



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending February 27, 2011

## Clear, Dry Weather

**Weather Summary:** Warm, dry conditions prevailed over most of the State during the week of February 21 through 27. Most temperatures in the major cities averaged three to ten degrees above normal. Muggy, daytime highs were in the 80s. Pleasant evening lows were in the 50s. Majority of the stations received no precipitation for the week with minimal traces in a few localities. Areas recording over half an inch of rain included St. Lucie and Jefferson counties.

## 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	0	7	3	0	6
Short.....	34	6	40	28	8	25
Adequate .....	63	82	50	67	79	66
Surplus .....	2	12	3	2	13	3

**Field Crops:** Favorable weather conditions permitted growers in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula to till land for field crop planting. Winter wheat was in good condition in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Sugarcane harvesting was completed in the Everglades region. Both topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies were rated short to mostly adequate. A few pockets of very short and surplus moisture supplies were reported.

**Vegetables:** Clear, dry conditions allowed field work to progress at a normal pace. Growers in Washington County were busy with field preparation and laid plastic for vegetables. Harvesting of eggplant was lower than normal with no shipments being moved. Light supplies of sweet corn, endive, escarole, and tomatoes were marketed. Increased market movement included snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, celery, bell peppers, radishes, squash, and strawberries.

**Livestock and Pastures:** The pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent **Statewide** with most in poor to fair condition. Rising soil temperatures enhanced pasture growth but hay feeding continued. The cattle condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. In the **Panhandle** area, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most poor to fair. In Washington County, cool season forages were limited by dry growing conditions. Bahia pastures greened up slightly. Hay and supplements were fed to livestock. Hay supplies were dwindling. In the **northern** areas, pasture condition ranged from poor to good. Some permanent pastures were showing signs of green-up, but nighttime temperatures were too low for significant growth. The cattle condition was mostly good. In the **central** areas, pasture condition ranged from poor to good with most in poor condition. Unseasonably warm weather initiated pasture growth. In the **southwestern** areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most 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	1	4	2
Poor.....	10	9	30	37
Fair.....	45	50	55	45
Good.....	40	35	10	15
Excellent.....	4	5	1	1

**Citrus:** Lows were in the 50s with highs in the 80s throughout most of the citrus area. This week, five of the 25 FAWN stations in the citrus area recorded some precipitation. Pierson reported the most, with 0.31 inch 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 February 22th. Indian River, Brevard, and part of St Lucie, Martin, and Palm Beach counties experienced extreme drought conditions. Forty-eight packinghouses and 18 processors had opened. Harvest of early and midseason oranges and grapefruit continued, with processing plants running early and midseason oranges. Heavy and widespread citrus bloom was observed on trees of several varieties throughout the citrus region, signaling the natural start of next season's crop. Grove activity 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 13, 2011	February 20, 2011	February 27, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	5,028	3,829	2,808
Navel oranges.....	5	4	4
Valencia.....	5	9	15
Grapefruit.....	762	910	912
Temples.....	38	34	58
Tangelos.....	45	12	18
Early tangerines.....	2	0	7
Honey tangerines.....	143	111	137
Total.....	6,028	4,909	3,959

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](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.