



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending January 17, 2010

Growers Continue to Assess Freeze Damage

Weather Summary: Last week’s highs were in the 60s, 70s, and 80s. Low temperatures ranged mostly in the 20s and 30s. Temperatures in major cities averaged 9 to 12 degrees below normal. Most of the rain fell in the Panhandle and Big Bend with totals between 1.50 and 3.25 inches, Taylor County was an exception, receiving 4.50 inches. All but two FAWN (Florida Automated Weather Network) stations reported precipitation. Stations in the central and southern Peninsula each received an inch or less.

Field Crops: A few fields of cotton remained unharvested. Growers finished picking some cotton in Walton County, but quality was low. Planting of winter wheat was delayed in Jackson County, but growers were able to harvest soybeans in the morning while fields were still frozen. Preparations for planting field corn took place in Hamilton County. The sugarcane crop suffered significant losses from freezing temperatures. Putnam, Flagler, and St. Johns counties planted potatoes. Soil moisture levels were short to adequate in most regions, while the Panhandle had adequate to surplus levels.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	1	6	1	1	8	1
Short	16	29	31	22	27	26
Adequate.....	78	64	63	73	61	67
Surplus.....	5	1	5	4	4	6

Vegetables: Unusually low temperatures damaged vegetables and volumes were down. Damage assessment continued. Strawberry harvest was greatly reduced since many fields were damaged by the freezing temperatures earlier this month. Fields in more northern areas had very few crops planted and were able to escape losses. Growers in south Florida reported losses to beans, squash, and tomatoes. Some cold season crops survived with minimal damage. Vegetables moving through the market included snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, and strawberries.

Livestock and Pastures: Pasture and range condition were mostly poor to fair in all regions. Cold weather continued to hurt the growth of pasture grasses, decreasing quality and quantity. Losses in forage yield were expected. In many Panhandle locations, winter forage was severely damaged by frost and was not available for grazing. Most ranchers were relying on supplemental hay. Pastures in the central and southern Peninsula were also damaged by the extended cold weather. Many ranchers reported dead grass from the hard frosts experienced last week. In some areas, overgrazing occurred due to cattle being left on pasture and decreased grass growth. Production costs have increased due to the cold. The cattle condition in the Panhandle and Big Bend was poor to excellent with most in fair to good condition. In the central and southern Peninsula, the cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most fair to good. The freezing weather badly affected tropical fish. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was very poor to excellent with most poor to good.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	10	20
Poor	14	19	50	45
Fair.....	35	35	35	25
Good	45	40	4	10
Excellent	5	5	1	0

Citrus: The weekend saw the end of the unusually long cold spell, with highs in the 30s and 40s and lows in the 20s in many places. High temperatures for the rest of the week ranged from the lower 70s to the lower 80s, while lows returned to a more normal range of 40s and 50s. Rainfall ranged from nothing to just over an inch, with most stations receiving less than a half-inch. Dover received the most at 1.01 inches. All of the packinghouses were open. Varieties being packed included early oranges (Navel and Hamlin), white and colored grapefruit, and tangerines (mostly Sunburst and Murcotts, with a few Dancys). Seventeen processors were open and were accepting fruit. Early and midseason oranges and grapefruit comprised the majority of fruit going to the plants. Increased harvesting, to gather as much fruit for processing as possible, was the predominant grove activity last week.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	January 3, 2010	January 10, 2010	January 17, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	5,938	6,286	6,614
Navel oranges	31	38	29
Grapefruit	408	752	639
Tangelos	58	68	96
Tangerines	156	163	178

This report is available, at no cost, on the NASS web site: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp. To set-up this free subscription, select Florida Crop-Weather; enter your name and your email address, click on Subscribe. This report will be sent automatically each week; or call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter the subscription for you. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Data for individual reporting stations is available at: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.