



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending February 28, 2010

Cold, Wet Weather Continued

Weather Summary: For the past week, low temperatures throughout the State were in the 20s and 30s. Highs ranged from the mid 60s to upper 70s, with some days reaching the 80s in the south. Average temperatures were 4 to 8 degrees below normal for major metropolitan areas with nightly sub-freezing temperatures reaching as far south as Hardee County. Some precipitation was observed in all Florida regions. The southern region had low rainfall with the exception of St. Lucie, Miami-Dade, and Broward counties, which reported 0.95 inches or more. Soil moisture was mostly adequate for all districts, with half of the reports from the Panhandle reporting surplus soil moisture.

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	22	0	1	21	0
Short	10	42	5	13	41	7
Adequate	74	36	84	70	36	81
Surplus	15	0	11	16	2	12

Field Crops: Field work was delayed due to wet conditions throughout Florida with the exception of the southern region. The cold weather slowed growth in fields. In the western Panhandle, cold and wet conditions affected pastures. Farmers were unable to cut stubble due to high soil moisture. Production of cool season forages was hindered in the north. In Columbia County, farmers had difficulty top-dressing small grain fields. Brevard County reported cool and moist conditions conducive to growing of cool season grains; however, not many farmers have planted this year. In the Hastings area, potatoes will have to be replanted due to cold weather and high moisture.

Vegetables: Vegetable growers in the western Panhandle had problems preparing bedding and laying plastic due to cold weather. Gasden County reported snow flurries. Gulf County reported planting of spring vegetables. In Columbia County, some vegetable growers were able to prepare bedding. In the southern and central regions, cold temperatures have slowed vegetable growth. In the Hastings area, harvesting of cabbage was behind schedule and development was slow. Broccoli crop losses due to similar weather conditions were reported. Moving through the market were beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes. Cold weather caused extensive damage to bean crops throughout Florida.

Livestock and Pastures: Hay feeding was active throughout the State. In the Panhandle, pasture condition was very poor to good with most poor to fair. Winter forage was hurt by the persistent cold and wet weather. Rain with cold days and nighttime temperatures in the 20s hindered cool season forage growth. Hay supplies were declining rapidly for cattle and horse owners. Many pastures were grazed down close. Small grain pasture was being top-dressed with fertilizer where fields were dry enough. The cattle condition was mostly fair to good. In the central areas, pasture was very poor to good with most very poor to poor. Some pastures had standing water. In Brevard County, cooler and wetter than normal growing conditions were excellent for cool season forage. Most cattle in the area were in fair condition. In the southwestern areas, pasture condition was mostly very poor to good with most poor. Cold temperatures and frost continued to hold back pasture grasses despite favorable moisture. Most of the cattle were in fair to good condition. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was very poor to excellent with most in fair to good condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	2	2	15	25
Poor	15	15	55	50
Fair.....	45	45	25	20
Good	35	35	5	5
Excellent	3	3	0	0

Citrus: Highs this week were in the mid to upper 70s, with early morning lows in the 20s and 30s. Rainfall was variable, with some stations receiving a quarter-inch or less and some more than an inch. Fort Pierce received the most, at 1.35 inches. One packinghouse was closed for the season. Varieties being packed included mid oranges, Temples, Valencia, white and colored grapefruit, Navels, a few tangelos, and Honey tangerines. Seventeen processors were open and accepting fruit. Early, midseason, and late oranges and grapefruit comprised the majority of fruit going to the plants. Citrus bloom was observed on Valencia trees scattered throughout southern Hendry County groves signaling the natural start of next season's crop. Grove activity last week included harvesting, 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 14, 2010	February 21, 2010	February 28, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	3,756	2,673	1,522
Temple.....	30	33	29
Valencia	102	249	263
Navel oranges	7	13	1
Grapefruit.....	1,013	1,123	1,217
Tangelos	39	3	6
Sunburst Tangerines	6	0	0
Honey Tangerines.....	130	98	187

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.