



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 March 1, 2009

DRY, WARM WEEK FOR FIELD WORK

WEATHER SUMMARY: Warm nighttime and daytime temperatures reigned most of the week. Very little rain was received midweek throughout the State. The most accumulated precipitation was received in Jackson County, 1.06 inches. Major cities averaged highs in the 60s, 70s, and 80s with lows ranging from the 20s to 60s. Daytime temperatures reached highs in the 70s and 80s with lows in the 20s, 30s, and 40s.

FIELD CROPS: Potato plants were up in Putnam County, but growers were worried about the effects of the cold front that passed though on Sunday. Columbia County reported adequate hay supplies. Producers in Glades County worked to harvest damaged sugarcane. Topsoil moisture was mostly short in the central and southern Peninsula but adequate in the Panhandle and Big Bend. 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	24	13	5	22	17	5
Short	41	42	22	41	39	27
Adequate	35	44	68	35	42	65
Surplus	0	1	5	2	2	2

VEGETABLES: Vegetables in the fields looked good last week, but production was slow due to lack of rain. St. Johns County growers continued to harvest cabbage and broccoli with good quality. Gadsden County growers continued to prepare land for spring planting. Immokalee growers finished planting. Heavy movement of strawberries continued in Plant City with good supply and demand. Pompano growers in Broward County harvested squash, eggplant, peppers, beans, and corn. From Wauchula, the County agent reported that strawberries were at their peak; however, the watermelon crop was still being evaluated from an earlier frost. Putnam County growers harvested greens, broccoli, and beets. Hernando, Citrus, and Sumter county growers began planting sweet corn. Some growers in Bradford County used frost protection for their strawberry crop. Greens were harvested and the onion crop was in good condition. Seminole and Orange county growers harvested strawberries and greens. Miami-Dade County growers planted beans and squash and harvested tomatoes and squash. Other vegetables marketed were celery, endive, lettuce, and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Forage growth was limited throughout the State by cold and freezing temperatures in the Panhandle and northern areas. Drought was also a limiting factor in all areas. In the Panhandle area, pasture condition was very poor to excellent. Cold temperatures have limited ryegrass, oat, and wheat forage growth. Cattle condition was poor to excellent with most fair to good. In the northern areas, cold temperatures have limited forage growth. Pasture and cool season forages were very short. More cattle were being fed hay. Hay supplies were adequate, but cost was increasing. In the central areas, pasture condition was mostly poor to fair. Drought was limiting forage growth. Permanent pasture was dormant and planted pasture was not yielding as much as normal. Cattle condition was mostly poor. Pasture in the southwest was very poor to good, but most was poor to fair. Dry soil conditions have hampered pasture recovery. Pasture and forage continue to be depleted as a result of drought and cool temperatures. Most of the cattle in the southwest were in poor to fair condition. 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	5	14	20
Poor	30	20	50	35
Fair	35	45	30	35
Good	29	25	5	9
Excellent	1	5	1	1

CITRUS: All citrus areas experienced a warming trend beginning on Tuesday. Temperatures reached the low to mid-80s by the weekend, before a cool front began pushing in early Sunday morning. All citrus areas continued to be abnormally dry and in need of rainfall. Most areas have not had significant rainfall since mid-January. Ft. Pierce has been devoid of ample rains since mid-December. With the warmer afternoons, many trees had new, small shoots and were forming new leaves. With the exception of some weaker trees, no areas have begun budding yet. Field personnel reported growers were hedging, topping, irrigating, fertilizing, aerial spraying, and mowing. Harvesting of early and midseason fruit has slowed significantly due to availability. Some growers in the southern areas were beginning to pick Valencia oranges. Honey tangerines will most likely be finished early in March due to the short crop, early start, and cold snap. Some packinghouses have finished taking tangelos and Temples for the season.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Feb 15	Feb 22	Mar 01
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges	5,651	4,580	2,800
Temples	21	31	74
Valencia oranges	34	60	463
Navel oranges	8	2	2
Grapefruit	1,081	1,009	1,015
Tangelos	42	22	11
Sunburst tangerines	1	0	1
Honey tangerines	80	75	83

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