



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending February 4, 2007

LIMITED CROP DAMAGE FROM COLD AND RAIN

WEATHER SUMMARY: Cold fronts swept the State during the week of January 28 through February 4 causing temperatures to plunge to freezing and near freezing points and generated significant rainfall in most areas. The cold temperatures caused freezes over most of the Panhandle and northern Peninsula and in some central Peninsula localities. Other central Peninsula and some southern Peninsula localities reported frosts. Temperatures averaged from normal in Miami to eight degrees below normal in Pensacola. Most daytime highs ranged from the 50s to the 80s. Most nighttime lows ranged from the 30s to the 50s with Miami reporting most lows in the 60s. Strong storms at the end of the week brought needed moisture to many Panhandle and Peninsula localities. Rainfall for the week ranged from about a half inch in some southern Peninsula areas to over seven inches in Bronson. Storms, caused by a cold front clashing with moist tropical air, spawned deadly tornados on February 2, 2007 in some central Peninsula localities. The tornadoes caused considerable damage to people, homes, and buildings in Lake, Seminole, and Volusia counties.

FIELD CROPS: Freezing temperatures stopped the growth of most small grains in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula. Heavy rainfall slowed some sugarcane harvesting around Lake Okeechobee with most on schedule. Heavy rains caused some field erosion, especially in some Panhandle localities. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies improved in nearly all areas with the rainfall. A few southern Peninsula localities received only minor rainfall for the week with some areas reporting very short to short soil moisture. Rains across the Panhandle and northern Peninsula increased most soil moisture with supplies rated mostly adequate to surplus. Elsewhere, soil moisture is mostly adequate.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	10	10	2	15	7	1
Short	35	43	30	35	40	36
Adequate	40	47	55	40	52	56
Surplus	15	0	13	10	1	7

FLORICULTURE: According to early reports, the cold temperatures and strong winds did not cause significant damage to ferns in the Pierson area. However, a tornado caused considerable structural damage to at least one nursery.

VEGETABLES: While most areas experienced near freezing temperatures during the first part of the week, no major damage was reported. The wet weather near the end of the week slowed vegetable harvests across the central and southern Peninsula. Overhead sprinkling for freeze protection and the rains reduced the quality of mature strawberries and the volume marketed. The ripening of immature berries should help improve volume over the next seven to ten days. Producers used freeze covers and overhead irrigation to protect most vegetables from the cold; however, the cold temperatures caused some spotty leaf burn on beans, potatoes, squash, and sweet corn. Southern Peninsula tomatoes received no significant leaf damage. However, heavy rains and wind-borne sand in some fields knocked off some blooms and bruised some fruit, which will negatively impact future tomato yields. Heavy rains in the Hastings area flooded some potato fields with some seed uncovered; however, producers drained fields and covered seed back up when the mud dried enough to allow human and heavy equipment movement. Vegetables marketed during the week included snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, parsley, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Statewide, pasture condition ranges from very poor to good. In the Panhandle areas, pasture condition is poor to excellent. Winter forage has not performed to normal expectations due to dry conditions through December and due to cold fronts since January 1st. Cloudy conditions have added to the lack of grass growth. The water level in stock ponds in several locations is rising following ample rains. In the northern areas, pasture condition is very poor to fair due to cold and poor growing conditions throughout January. In the central areas, pasture condition is poor to good. In the southwest areas, pasture condition is very poor to fair due to drought. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from very poor to good with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	5	5	10
Poor	10	10	30	20
Fair	45	40	55	45
Good	40	44	10	25
Excellent	0	1	0	0

CITRUS: The week was marked by the coldest morning temperatures of the winter as two cold fronts passed through the State. Early in the week, lows reached the low to mid-30s in all citrus areas with light ground frost reported in scattered locations. No damage or loss to fruit or emerging bloom buds was reported. Relatively high temperatures returned quickly ranging from 80 degrees on the west coast to 83 degrees in the southern-most citrus areas. Reports of bloom on orange varieties continue with all areas in various stages of bloom. Another strong front passed through the State late in the week with strong winds and heavy rainfall. Damaging winds from super cells and tornados passed north of the major citrus producing areas. Amounts of rainfall for the week ranged from none to two inches. Fresh early and midseason orange harvest increased and late tangerines continue strong. Harvest of oranges for processing continues at peak levels. Navel oranges have decreased in movement as grapefruit harvest for domestic and export increases. Grove activity includes irrigation, irrigation repair, maintenance topping and hedging, fertilizing and harvesting.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Jan 21	Jan 28	Feb 04
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	31	24	12
Early and Mid oranges	4,276	4,624	4,607
Valencia	5	0	4
Grapefruit	679	910	1,061
Sunburst Tangerines	15	3	2
Honey Tangerines	111	109	89
Tangelos	96	77	65
Temples	32	40	30

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