides and nematicides are being applied to the trees. Rainfall for the week ranged from no rain to less than a half an inch. The east coast and the southern areas are still very dry and needing precipitation. Harvest on early and midseason oranges is dropping with some processors getting ready for the grapefruit and later variety oranges. Grapefruit harvest has been increasing for several weeks. The quality of grapefruit continues to be very good with a majority of colored going to fresh. Honey tangerine harvesting is increasing, running between one and two hundred thousand boxes per week.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Feb 18	Feb 25	Mar 04
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	6	5	4
Early and Mid oranges	2,584	2,012	728
Valencia	47	730	1,099
Grapefruit	954	1,195	1,612
Sunburst Tangerines	1	6	1
Tangelos	26	5	4
Honey Tangerines	123	149	139
Temples	43	56	138

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