



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending February 10, 2008

MILD TEMPERATURES FOR END OF WINTER HARVESTING AND BEGINNING OF SPRING PLANTING

WEATHER SUMMARY: Mild temperatures prevailed across the State last week with daytime highs in the upper 80s for the southern Peninsula and areas of the central Peninsula. Daytime lows were in the 30s for the Panhandle and parts of the central Peninsula. Scattered showers were reported across the State with a quarter of an inch or more reported in St. Johns, Osceola, Jackson, Hardee, and Gadsden counties. Major cities averaged lows in the 40s, 50s and 60s; highs averaged in the 70s and 80s.

FIELD CROPS: This was a good week for field activity in the southern Peninsula; potatoes continued to be harvested and the spring crop looked fair. In central Florida, potato growers continued planting and expected to be completed next week. Hay supply was low in the Panhandle; however, winter wheat had all been planted and was in good condition. Surface moisture was reported in good condition for much of the northern counties but subsurface moisture was still deficient. Topsoil moisture was mostly adequate in the Panhandle; short to adequate in the central Peninsula, and subsoil moisture mostly adequate; very short to short topsoil moisture in the southern Peninsula but adequate subsoil moisture.

| Moisture Rating | Topsoil | | | Subsoil | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | This week | Last week | Last year | This week | Last week | Last Year |
| | <i>Percent</i> | | | | | |
| Very short | 18 | 7 | 12 | 12 | 9 | 12 |
| Short | 38 | 33 | 41 | 36 | 33 | 43 |
| Adequate | 44 | 59 | 40 | 48 | 57 | 38 |
| Surplus | 0 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 7 |

VEGETABLES: Harvesting and packing of beans, corn, squash, and tomatoes continued in Florida City. Collards, peppers, cabbage, kale, and Swiss chard continued to be harvested in Fort Myers. In Palatka, harvesting and packing of cabbage, kale, broccoli, and a variety of mixed greens were reported. Strawberry plants were in full bloom in Plant City and demand continued to be strong. Also in the Plant City area, peppers and squash were being planted. Farmers were getting prepared to plant watermelon in Sumter County. Other vegetables marketed were celery, endive, escarole, radishes, eggplant, and cucumbers.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in poor condition due to cold and drought. Winter grazing was looking much better where planted. Hay was in short supply. Winter wheat forage was planted and was reported in good condition. The condition of cattle was very poor to good with most in fair condition. In the central areas, pasture and cattle conditions were very poor to good with most fair. In Hillsborough County, the warmer weather helped some pasture grasses recover. Pastures were greening up. In Sumter County, there has been little rain and pastures were drying up. In the southwestern areas, pasture was very poor to excellent with most poor to fair due to drought. Pastures were dry in De Soto County. Statewide, cattle condition was 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 | 10 | 10 |
| Poor | 10 | 15 | 30 | 20 |
| Fair | 45 | 30 | 45 | 45 |
| Good | 40 | 45 | 14 | 24 |
| Excellent | 0 | 5 | 1 | 1 |

CITRUS: During the past week, temperatures ranged from the high 40s at night to the mid 80s during the day. Overall, temperatures have been above average for the last week. Scattered light rainfall brought a quarter of an inch or less of precipitation to central and western citrus locations. The rest of the citrus-producing region did not record any significant rainfall. Groves and trees were in good condition in well-cared-for groves. New bloom and new growth has been negligible in all areas. Growers continued fertilization and irrigation practices. Caretakers were mowing, hedging, topping, herbiciding, and spraying pesticides. Some growers were pushing large areas that have trees affected with greening. Others were pushing only those trees affected and were spraying to combat the Citrus Psyllid. Honey tangerine harvest, at just over one hundred thousand boxes weekly, was expected to pick up slightly and hold constant for the next several weeks. Grapefruit was being harvested almost equally for the fresh and processed market. Early and midseason orange harvest was expected to stay at about the five million box level through early to mid-March before decreasing and transitioning to Valencia. Varieties harvested included early, midseason, Navel, and Temple oranges; grapefruit; Sunburst and Honey tangerines; and tangelos.

| ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED | | | |
|--|---|--------|--------|
| Crop | Jan 27 | Feb 03 | Feb 10 |
| | <i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i> | | |
| Early and Mid oranges | 6,202 | 5,452 | 5,347 |
| Navel oranges | 43 | 45 | 29 |
| Temples | 27 | 30 | 27 |
| Grapefruit | 810 | 729 | 977 |
| Sunburst tangerines | 38 | 10 | 8 |
| Honey tangerines | 84 | 112 | 133 |
| Tangelos | 135 | 88 | 91 |

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