



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending April 19, 2009

FIELD WORK CONDITIONS FAVORABLE FOR MOST

WEATHER SUMMARY: High temperatures ranged from the upper 70s to low 90s. Nighttime lows were in the 30s, 40s, and 50s. A frost was reported as far south as Hardee County. Rain fell over most of the central and northern regions. Franklin, St. Johns, Jefferson, Washington, and Gadsden counties each recorded between 2 and 4 inches. Most areas were dry enough to continue field work, but a few areas were delayed by heavy rain. Several other locations collected between 0.5 and 1.5 inches. The southern Peninsula received only trace amounts of rain.

FIELD CROPS: Potato harvest remained active and digging began in the Hastings area. In Palatka, there were row washouts in some potato fields due to heavy rain. Potatoes in St. Johns County were in good condition. Many growers in the Big Bend and Panhandle were still preparing fields for row crops, while some had already started planting corn, tobacco, and peanuts. Some minor flooding remained in low areas of the Panhandle.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	24	28	2	25	24	3
Short	45	44	41	41	39	48
Adequate	27	20	55	31	27	49
Surplus	4	8	2	3	10	1

VEGETABLES: Strawberry harvest ended in Hillsborough County but continued in Washington and Bradford counties. Columbia County reported some frost damage to beans, peppers, and tomatoes. About 15% of squash in the Suwannee Valley were killed by last week's frost. Blueberries in Hardee County experienced severe frost damage. Growers began cutting watermelons in the southern Peninsula. Tomato, sweet corn, bean, and squash harvesting was wrapping up in Dade County. Other vegetables marketed were blueberries, snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, collard greens, peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, and specialty items.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, pasture condition was poor to excellent following warm temperatures. Pasture in poor condition was due to flooding in Washington and other counties. Cattle condition was poor to excellent. In the northern areas, pasture condition was poor to good with most in fair condition. Cool season pasture was seasonally finished. Permanent pasture suffered damage from frost last week in Colombia County and cool nighttime temperatures have slowed forage growth. Flooding from recent heavy rain affected some pasture. Supplemental hay feeding was in progress where forage was short. In the central areas, pasture was very poor to good. Loss of forage production continues due to drought and drying winds. Cattle condition was very poor to good. Pasture condition in the southwest was in very poor to good condition with most in fair condition. Weekly rainfall has most rangeland producing adequate forage for cattle to start putting on some weight. However, some pasture was showing damage from frost. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most in fair to good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	4	10	10	19
Poor	20	15	30	25
Fair	40	45	44	45
Good	35	29	15	10
Excellent	1	1	1	1

CITRUS: Several citrus-producing areas received needed rainfall from a front passing over the State on Tuesday. Amounts were between six-tenths of an inch in Apopka to one-tenth of an inch in Immokalee. Rainfall totals are still well behind normal for the year. The drought intensity has reached severe to extreme in some southern localities. Due to the dry conditions, trees ranged from poor in groves with less maintenance and little irrigation to good in well-cared-for groves. Next year's fruit has progressed to about pea size across the State. Some of the newly formed fruit was falling off the trees as they adjusted for the amount they could carry. Caretakers applied nutritional sprays to assist the trees in holding the fruit for the next season. The Valencia crop harvest increased to over six million boxes for the week. The Honey tangerine harvest was about over for the season after dropping to 5,000 boxes harvested last week. The grapefruit harvest remains fairly strong with the majority of both colored and white going processed.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Apr 05	Apr 12	Apr 19
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and Mid oranges	4	21	4
Temples	13	4	3
Valencia oranges	5,024	5,147	6,440
Navel oranges	2	2	3
Grapefruit	801	605	602
Tangelos	1	5	0
Sunburst tangerines	1	0	0
Honey tangerines	27	22	5

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