



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
**FLORIDA CROP PROGRESS &
CONDITION REPORT**



In Cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week Ending: February 12, 2012

Producers Monitored Temperatures for Freeze Damage

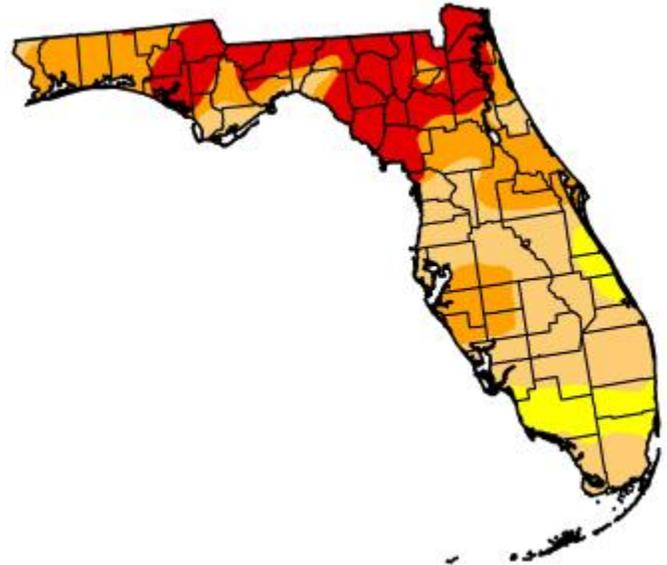
Weather Summary: Late week freezing temperatures reached northern and central Florida. Windy weather helped prevent the moisture in the air from becoming frost. Florida's citrus growers were on standby to turn on sprinklers in the groves to protect the fruit. Temperatures must reach 26-27 degrees for four to five hours before the citrus trees' fruit are damaged by the cold. Several Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations recorded low temperatures in the mid-to-high 20s, but temperatures stayed above freezing in the citrus-growing areas. Despite the cold night temperatures, the weekly average temperatures were three to six degrees above normal. Florida remained mostly dry except for a band of rain that crossed central Florida and heavier showers in southern Florida. The most weekly total rainfall was 2.54 inches recorded at Homestead in Miami-Dade County. Other FAWN stations with more than an inch of rain were located at Brooksville (1.04 inches), Putnam Hall (1.09 inches), Fort Pierce (1.17 inches), Fort Lauderdale (1.50 inches), Indian River (1.86 inches), and Ocklawaha (1.98 inches). The U.S. Drought Monitor had drought intensity ratings of severe, extreme, or exceptional for 53 percent of Florida's landscape compared to 45 percent a week earlier. The worst drought conditions were present primarily in northern central Florida. For example, Washington County's ponds and bays were dry and the ground water reserves were low.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	9	1	5
Short.....	58	19	46
Adequate	32	77	46
Surplus	1	3	1

Field Crops: The winter wheat crop was looking favorable in Santa Rosa and Escambia counties. Washington County producers prepared fields for spring

U.S. Drought Monitor: February 7, 2012



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

planting. The sugarcane harvest continued in Collier County.

Fruits & Vegetables: Market movement included snap beans, eggplant, bell peppers, radishes, strawberries, and tomatoes. The market also included a light supply of cabbage, celery, endive, escarole, sweet corn, and squash. In St. Johns County, potatoes appeared to have some frost damage, but a full assessment of the damage was still underway. In Putnam County, temperatures reached down into the mid-20s and there was some frost damage to cabbage fields. Potatoes were covered in most areas, so no damage was expected. In Miami-Dade County, vegetable growers were busy harvesting sweet corn, tomatoes, and other winter vegetables. In St. Lucie County, cool and windy weather may have wind-burned young vegetable plants. Plastic was being laid in Gadsden County fields in preparation for planting the spring tomato crop. In Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties the spring vegetable planting was nearing completion. Tomato and potato producers were treating late blight in many fields.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, most pastures were in poor to fair condition, a notable improvement over the previous weeks. Cold temperatures, followed by drought, were the limiting factors to forage growth. The cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in fair condition. No cattle were reported in very poor condition for the first time since late November. Hay and supplements were being fed. In the **Panhandle**, most pastures were between poor and good condition. Warmer than usual temperatures prior to the weekend improved pastures and reduced hay needs. However, cold and freezing temperatures over the weekend reduced forage growth. In Washington County, hay stocks were running low for some producers. Many cattle watering ponds were dry. In the **northern** areas, most pastures were in poor condition. Most cattle were in fair to good condition. In the **central** areas, the pasture conditions were poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Most of the cattle were in fair to good condition. In the **southwestern** areas, most pasture continued to be in fair to good condition. Warm weather and some precipitation over the past week helped green up many pastures. Rain on February 6 helped pastures in Okeechobee County, but some pastures ended up with standing water. The conditions of the cattle ranged from fair to excellent with most in good condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	0	4	3
Poor.....	12	8	60	45
Fair.....	55	45	30	45
Good.....	30	45	5	6
Excellent.....	2	2	1	1

Citrus: Seasonal temperatures returned, with a cold snap over the weekend dropping low temperatures into the 30s and 40s. Rainfall was moderate across the region. Ocklawaha received the most, with 1.98 inches and Alachua received the least, with 0.06 inch. Drought conditions exist across the entire citrus region, ranging from abnormally dry on the east coast, to severe on the west coast. Drought conditions are as per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated February 7, 2012. Seventeen processors and 45 (out of 47 expected) packinghouses have opened this season. Harvest of early and midseason oranges continues as the Valencia harvest began to pick up. Temples and grapefruit harvesting are both increasing and the tangelo and tangerine harvest is holding steady. Cultural practices included irrigation, young tree care, and limited hedging and topping.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	Jan 23-29, 2012	Jan 30-Feb 5, 2012	Feb 6-12, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges....	5,192	5,184	4,143
Valencia.....	357	346	497
Navel oranges.....	17	8	7
Temples.....	14	35	53
Grapefruit.....	822	842	1,075
Tangelos.....	41	27	25
Tangerines.....	146	152	150
Total.....	6,589	6,594	5,950

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