



United States Department of Agriculture

CROP PROGRESS & CONDITION NEWS RELEASE

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In Cooperation with the Georgia Department of Agriculture

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CONTINUED DRY CONDITIONS, HOWEVER TEMPERATURES MODERATE

The month of February started with temperatures below normal and ended with temperatures above normal, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Georgia Field Office. Precipitation continued to be below normal for the month. Statewide, soil temperatures are averaging from the mid 50's to lower 60's. Topsoil conditions rate 4% very short, 34% short, 60% adequate and 2% surplus.

So far this year the amount of chill hours for fruit is nearly double the amount needed for blueberries and peaches. With the recent warm weather those crops are preparing to bloom and may be at risk if Georgia has a late frost. The cold weather has delayed growth of small grains. The use of hay and supplemental feed has increased. Range and pasture conditions rated 6% very poor, 26% poor, 48% fair, 19% good and 1% excellent.

Other activities included preparing for spring planting, fertilizing, spreading lime, testing soil, completing rental contracts, and the routine care of poultry and livestock.

This is the last monthly report. Next week we will resume publishing the weekly reports for the week ending March 6, 2011.