



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending January 9, 2011

Warmer Weather

Weather Summary: In Florida, there was a change in climate with warmer weather during the reference week. Average temperatures varied from one degree below to seven degrees above normal. Highs ranged from the low 60s to low 80s. Low temperatures ranged from the high 20s to high 40s. Drought conditions have not changed significantly from the previous week and continue to be present throughout the State. A third of the Florida Automated Weather Network Stations reported an inch or more of rain.

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.....	26	1	10	32	1	15
Short.....	37	17	30	29	22	27
Adequate.....	35	76	55	36	72	54
Surplus.....	2	6	5	3	5	4

Field Crops: In some parts of the north soil moisture levels have increased slightly to allow minimal land preparation for spring row crops. In the Hastings area, fumigation and irrigation efforts in potato fields were thwarted due to extreme drought conditions. In the Everglades region, sugarcane that had been badly damaged by the freeze was quickly harvested and sent to processors. Planting of new sugarcane plants increased in order to have new crops planted before seed cane supplies deteriorate further.

Vegetables: The freezes in December resulted in varying levels of damage to vegetable crops. Damage to cabbage fields due to previous freezes was minimal in central Florida; however, cold temperatures slowed plant development and could offset harvesting periods. In the Hastings area, some cabbage fields were harvested while others were newly planted. In the south, irrigated tomato fields were able to survive the cold. Sweet corn supplies were insufficient to establish a market due to December freezes. Eggplant harvesting was curtailed due to cold weather. Market movement consisted of snap beans, cabbage, celery, bell peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, and strawberries.

Livestock and Pastures: The poor to fair pasture condition improved significantly due to scattered rainfall and moderation of temperatures. In the Panhandle and northern areas, the pasture condition continued mostly poor. Dry conditions in previous weeks and recurring cold spells have made this a below average winter for annual grazing. Moderation of temperatures has helped cool season forage growth. Non-irrigated cool season forage was approaching grazing height. The cattle condition was mostly fair. Supplemental feeding of livestock was on-going. In the central areas, the pasture condition was mostly poor to fair. The cattle condition ranged from very poor to good with most in fair condition. More than normal supplemental feed has been required due to poor forage condition. In the southwestern areas, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most poor to fair. The pasture condition was poor due to recent frosts. The cattle condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in poor to fair condition. Statewide, the condition of the cattle ranged from very poor to excellent with most fair to good.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	0	1	15	5
Poor.....	10	9	55	40
Fair.....	50	40	20	35
Good.....	35	45	9	20
Excellent.....	5	5	1	0

Citrus: Highs were in the 70s and 80s in the majority of the citrus region, with lows in the 40s and 50s. All 25 stations recorded precipitation this week. Ocklawaha reported the most precipitation with 1.79 inches of rainfall recorded. Overall, there were moderate to severe drought conditions in most of the citrus area according to the U.S. drought monitor, last updated on January 4. Indian River, Brevard, St Lucie and parts of Seminole and Orange counties are experiencing extreme drought conditions, while surrounding counties are experiencing severe conditions. Forty-eight packinghouses and eighteen processors have opened. Cultural practices included application of lime and irrigation.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	December 26, 2010	January 2, 2011	January 9, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	3,633	5,578	6,521
Ambersweet.....	2	0	0
Navel oranges.....	105	66	71
Grapefruit.....	241	402	568
Temples.....	0	0	2
Tangelos.....	70	68	94
Tangerines.....	137	121	168
Total.....	4,188	6,235	7,424

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.