



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

Week ending April 8, 2007

ANOTHER WEEK OF CONTINUED DRY CONDITIONS

WEATHER SUMMARY: Most localities recorded no measurable rain for the week of April 2 through 8. Conditions became more favorable for wild fire outbreaks during the week in central and southern Peninsula areas. Fort Pierson recorded nearly an inch of rain. Kenansville and Pensacola received over a quarter of an inch of precipitation. Temperatures averaged from normal to two degrees above normal. A cold frontal system swept across the State by the end of the week causing below freezing temperatures in some areas. Daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s with a few locations reaching the 90s. Evening lows were in the 40s, 50s, and 60s with some areas receiving lows in 30s at least one night over the weekend. Alachua recorded one nighttime low in the upper 20s.

FIELD CROPS: Dry conditions allowed growers to continue with ground preparations for field crop planting in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas. Field work was delayed in some areas due to hardened soils. Lack of precipitation continues to lower soil moisture supplies across the State. Soil moisture supplies in the Panhandle are mostly very short to adequate. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies are mostly very short across the northern Peninsula. Marion County reported very short to adequate soil moisture supplies. Central and southern Peninsula soil moisture supplies were rated mostly very short.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	70	65	55	67	60	40
Short	26	30	39	27	30	46
Adequate	4	5	6	6	10	14
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0

VEGETABLES: Dry conditions allowed field activities to stay on schedule. Mostly dry weather increased the need for irrigation over the central and southern Peninsula. Planting is slowing seasonally in southern Peninsula areas. Harvest in the central and southern Peninsula remains active. Watermelon growers in the northern Peninsula and Panhandle areas started spring crop planting. Watermelon picking is slowly gaining momentum with central and southern Peninsula marketing supplies expected to increase by next week. Strawberry harvest is nearly finished in the Plant City area. Producers marketed snap beans, blueberries, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, parsley, peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes during the week.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, the condition of the pasture is very poor to good. Stock ponds are dry. The condition of pasture and small grain forage improved after rain the last week of March, but continued cold hinders pasture development. In most locations, pasture is green but there is no growth due to drought. Ranchers are moving stock to different pastures and are feeding hay again. Pasture in the northern areas is poor to fair. Cattle condition is mostly fair. In the central areas, pasture condition is poor to good due to drought. In the southwest area, pasture condition is very poor to poor with most in poor condition. 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	15	30
Poor	25	10	45	25
Fair	55	55	35	40
Good	15	30	5	5
Excellent	0	0	0	0

CITRUS: Although light rainfall occurred across several regions of the citrus belt, total amounts remained below average. Central areas received up to two tenths with the most recorded in the east coast areas at slightly less than one inch. Irrigation continues to be used to supplement rainfall amounts. Temperatures were below normal levels in all areas with some stations reporting at least one morning low in the high 30s. Most areas continue in full, open bloom with some groves and varieties showing pedal drop. Valencia harvest has increased to over four million boxes a week. Harvest to-date is ahead of the last two years, indicating an earlier maturing crop. Grapefruit harvest has been heavy to processing as harvest for export of fresh fruit declines seasonally. 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 25	Apr 01	Apr 08
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	3	3	3
Early and Mid oranges	39	71	6
Valencia	4,066	4,514	4,610
Grapefruit	1,289	1,314	1,026
Honey Tangerines	120	95	93
Temples	16	6	4

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. 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.