



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending April 1, 2007

DRY SOIL SLOWED SOME FIELD WORK

WEATHER SUMMARY: Most localities reported no rain for the week of March 26 through April 1. The tail end of a low pressure system crossing the nation hit the far western Panhandle during the second half of the week. This system brought about an inch of rain to Jay and a quarter inch or less to some other Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas. Winds from the Atlantic also pushed traces of rain to some central inland and southeast coastal areas during the week. Temperatures for the week averaged two to seven degrees above normal in the major cities. Daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s while nighttime lows were in the 50s and 60s. Alachua and Tallahassee reported at least one low in the upper 40s. The continued dry, hot conditions increased the danger for wild fire over most of the State.

FIELD CROPS: Mostly clear weather in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula allowed most ground preparations for field crop planting to remain on schedule. Field work slowed in a few localities due to dry soils. Growers expect cotton planting to start over the next three weeks. Peanut producers plan to start planting by early May. Most corn has germinated well. Most small grains look good but the recent dry weather is starting to affect development. The Big Bend area, portions of the northern Peninsula and the entire southern Peninsula reported very short soil moisture supplies. The central Peninsula reported mostly very short to short soil moisture. The Panhandle reported very short to mostly short soil moisture. Statewide soil moisture was rated mostly very short to short with some adequate supplies reported for spots in Alachua, Marion, and Hernando counties and the Panhandle.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	65	51	30	60	49	25
Short	30	39	53	30	39	32
Adequate	5	10	17	10	12	43
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0

VEGETABLES: Planting and harvesting stayed on schedule due to the clear weather. Growers irrigated crops as needed. Producers picked a very light amount of watermelons with marketing expected to remain light over the next two weeks. 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, potatoes, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, pasture condition is very poor to good with the poor condition due to drought. Pasture in the northern areas is mostly poor. Small grain forage generally still looks good, but dry weather has hurt the condition. The cool season forage condition is declining very fast. Summer perennial grass is not productive yet. Irrigated grazing lands are holding up but are being grazed too hard. The cattle condition is very poor to good. In the central areas, pasture condition is very poor to good with most in poor condition due to drought. In the southwestern areas, pasture condition is very poor to fair and cattle condition is fair to good. Statewide, cattle condition is mostly fair.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	5	30	45
Poor	10	35	25	35
Fair	55	45	40	15
Good	30	15	5	5
Excellent	0	0	0	0

CITRUS: Spotty rains across the State amounted to less than one tenth of an inch in each of the citrus producing areas. The combination of continued dry weather and warm temperatures is causing some trees to become very dry. Irrigation is being run regularly, but that in itself is not enough to keep the trees in good condition. Rain is badly needed in most areas, and the dry weather could become a problem if rain does not come shortly. Citrus trees in most areas are in full, open bloom, while a few of the earlier blooming varieties are showing petal drop. Valencia harvest has picked up to over four million boxes a week. Harvesting is running ahead of the last two years, indicating an earlier maturing crop. A shift in the colored grapefruit harvest has brought processing levels above amounts being harvested for fresh. Honey tangerine harvest is running steadily between one and two hundred thousand boxes per week, primarily for the fresh market. Caretakers are mowing, hedging and topping, and applying nutritional sprays. In addition to the normal maintenance programs, growers are scouting for greening and removing diseased trees.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Mar 18	Mar 25	Apr 01
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	2	3	3
Early and Mid oranges	101	39	88
Valencia	3,667	4,066	4,330
Grapefruit	1,515	1,289	1,362
Sunburst Tangerines	1	0	0
Tangelos	4	0	0
Honey Tangerines	151	120	108
Temples	51	16	10

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