



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 6, 2008

APRIL SHOWERS REPORTED ACROSS STATE

WEATHER SUMMARY: Daytime temperatures were mostly in the 80s and upper 70s; with Sebring and Umatilla reaching the 90s at least one day last week. The average temperatures reported in the major cities were 5 to 6 degrees above normal. Lows for the week were mostly in the 50s, 60s, and 70s; however, MacClenny in Baker County reported a minimum temperature of 43 degrees. All locations received over an inch of rain for the week; with large quantities of 4.52, 4.91, and 5.62 inches in Polk, Santa Rosa, and Gadsden counties, respectively. A majority of the rain came towards the end of the week.

FIELD CROPS: Many growers at the start of the week of March 31 described fields as dry and dusty, but by the end of the week, growers were thankful for the rains. In Jefferson County, much of the corn has been planted, while Washington County reported that 85 percent of corn was up and the rest was expected to be planted next week. Suwannee County producers were planting corn as well. Potato growers in St. Johns County killed vines of early planted potatoes in preparation for harvest. The first hay of the season was being baled in Suwannee County. The significant rains received throughout the week elevated soil moisture supplies. The increase was more noticeable in the central and southern Peninsula areas, which reported mostly adequate to surplus levels. Soil moisture supplies in the Panhandle were short to mostly adequate. Areas throughout the Big Bend had adequate supplies.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	3	3	69	4	6	65
Short	19	37	27	18	38	28
Adequate	74	59	4	76	56	7
Surplus	4	1	0	2	0	0

VEGETABLES: Vegetable planting and harvesting continued. Most watermelons have been seeded or transplanted in Jefferson County as growers in Immokalee began early harvesting. In St. Augustine, sweet onions were being harvested. Most cabbage growers in St. Johns County were wrapping up the harvesting season. Producers marketed snap beans, celery, cabbage, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, okra, peas, peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes during the week.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was poor to good with most in fair condition. Most permanent pasture had good growth in Jefferson County. In Santa Rosa County, small grain forage improved with the continued cool, dry weather. In Washington County, perennial grasses were slow recovering from the late freeze, especially since surface moisture was marginal. The condition of cattle was mostly fair. In central areas, pasture condition was poor to good with most fair to good. In Marion County, pasture grass showed marked improvements due to warmer temperatures and rainfall. Cattle conditions ranged from very poor to good with most in fair condition. In the southwestern areas, pasture ranged from very poor to excellent with most in good condition. Due to the increased rains, pasture condition was improving as well as cattle body condition scores. 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	10	10	15
Poor	15	15	20	20
Fair	40	45	35	40
Good	40	30	30	23
Excellent	0	0	5	2

CITRUS: Heavy rainfall brought precipitation totals for the week ending on April 6, to over four inches in the central citrus region and over two and a half inches in the southern and eastern growing regions. All areas received at least an inch and a half of needed rainfall for the week. The rainfall was very helpful to the trees carrying new fruit for the next season. Highs on several days were in the mid to high 80s in all areas. Sebring recorded a near record high reaching over 91 degrees on Saturday. Grove maintenance continued to be busy and included spraying, mowing, hedging, topping, and fertilizing. Growers, caretakers, and field personnel were reporting new growth flush and about three quarters petal drop on late oranges and full petal drop on other varieties. Valencia harvest, at over six million boxes this week, was almost at its peak amount for the season. The majority of the remaining grapefruit this season will go processed. Sizes have been relatively small and pack-out amounts have been declining. Fresh export sales for both grapefruit and tangerines were diminishing. Varieties being harvested included early, midseason, Temple, and Valencia oranges; grapefruit; and Honey tangerines.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Mar 23	Mar 30	Apr 06
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and Mid oranges	504	78	7
Navel oranges	2	2	2
Temples	100	90	53
Valencia oranges	3,725	5,272	6,151
Grapefruit	1,267	1,326	1,245
Honey tangerines	134	213	196
Tangelos	4	10	9

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. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Data for individual reporting stations is available at <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.