



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending April 13, 2008

MOST GROWERS WELCOME WARM TEMPERATURES, SCATTERED SHOWERS

WEATHER SUMMARY: Warm temperatures and scattered showers were welcomed by most farmers, contributing to a great week for field activities. Precipitation of less than half an inch was scattered throughout the State and increased soil moisture in some areas. Low temperatures in the major cities were in the 50s, 60s, and 70s; high temperatures in the 70s and 80s. Daytime lows across the State were in the 40s, 50s, and 60s; highs were in the 70s, 80s, and 90s.

FIELD CROPS: The potato harvest began in the Hastings area. The cool, dry weather in late spring gave a boost to winter wheat in Leon County. Washington County reported corn planting near completion, but some major producers were waiting on changes in soil moisture. Soil moisture was mostly adequate in the Panhandle and southern Peninsula and short in the Big Bend. The central Peninsula had mostly short topsoil moisture and adequate subsoil moisture.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	1	3	48	1	4	52
Short	18	19	40	22	18	38
Adequate	76	74	12	76	76	10
Surplus	5	4	0	1	2	0

VEGETABLES: Planting was winding down in areas of the Panhandle while harvesting of spring crops began in areas of the southern Peninsula. Growers in the Fort Myers area harvested collards, peppers, cabbage, and kale. Light volumes of watermelon were harvested in Immokalee. Hillsborough County reported the end of the strawberry season due to the weather, but Alachua and Bradford counties continued to harvest. Beans, sweet corn, radishes, squash, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, tomatoes, and escarole moved through the market.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Unseasonably cool temperatures slowed forage growth in much of the area. The condition of the cattle was mostly fair to good. In central areas, pasture and cattle conditions were poor to good. In the southwestern areas, pasture was very poor to excellent with most in good condition. Pastures showed improved condition due to recent rains, with some localized field flooding. 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	5	10
Poor	10	15	10	20
Fair	50	40	45	35
Good	35	40	38	30
Excellent	0	0	2	5

CITRUS: Citrus producing counties had continued warm weather all week. Highs were in the lower to mid-80s on most days. Moderate rainfall was recorded in Ft. Pierce and Immokalee, totaling less than a half an inch for the week. Other areas had no significant rainfall. Growers were putting final applications of pesticides, fertilizing, hedging, and topping behind harvest and conducting young tree care. Some caretakers were chopping and mowing cover crops prior to and after harvest. As a result of recent rainfall, canals and lakes were carrying ample water needed for irrigation. The bloom period was about over for the season. Early oranges and grapefruit were forming small pea-size fruit, while late oranges were dropping the last of their bloom. Valencia harvest, at over six million boxes again this week, was in full swing. A large majority of the remaining white grapefruit this season will be marketed as processed. Honey Tangerines, typically a fruit grown for the fresh fruit market, were being processed at a higher rate than normal. Varieties harvested included Valencia oranges, small amounts of Temple oranges, grapefruit, and Honey tangerines.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Mar 30	Apr 06	Apr 13
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and Mid oranges	78	7	0
Navel oranges	2	2	1
Temples	90	53	4
Valencia oranges	5,272	6,151	6,203
Grapefruit	1,326	1,245	1,072
Honey tangerines	213	196	132
Tangelos	10	9	1

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