



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending February 11, 2007

MOSTLY MILD WEATHER HELPED VEGETABLE RECOVERY

WEATHER SUMMARY: Mostly mild weather during the week of February 5 through 11 helped vegetables recover from the recent rain, wind, and cold damage. However, freezing temperatures in the Panhandle and some northern Peninsula localities retarded the growth of grasses and small grains. Temperatures for the week in the major cities averaged from one degree above normal in Miami to five degrees below normal in Orlando. Most daytime highs were in the 60s and 70s with Miami, West Palm Beach, and Ft. Lauderdale recording at least one high in the 80s. Some southwestern and southern Peninsula areas recorded from a quarter inch to about an inch of rain for the week. Elsewhere, only a few areas reported traces of rain with most localities recording no measurable rain for the week.

FIELD CROPS: Cold temperatures at freezing levels stopped the growth of most small grains and pastures in the Panhandle and some northern Peninsula areas. However, some land preparation for field crop planting started in a few Panhandle localities. Last week's freezing temperatures singed the leaves of some sugarcane around Lake Okeechobee with milder weather during this week aiding recovery. Sugarcane harvesting remained active this week. Soil moisture supplies were rated mostly adequate in the Panhandle and central Peninsula region and mostly short over the northern and southern Peninsula. Washington, St. Lucie, and Dade counties reported some spots with very short soil moisture while Madison and Marion counties reported a few areas with surplus soil moisture. Union County reported a few localities with very short soil moisture and a few with surplus moisture.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	12	10	0	12	15	0
Short	42	35	5	44	35	10
Adequate	40	40	80	38	40	85
Surplus	6	15	15	6	10	5

VEGETABLES: Mostly mild weather over the central and southern Peninsula helped vegetables to recover from last week's cold, rainy conditions. The cold blistered and burned the leaves of some leafy crops in the northern Peninsula and around Lake Okeechobee with most expected to grow out of the damage. Some cabbage, mixed vegetables, and recent potato plantings showed significant damage from the heavy rains in the Immokalee area. Some radish plantings were flooded by the recent rains. During the week, ground preparations and planting for spring crops continued in the central and southern Peninsula areas. Some producers replaced pesticides on older crops that were recently washed away. Strawberry picking continued around Plant City, Dover, Starke, and Wauchula. Cabbage cutting remained active with producers trying to satisfy the mid-March holiday demand. Growers also harvested snap beans, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, parsley, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, and tomatoes during the week. Fall crop cucumber harvests are virtually done as marketing of imports increased.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Statewide, pasture condition is mostly poor to fair. In the Panhandle area, pasture condition is very poor to excellent with most in good condition. Cold and freezing temperatures in the Panhandle and some northern Peninsula localities are retarding the growth of grasses and small grains. Recent rains are beginning to fill ponds. In the northern areas, pasture condition is very poor to fair due to cold temperatures over the past several weeks. In the central areas, pasture condition is poor to fair with most in fair condition. In the southwest areas, pasture condition is mostly poor due to very short soil moisture. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	5	5	5
Poor	5	10	40	30
Fair	60	45	40	55
Good	29	40	10	10
Excellent	1	0	5	0

CITRUS: Temperatures were moderate but remained cool during most of this week. Highs were mostly in the low to mid 70s with lows in the low 40s in the mornings. The northern-most citrus areas reported one morning in the mid 30s. There was virtually no rainfall recorded in citrus counties during the week; however, lakes and canal levels are reported as adequate following the rainfall amounts of the previous week. Reports of bloom on orange varieties continue with all citrus-growing areas showing various stages of bloom. Early and midseason orange and late tangerine harvest continued strong. Navel oranges have decreased in movement as grapefruit harvest for domestic and export market increased. Grove activity included irrigation equipment repair, maintenance topping and hedging, fertilizing and harvesting.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Jan 28	Feb 04	Feb 11
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	27	12	8
Early and Mid oranges	5,083	4,607	4,273
Valencia	1	4	10
Grapefruit	1,033	1,061	1,426
Sunburst Tangerines	3	2	0
Honey Tangerines	107	89	114
Tangelos	92	65	33
Temples	44	30	41

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