



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending March 7, 2010

Abnormal Cold and Moisture

Weather Summary: For the previous week, temperature highs were in the 60s and 70s and lows were in the 20s and 30s. Average temperatures were between 9 to 13 degrees below normal. Sub-freezing temperatures were experienced in all three regions of the State. Many counties in the northern region reported frost every night for the past week. All counties this year have received more rainfall than this time last year, with the exception of Duval County. Counties that received over an inch of rain were in the Panhandle. The majority of the topsoil and subsoil moisture reported was adequate for all regions.

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	0	27	1	0	21	5
Short.....	5	47	10	7	46	10
Adequate	84	26	80	81	32	75
Surplus	11	0	9	12	1	10

Field Crops: Cold, wet conditions continued to hamper fieldwork across the field crop production areas. In the north, soils remained saturated. Water levels in Taylor County were just below flooding. Leaching occurred in many fields and continued saturation does not permit reapplication of fertilizer. Small grains and winter grasses were not productive in these wet conditions. Field preparation took place for peanuts and cotton; however, soil temperatures need to increase before planting occurs for some crops. Cotton farmers began plowing in dryer areas. In Santa Rosa County, the lack of winter wheat provided land availability for cotton and peanuts. Potatoes were planted in Suwannee County. Hay feeding was active yet supplies were low for some regions.

Vegetables: The cold weather hindered vegetable growth in many areas. Volusia County reported watermelons in the ground for weeks without growth. Production was below normal for cabbage, celery, sweet corn, endive, escarole, radishes, and tomatoes. Vegetable growers laid plastic and drip irrigation systems to prepare for spring. In the southern region, beans, cabbage, and sweet potatoes were being harvested. Moving through the market were beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, strawberries, and tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures: Cool season forages growing slow due to abnormally cold weather and frost. There was considerable supplemental hay feeding. In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was very poor to good with most poor to fair. Low pastures had standing water. Unseasonably cool temperatures hampered pasture recuperation. The cattle condition was poor to excellent with most fair. Unseasonably cold weather was hard on the cattle. Cattlemen were concerned with the slow growth of winter forage. In the central areas, pasture was very poor to good with most very poor to poor. Cold weather and drought held back grass growth. Most cattle in the area were in fair condition. In the southwestern areas, pasture condition was very poor to good condition with most poor. Heavy frost set back pasture condition in many places. Livestock producers were feeding hay and supplements. The cattle were in poor 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	1	25	20
Poor	15	20	50	50
Fair.....	45	45	20	20
Good	35	30	5	10
Excellent	3	4	0	0

Citrus: Highs this week were in the low to mid 70s, with early morning lows in the 20s and 30s. Rainfall was light with most stations receiving a half-inch or less. Immokalee received the most, at 0.92 inches. Most packinghouses remained open. Varieties packed included midseason oranges, Temples, Valencias, white and colored grapefruit, and Honey tangerines. Fifteen processors were open and accepting fruit. Valencia oranges and grapefruit comprised the majority of fruit going to the plants. Grove activity last week included harvesting, mowing, psyllid treatment, hedging and topping, brush removal, fertilizer application, and ditch cleaning.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	February, 21 2010	February, 28 2010	March 7, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	2,673	1,522	242
Temples	33	29	23
Valencia	249	263	616
Navel oranges	13	1	0
Grapefruit.....	1,123	1,217	1,248
Tangelos	3	6	0
Honey tangerines	98	187	91

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.