



# 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](http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl)

Week ending February 15, 2009

## WARM WEATHER BROUGHT SHOWERS TO PANHANDLE

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Temperatures warmed last week across the State. Showers were spotted mostly in the Panhandle with scattered showers in the Big Bend and central Peninsula. Precipitation of one to two inches was reported in Franklin, Jackson, and Gadsden counties and over three inches in Santa Rosa County. Major cities averaged highs in the 70s and 80s with lows ranging from the 40s to 60s. Daytime temperatures reached highs in the 70s and 80s with lows in the 30s and 40s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Growers worked to finish potato planting in St. Johns County with minor freeze damage reported. Much of the sugarcane crop suffered freeze damage in Glades and Hendry counties. Small grains in the fields looked good in Levy County. Pine tree planting continued in Taylor County. Topsoil moisture was mostly short in the southern Peninsula but adequate in all other areas; subsoil moisture was mostly adequate in the Panhandle and southern Peninsula, but short in the Big Bend and central Peninsula.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	10	4	6	17	12	11
Short	39	36	32	32	30	32
Adequate	51	59	58	48	55	54
Surplus	0	1	4	3	3	3

**VEGETABLES:** Most growers reported minor damage to vegetables in the field. Miami-Dade County harvested tomatoes and beans. Hardee County replanted tomatoes in some areas and delayed planting in others. Watermelon fields were in final preparation in Alachua County. Cabbage harvesting continued in St. Johns County with some outer leaf damage. Several counties in the southern Peninsula reported significant damage to the vegetable crops. Fort Myers growers harvested peppers and greens. Gadsden producers pushed planting back to April due to recent freezes. Immokalee growers began replanting for the spring crop but harvesting and packing slowed due to cool temperatures. Producers in Plant City reported strawberries in fair to good condition with heavy movement through the market. Other vegetables marketed were celery, sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, radishes, and squash.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle area, pasture condition was very poor to good. Pasture was short due to cold and lack of rain. In Jackson County, winter forage was in full production so some cattle were improving, though not every ranch has winter grazing. Much forage in Leon County was still limited by drought, however ample rain in Santa Rosa County relieved pressure on cattle ponds and winter forage. Cattle condition was poor to excellent. In the northern areas, cool season forages were growing but were being grazed heavily and needed rain to help maintain stands. Supplemental hay feeding was active. In the central areas, pasture condition was very poor to good with most very poor to poor due to drought and cold. Hay supplies were very short. Cattle condition was very poor to good with most in fair condition. In the southwestern areas, the pasture was very poor to good with most poor to fair. Warm weather over the past week brought some green back to pastures. The condition of the cattle in the southwest was very poor to excellent. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most fair to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	5	0	25	20
Poor	15	20	35	45
Fair	35	35	35	25
Good	40	35	5	9
Excellent	5	10	0	1

**CITRUS:** Typical, seasonal weather patterns returned to citrus-producing areas this past week with little rain and mild winds. Daily high temperatures were slightly above average reaching the upper 70s to lower 80s on most days, with occasional readings as high as 86 degrees. Citrus growers implemented normal irrigating, fertilizing, and hedging programs, along with harvesting of fruit. Trees appear to be healthy in well-cared-for groves. New bloom and growth has not been seen thus far. Overall, damage from the cold snaps last month and earlier this month seems to be minimal. Higher droppage and earlier maturity was noted in some groves, but juice yields seem to be unaffected in most areas. The primary citrus fruits being harvested for processing were early and midseason oranges and grapefruit. Some processing plants took limited amounts of tangelos. Honey tangerines, Valencia, Navels, and Temples were picked in small quantities, primarily for the fresh market.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Feb 01	Feb 08	Feb 15
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges	5,837	6,089	5,651
Temples	18	24	21
Navel oranges	34	13	8
Valencia oranges	0	4	34
Grapefruit	863	1,014	1,081
Tangelos	60	79	42
Sunburst tangerines	3	2	1
Honey tangerines	85	136	80

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](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.