



# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending February 17, 2008

## MILD DAYS, MILD NIGHTS AND HEAVY SHOWERS

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** A cold front passed through the State early in the week and caused thunderstorms, high winds, and heavy rainfall in some areas. However, temperatures began to rise towards the end of the week. Major city temperatures averaged highs in the 60s, 70s, and 80s; lows ranged from the 20s to the 60s. Daytime temperatures reached highs in the 70s and 80s with lows in the 20s, 30s, 40s, and 50s. Broward County, in the southern Peninsula, received more than three inches of rain while parts of the central Peninsula, Panhandle, and southern Peninsula received between one and two inches of rain. Measured precipitation ranged below an inch throughout the remainder of the State.

**FIELD CROPS:** Potato growers continued spring planting in central Florida with the majority of acreage completed. Recent rains improved soil moisture. Surplus soil moisture was reported in areas of the Panhandle, Okaloosa, and Holmes counties. Soil moisture was short to adequate in the remainder of the Panhandle. Mostly short topsoil moisture and adequate subsoil moisture was reported in the central Peninsula.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	1	18	15	11	12	15
Short	29	38	28	31	36	32
Adequate	63	44	54	56	48	49
Surplus	7	0	3	2	4	4

**VEGETABLES:** Heavy rains in parts of the Panhandle caused delays in early spring field preparation. Crops looked good in Florida City. Harvesting and packing of beans, corn, squash, and tomatoes continued. Harvesting of collards, cabbage, kale, and peppers continued in Fort Myers. Area growers in Palatka continued harvesting and packing cabbage. The demand for strawberries continued to be good and volume was rising in Plant City; peppers were planted and should be ready for harvest next month. Winter vegetables continued to be harvested in Pompano in the southern Peninsula. Strawberry harvest in Starke was reported to be light. Other crops marketed throughout the week: cucumbers, eggplant, celery, sweet corn, endive, escarole, and radishes.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle and northern areas, grazing was slightly improved but most pasture condition was very poor to good. Temperatures were down to freezing with drought and limited forage growth. Winter grazing was disappearing rapidly and hay was in short supply. The condition of the cattle was very poor to good with most in fair condition. In central areas, pasture condition was very poor to good. Lingering effects of a prolonged drought and near freezing temperatures limited forage growth. The cattle condition was poor to good with most in fair condition. In the southwestern areas, pasture was very poor to excellent with most poor to fair. Due to the drought and the January frost, pastures are very short. Statewide, the cattle condition was very poor to good with most fair to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	5	5	10	10
Poor	10	10	35	30
Fair	50	45	40	45
Good	35	40	14	14
Excellent	0	0	1	1

**CITRUS:** February rainfall still remains below the 10-year historical average. Rainfall associated with a cold front mid-week was recorded in most areas with heaviest amounts in the Immokalee and Sebring areas. Amounts included over two inches in Immokalee but only three tenths in Lake Alfred. Morning lows following the front were in the mid to high 30s with light scattered frost reported in some northern and central areas. By Friday, temperatures were on the rise once again. The past week still had temperatures ranging from lows in the 30s to highs in the low 80s in most citrus-producing areas. New growth flush and bloom is still negligible. Early fertilizer applications have begun with continued irrigation to prepare for a possible early season bloom. Systemic pesticide applications continue during this period to promote healthier trees for better crop set. Spraying, both ground and air, also continued for Psyllid reduction. Hedging, topping, and clean up follow behind most harvesting efforts. Varieties being harvested included early, midseason, Navel, Temple, and small amounts of Valencia oranges; grapefruit; Sunburst and Honey tangerines; and tangelos.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Feb 03	Feb 10	Feb 17
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and Mid oranges	5,452	5,347	4,769
Navel oranges	45	29	19
Temples	30	27	24
Valencia oranges	0	0	1
Grapefruit	729	977	954
Sunburst tangerines	10	8	1
Honey tangerines	112	133	93
Tangelos	88	91	44

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