



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
1222 Woodward St., Orlando, FL 32803  
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · [www.nass.usda.gov/fl](http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl)

Week ending March 19, 2007

## RAIN EASED DRY CONDITIONS IN SOME AREAS

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Scattered rains eased dry conditions in some areas during the week of March 12 through 18. Significant rains fell in some north-central Peninsula areas with Hastings reporting about an inch and a third for the week. A pocket of land northwest of Lake Okeechobee also received over an inch with Sebring reporting two and three tenths inches and Kenansville, nearly one and a half inches falling. The Miami area also reported over one and three quarter inches for the week. Elsewhere, rain amounts ranged from traces to over two thirds of an inch. Temperatures warmed with daily temperatures averaging one to four degrees above normal in the major cities. Daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s while nighttime lows ranged from the 40s to the 60s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Ground preparation for planting of field crops remained on schedule since the Panhandle and most of the northern Peninsula received only light amounts of rain during the week. Although the rain slowed some sugarcane cutting around Lake Okeechobee, the majority of activity stayed on schedule. Topsoil moisture supplies were rated short to adequate in the Panhandle and very short to short elsewhere. Subsoil moisture ratings reflected the recent dry weather with ratings for all areas reportedly very short to short. A few spots of surplus soil moisture were reported for Jackson County.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	47	40	16	42	29	8
Short	35	32	45	39	37	40
Adequate	17	27	39	18	33	52
Surplus	1	1	0	1	1	0

**VEGETABLES:** Planting and harvesting remained mostly on schedule in the central and southern Peninsula. The rains in the Hastings area and northwest of Lake Okeechobee slowed some potato digging and other vegetable harvesting with most on schedule. Other vegetables and non-citrus fruit available during the week included snap beans, blueberries, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, parsley, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries and tomatoes.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition is very poor to good. Recent rain helped the winter forage to grow. The limited rainfall has not been enough to raise stock ponds water levels. In many cases, cattle are being fed hay to make up for poor pasture. Pasture grass is only two inches high, less than half of normal growth. In the central areas, pasture condition is very poor to good with most in poor condition due to drought and cold. Pasture grasses beginning spring growth were aided by recent rainfall. In the southwest areas, pasture condition is very poor to fair with most in poor condition. Statewide, cattle condition ranged from very poor to good with most in poor to fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	5	35	30
Poor	40	25	35	40
Fair	40	40	25	25
Good	15	25	5	5
Excellent	0	5	0	0

**CITRUS:** Citrus trees are in full bloom with many beginning to drop their petals following a week of above average daytime temperatures across the State. Nighttime temperatures remained cool with most areas dropping down to the mid-40s. Scattered showers across the State produced rainfall between two tenths of an inch in Immokalee and over two inches in Sebring. Areas along the east coast and the southern citrus region are irrigating heavily to compensate for lack of rainfall. Vigorous hedging and topping programs are being put into place after harvest. Many groves are currently receiving applications of pesticides and nematicides. Overall, trees in well-cared-groves look good, following what has been so far a mild winter season. Harvest on early and midseason oranges is almost over for the season. Processors are testing Valencia oranges for maturity levels acceptable to process large quantities. Grapefruit harvest continues to be picked at strong levels for both fresh and processing. Tangelos and early tangerines are almost over with a few thousands boxes harvested each week. Honey tangerine harvesting is still between one and two hundred thousand boxes per week with a slight majority harvested as fresh.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Mar 04	Mar 11	Mar 18
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	4	8	2
Early and Mid oranges	728	169	101
Valencia	1,099	1,672	3,667
Grapefruit	1,612	1,517	1,515
Sunburst Tangerines	1	2	1
Tangelos	4	12	4
Honey Tangerines	139	168	151
Temples	138	74	51

We encourage all subscribers of this report to consider receiving it by e-mail. To do so, log onto: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Florida/Subscribe\\_to\\_FL\\_Reports/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp) Select Florida Crop-Weather. Enter your first and last name. Enter your Email address. Click on Subscribe. The report will be sent automatically each week. Or you may call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter the subscription for you.