



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending February 21, 2010

Very Little Rainfall, Cool Temperatures Continued

Weather Summary: Last week’s high temperatures were mostly in the 60s. Highs reached the 70s a few days out of the week for the majority of the State. Nightly lows were in the 20s, 30s, and 40s. In major cities average temperatures were 9 to 12 degrees below normal. Sub-freezing temperatures were reported as far south as Lake County at least one night. Precipitation was scarce throughout Florida. Most Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations recorded less than a tenth of an inch. Locations receiving more than 0.10 inches included Jefferson Jackson, Santa Rosa, and Suwannee counties. However, soil moisture conditions remained surplus for many northern areas.

Field Crops: Very little wheat has been planted in the Panhandle. Some cotton remained in Okaloosa County fields and may have to be picked to claim crop insurance. Hay supplies were short in Washington County. Cold, wet conditions hindered forage growth. Fertilizer had been leached due to rain and growers reapplied in fields that were dry enough for field work. Reduced yields were reported by sugarcane growers in Hendry County. Potato harvest began for fields that were not affected by the freeze. Replanting of potatoes continued in the Hastings area.

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.....	2	13	1	2	17	1
Short.....	12	42	10	15	38	13
Adequate.....	58	44	74	57	43	70
Surplus.....	28	1	15	26	2	16

Vegetables: Producers in Washington County were unable to lay plastic due to wet, cold conditions. In south Florida, cold temperatures continued to slow growth of vegetables. Bradford County’s strawberries were recovering well and supply increased. Last week snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes were marketed.

Greenhouse and Nursery: Growers in Miami-Dade County reported that freeze damage was more prevalent than what was originally observed.

Livestock and Pastures: In the Panhandle and northern areas, the pasture ranged from very poor to good with most poor due to below seasonal temperatures and standing water. Hay feeding was active and hay supplies were getting low for some producers. Winter forage will need to be re-fertilized because of leaching. In central areas, the pasture was very poor to fair. Small grain and ryegrass pasture has suffered leaching of fertilizer. Wet fields have prevented field work. The cattle were mostly in good condition. Cool season annual forages, silage, and hay were being fed to cattle and livestock. In the southwestern areas, the pasture condition was mostly poor due to cold growing conditions. Pasture grasses continue to recover slowly from the January frost and benefited from rain last weekend. The cattle were in poor to excellent condition. Statewide, the condition of cattle was very poor to excellent, but most was in fair condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	2	10	15
Poor.....	12	15	55	55
Fair	55	45	20	25
Good	30	35	15	5
Excellent.....	2	3	0	0

Citrus: Highs this week were in the mid to upper 70s, with early morning lows in the 20s and 30s. Brooksville recorded dangerously low temperatures (26° to 27°) for five consecutive hours on the morning of the 15th. Rainfall was practically nonexistent, with most stations receiving no rain at all. Avalon and Kenansville received only trace amounts. One packinghouse has closed for the season, but most remain open. Varieties being packed included midseason and late oranges, Temples (included in early-mid), Valencia, white and colored grapefruit, Navels, a few tangelos, and Honey tangerines. Seventeen processors were open and accepting fruit. Early, midseason, late oranges, and grapefruit comprised the majority of fruit going to the plants. Grove activity last week included mowing, hedging and topping, brush removal, fertilizer application, and ditch cleaning.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	February 7, 2010	February 14, 2010	February 21, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges	5,155	3,756	2,673
Valencia	44	102	249
Navel oranges	12	7	13
Grapefruit	908	1,013	1,123
Tangelos	8	39	3
Tangerines	106	136	98

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.