



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending April 20, 2008

## WARM DAYS, COOL EVENINGS WITH MINIMAL RAIN

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Cool temperatures slowed plant germination and growth during the week of April 14 through 20. Temperatures averaged five to nine degrees below normal in the major cities. Daytime highs were mostly in the mid to high 80s while nighttime lows were in the 30s and 40s. Alachua, Baker, Putnam, Santa Rosa, and Gadsden reported at least one low in the lower 30s. In Gadsden County, strong winds were also reported as dry weather prevailed. Rainfall for the week ranged from none in most areas of the Peninsula localities to a little over an inch in Santa Rosa. Dry weather prevailed during the week and the threat of wildfire remained high in some areas. Suwannee County had a late frost at the middle of the week.

**FIELD CROPS:** The potato harvest was underway in St Johns County with most fields reported as yielding a good crop. The cool, dry weather had most growers irrigating the later maturing crops. In Gadsden County, spring planting continued uninterrupted. Topsoil and subsoil moisture were mostly short to adequate across the State.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	2	1	40	3	1	38
Short	44	22	48	53	18	51
Adequate	52	76	12	44	76	11
Surplus	2	1	0	0	5	0

**VEGETABLES:** In Suwannee County, a late frost mid-week had some negative impact on vegetables. Harvesting of spring crops continued in areas of the southern Peninsula. Light cantaloupe harvest expected to begin in south Florida. Other vegetables and non-citrus fruit marketed during the week included snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, greens, okra, peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, and watermelons.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Pasture was hurt by a cold snap and growth has been slow due to cool temperatures. Some damage to clover from clover mites. The condition of cattle was mostly fair. In central areas, pasture condition was poor to good with most in poor condition. Forage growth has been slow due to cold weather. Fertilizer applied to many pastures has been limited by the increased cost of fertilizer. The cattle were in very poor to good condition. In the southwestern areas, pasture was very poor to excellent with most in poor condition. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to good with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	10	5	15	5
Poor	30	10	35	10
Fair	30	50	25	45
Good	25	35	20	38
Excellent	5	0	5	2

**CITRUS:** A cool front moved across the State early in the week, dropping lows in citrus producing counties to the 40s at night and 60s during the day. After warming back up during the week, highs reached the lower to mid-80s over the weekend. Isolated rainfall was recorded only in the central citrus producing area at about a quarter of an inch for the week. Rainfall had been adequate over the past several weeks; however, with dryer weather expected, most growers were continuing to irrigate in order to keep the trees and the new fruit in healthy condition. Growers were putting out applications of pesticides, fertilizing, and chopping and mowing cover crops prior to and following harvest. Overall, trees looked good with lots of new foliage on trees of all ages. The bloom period was over and trees were carrying small fruit between pea and marble size. Valencia harvest, at over six million boxes again for the week, was very active. Colored and white grapefruit were still being harvested at over a million boxes weekly, primarily for the processed market. Honey Tangerines, typically a fruit grown for the fresh fruit market, was being processed at a higher rate than normal. Varieties still being harvested included Valencia oranges, grapefruit, and Honey tangerines.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Apr 06	Apr 13	Apr 20
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and Mid oranges	7	0	0
Navel oranges	2	1	2
Temples	53	4	3
Valencia oranges	6,151	6,203	6,231
Grapefruit	1,245	1,072	1,075
Honey tangerines	196	132	155
Tangelos	9	1	1

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