



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 February 1, 2009

A WARMER WEEK FOR FIELD WORK

WEATHER SUMMARY: Growers welcomed warmer temperatures after a series of cold fronts in previous weeks. Scattered showers were spotted across the State last week. Areas of the Big Bend and central Peninsula received between one and two inches of rain. The most accumulated rainfall was received in Baker County at 2.05 inches. Major cities averaged highs in the 60s, 70s, and 80s with lows ranging from the 20s to 60s.

FIELD CROPS: Winter wheat was reported in average condition in the western Panhandle. Spring planting preparations and fertilization for field crops began in Gadsden, Madison, and Lafayette counties. Potato planting continued in St. Johns County with early planted potatoes relatively undamaged from the cool temperatures. Soil moisture was mostly adequate for all areas.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	5	15	6	16	20	10
Short	29	40	29	23	31	35
Adequate	65	44	64	60	46	54
Surplus	1	1	1	1	3	1

VEGETABLES: Various crops were damaged or lost due to the past two weeks of cold fronts. Flagler County reported approximately twenty percent of the cabbage crop damaged. Ripe strawberries were lost in Seminole County, but growers are waiting to assess the condition of the remaining crop. Growers reported very little damage to the strawberry crop in Plant City. Lee County plowed under damaged tomato plants; however, greens, peppers, and radishes survived the freeze with little damage. Planting of spring crops resumed and replacement of plants affected by the freeze began. Other vegetables marketed last week were beans, broccoli, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, and squash.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: The pasture condition throughout the State was very poor to good due mainly to the cold and freezing temperatures and also to drought. In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was very poor to good. Winter grazing growth was fairly strong with clovers showing good growth. Pasture and cover crops planted for grazing were stressed. Cool season pastures were just overcoming the recent hard freeze. Cattle condition was poor to excellent with most in fair condition. The current cattle condition reflects the limited grazing available on permanent pasture and range. Supplemental feeding with hay and or minerals was the primary feed for the first week. In the central areas, pasture condition was very poor to good with most very poor to poor. Pastures showed damage from freezing temperatures. Hay supplies were running short. In the southwestern areas, pasture was very poor to good with most poor to fair. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most cattle in fair to good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	10	10	25	25
Poor	10	5	40	40
Fair	50	45	30	30
Good	29	35	5	5
Excellent	1	5	0	0

CITRUS: The start of the week brought warm and dry conditions across the State and growers began to assess the damaging effects of the previous week's freezing weather. From Monday through early Thursday morning, temperatures across the State averaged from the mid-70s in the north to the low 80s in the southernmost counties. A slow moving cold front passed across the Peninsula late Thursday and early Friday bringing much needed rain. Colder weather in the citrus-producing areas prevailed during the weekend with early morning temperatures in the low 30s and high temperatures in the middle 60s. Early and midseason harvesting was almost complete. Processing plants were running early-midseason oranges at full capacity. Tangerine harvest has made a full transition from the early variety Sunburst to the later variety Honey. Caretakers continue to mow, minor hedge, and run irrigation.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Jan 19 ^{1/}	Jan 25 ^{2/}	Feb 01
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges (including Ambersweet)	7,137	5,286	5,837
Temples	29	19	18
Navel oranges	83	52	34
Grapefruit	832	695	863
Tangelos	98	47	60
Sunburst tangerines	46	14	3
Honey tangerines	122	107	85

^{1/} Includes Monday. Eight day week for comparison purposes.
^{2/} Excludes Monday. Six day week for comparison purposes.

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