

# Weather Crop Report

Week ending February 26, 2006

## WARMER TEMPERATURES AIDED VEGETABLE CROP GROWTH

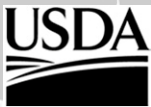
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**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Temperatures warmed during the week of February 20 through 26 with daily averages 3 to 6 degrees above normal in the major cities. Daytime highs were in the 60s, 70s and 80s while nighttime lows were in the 40s, 50s and 60s. Jay and Marianna recorded at least one low in the 30s. Rainfall for the week ranged from traces in many southern Peninsula localities to about three and two thirds inches in Alachua. Most northern Peninsula and Panhandle areas reported over an inch of rain for the week with Live Oak, Bronson and Quincy receiving about two or more inches. Most central Peninsula localities received less than an inch of rain except for Hastings which received nearly two inches. Most southern Peninsula areas reported rain totals of less than a half inch except for the Miami-Dade County area which recorded over an inch for the week. Homestead reported over two inches.

**FIELD CROPS:** Producers began to till land for field crop planting in Washington and Jackson counties. Pears, plums, azaleas, Japanese magnolias and camellias are blooming in Jefferson County with growers hoping to escape a late hard freeze. Sugarcane harvesting continued around Lake Okeechobee. Topsoil moisture supplies are adequate to surplus in the Panhandle and mostly short to adequate elsewhere. Marion County reported some spots of very short and surplus topsoil moisture. Hernando County reported surplus moisture in a few spots. Subsoil moisture supplies are mostly adequate to surplus in the northern and central Peninsula and in the Panhandle. Marion County reported a few spots of very short subsoil moisture. Southern Peninsula subsoil moisture is mostly short to adequate.



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Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	4	0	17	5	0	12
Short	41	22	45	15	24	47
Adequate	45	54	37	77	51	40
Surplus	10	24	1	3	25	1

**VEGETABLES:** Warmer temperatures increased crop growth and fruit development in all vegetable areas. Mostly clear conditions in the central and southern Peninsula allowed planting and picking to continue on schedule except for Miami-Dade County where rains interrupted some field activities. Land preparations for spring tomato transplanting are on schedule around Quincy. Most plastic has been laid in Washington County for spring watermelons and tomatoes. Cabbage producers increased harvesting to meet the St. Patrick's Day demand. Other vegetables and non citrus fruit marketed during the week included snap beans, celery, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, parsley, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, sweet corn and tomatoes. Very light supplies of cucumbers were also available.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle, pasture condition is very poor to good, with most in fair condition due to cold temperatures. Cool season forages have been slowly growing. In the northern areas, pasture condition is poor to good, with most in good condition. Cool season forage is generally doing well. Warm season pastures are still dormant. Pasture in the Big Bend area is generally good following recent rains. In the central areas, pasture condition is poor to good, with most in fair condition throughout the Panhandle and central areas. In the southwest, pasture condition is fair to good, with most in fair condition. Some pasture burning is being done. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from poor to good with most in good condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	0	0	0
Poor	10	15	5	5
Fair	55	50	45	35
Good	30	20	50	45
Excellent	0	15	0	15

**CITRUS:** Daily temperatures in the high 70s to mid 80s prevailed for most of the week in citrus producing areas until a cold front pushed through over the weekend. Rainfall accompanied the front bringing a tenth of an inch in the south to almost an inch in the northern citrus areas. Continued topping, hedging, fertilizing and spraying is taking place after harvest. Growers continue to irrigate due to mostly dry, warm weather. Some orange and grapefruit trees are forming small bloom buds. New growth has been noticed on early tangerines. The recent cooler weather will tend to hold back the trees to a more dormant state temporarily. Limited Valencia harvesting has started, with the main focus still on the early-midseason category. Grapefruit harvesting is still running steadily with the majority going to processing. Honey tangerine harvesting is picking up, running just over a hundred thousand boxes per week.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 26
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	72	49	59
Early and Mid oranges	4,397	4,467	3,906
Valencias	0	56	289
Grapefruit	604	670	791
EarlyTangerines	7	6	6
Honey Tangerines	102	110	145
Tangelos	69	93	58
Temples	29	52	27

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