



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending April 3, 2011

Heavy Rains, Intense Winds

Weather Summary: Substantial rainfall coupled with intense winds brought copious amounts of precipitation to central and southern Florida. All stations received much needed rainfall during the week of March 28 through April 3. Some localities in central and southern Peninsula regions received more than nine inches of rain. Over eight inches of rain were recorded in Hernando County. Areas reporting over six inches of rain included Hillsborough, Lake, Orange, and Polk counties. Rainfall totals ranged from nearly an inch to over five inches in other stations. Temperatures averaged from one degree below normal to six degrees above normal for the week. Daytime highs were in the 80s to 90s. Cool nighttime lows were in the 40s to 60s.

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	10	0	2	10	0	0
Short	45	5	17	40	4	21
Adequate	44	76	73	48	74	74
Surplus	1	18	8	2	22	5

Field Crops: Recent rains aided field work for field crops to be planted. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies improved with supplies rated mostly adequate. Field preparations for planting field crops resumed. Growers in Holmes and Washington counties reported planting corn since soil moisture supplies improved from the recent rains. Some growers in Jackson County planted corn. Planting of cotton and peanuts is expected to begin in a few weeks. Potato harvesting continued in Other Areas (Lake Okeechobee, Immokalee, and Palmetto-Ruskin areas).

Vegetables: Plentiful rains interrupted field work in addition to curtailing the harvest of some crops in central as well as southern Peninsula areas. Intense winds battered some young crops but are expected to recover. Growers in parts of the southern Peninsula began harvesting crops unaffected by winter freezes. Blueberry harvest was underway with very light amounts available. Strawberry harvest continued to slow seasonally around the Plant City area. Planting of watermelons was active in central and northern Peninsula localities. Producers marketed snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, celery, eggplant, bell peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes. Lighter amounts of sweet corn, cucumbers, endive, escarole, and strawberries were also available.

Livestock and Pastures: The pasture condition **Statewide** ranged from very poor to excellent, with most in fair condition. The pasture condition improved slightly from the week previous. The cattle condition was mostly fair. In the **Panhandle** area, the pasture was in very poor to excellent condition, with most fair to good. Pastures benefited from recent rainfall; however, cool night temperatures limited Bahia pasture growth. Cool season legumes which had not been overgrazed were growing well. Fertilization of pastures with warm season perennial grasses will begin soon. Feeding of hay and supplements continued. In the **north** area, the pasture and cattle ranged from poor to good condition, with most fair to good. In the **central** and **southwest** areas, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent, with most in fair to good condition. Recent heavy rain helped pastures green up and increased water levels in stock water ponds. The cattle were in poor to excellent condition, 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	2	1
Poor.....	9	10	38	20
Fair.....	55	50	50	50
Good.....	30	35	9	27
Excellent.....	5	4	1	2

Citrus: Lows were in the 50s with highs in the 80s and 90s across most of the citrus area. This week, 24 of the 25 FAWN stations recorded more than an inch of precipitation. Brooksville reported the most, with 8.92 in of rainfall recorded. Dover reported the fastest rate of rainfall this week, at 1.29 inches in 15 minutes on March 31, 2011. Overall, there were moderate to severe drought conditions in most of the citrus area according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated on March 29th. Indian River, Brevard, St Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, and parts of Collier, Hendry, Glades, Highlands, and Okeechobee Counties were experiencing extreme drought conditions. Forty-five packinghouses and 19 processors were open although many have halted production until the Valencia maturity reaches desired levels. Harvest of Valencia oranges and grapefruit continued. Pea and smaller sized fruit is visible on citrus trees throughout the citrus area. Grove activity last week included mowing, hedging/topping, brush removal, fertilizer application, and ditch cleaning.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	March 20, 2011	March 27, 2011	April 3, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	53	31	10
Navel oranges.....	0	0	1
Valencia.....	2,818	3,827	3,492
Grapefruit.....	921	999	874
Temples.....	47	10	24
Tangelos.....	0	0	1
Sunburst tangerines.....	0	1	0
Honey tangerines.....	113	135	67
Total.....	3,952	5,003	4,469

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.