

Weather Crop Report

Week ending March 5, 2006

SPRING PLANTING ACTIVITIES ON SCHEDULE

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Mild temperatures along with sunshine during February 27 through March 5 allowed growers to make good progress with field activities on schedule. Most localities reported no measurable rainfall during the week, except for almost an inch in Daytona Beach. Temperatures at the major stations averaged two degrees below normal to two degrees above normal. Daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s. Evening lows were in the 30s, 40s and 50s with Marianna recording at least one low in the 20s.

FIELD CROPS: Spring planting preparations are underway in Panhandle areas. Dry conditions allowed field preparations for corn, soybeans and peanuts planting in Jackson County. Rains are needed to help soil moisture levels in most areas. Sugarcane harvesting remains active in the Everglades. Soil moisture supplies are mostly short to adequate in the Panhandle with a few pockets of surplus supplies. Madison County reported short to surplus soil supplies. Topsoil moisture in the central and southern Peninsula is mostly short to adequate.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	0	4	4	1	5	2
Short	25	41	16	26	15	16
Adequate	75	45	78	73	77	78
Surplus	0	10	2	0	3	4

VEGETABLES: Favorable weather conditions allowed planting to proceed on schedule last week. Producers marketed snap beans, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, lettuce, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries and tomatoes. Light supplies of cabbage, eggplant, endive, escarole and peppers were also available.



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LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, pasture condition is very poor to good due to cold and drought. In the northern areas, pasture condition is poor to good. Winter grazing is finally starting to take off. In the central areas, pasture condition is mostly very poor. In the southwest, pasture condition is poor to good, with most in good condition. 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	5	0	0
Poor	45	10	25	5
Fair	20	55	25	45
Good	30	30	50	50
Excellent	0	0	0	0

CITRUS: Warm temperatures and moderately cool nights were recorded for the week of February 27 through March 5. Rainfall recorded was between no rain to less than one tenth of an inch in the extreme south. Vigorous topping, hedging, fertilizing and spraying is taking place after harvest. Bloom is in all stages from small bloom buds forming on the trees, to full bloom on some early maturing varieties. Feathery new growth was noticed on trees in the south in well-cared-for groves. Valencia harvesting is underway, while early-midseason harvesting continues to run steadily at around four and a half to five million boxes weekly. Grapefruit harvesting is still strong with the majority going to processing. Honey tangerine harvesting has picked up, while Temple harvesting continues to be nominal.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Feb 19	Feb 26	Mar 5
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	49	59	27
Early and Mid oranges	4,467	3,906	3,104
Valencias	56	289	301
Grapefruit	670	791	961
EarlyTangerines	6	6	1
Honey Tangerines	110	145	132
Tangelos	93	58	49
Temples	52	27	36

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