



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 5, 2009

PANHANDLE FIELD WORK DELAYED BY FLOODING

WEATHER SUMMARY: Warm temperatures continued throughout last week with highs ranging from the upper 70s to low 90s. Nighttime lows were in the 40s, 50s, and 60s. Overall temperatures in major cities were average to 5 degrees above normal. Most locations in the State received precipitation of at least 0.25 inches. The heaviest rain fell in the Panhandle and Big Bend areas, with many locations collecting over 9 inches. The central region had spotty rainfall ranging between zero and 2.35 inches, while the southern Peninsula received only traces of rain.

FIELD CROPS: Field work was delayed due to heavy rains in the northern region. Many of the fields that were prepared for planting corn and peanuts became flooded. Some growers reported field erosion. Sugarcane harvest was virtually finished in Glades and Hendry counties. Potatoes were in full bloom. Field preparations took place for caladiums in Highlands County. Soil moisture levels were mostly adequate to surplus in the Panhandle and Big Bend. The central and southern Peninsulas reported very short to adequate soil moisture levels.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	17	30	3	12	33	4
Short	43	46	22	49	38	21
Adequate	27	17	71	29	25	73
Surplus	13	7	4	10	4	2

VEGETABLES: Spring planting continued around most the State. Union County growers reported some delays due to earlier dry soils. Warm, windy weather combined with a lack of rain increased the need to irrigate most fields in the southern counties. Crops were still reported in good condition. Very light shipments of blueberries began. Lee County producers harvested greens. Broccoli and cabbage harvest seasonally declined in Palatka. Manatee County's tomato crop was reported as slower than last year due to late plantings. Other vegetables marketed included snap beans, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, onions, peppers, radishes, squash, and strawberries.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: The pasture condition improved following recent rains, but some pasture was flooded in the Panhandle and northern areas. Pasture grass was growing but supplemental hay was still needed. In the Panhandle, pasture condition was very poor to excellent. Some pastures were waterlogged from recent heavy rain. Bahia pasture was greening up as was some Bermuda hay fields. Cattle condition was mostly fair to good. In the northern areas, pasture condition was poor to good with most in fair condition. Permanent pastures were greening up but nighttime temperatures were too low for rapid growth. Cool season forage and grains were maturing. Winter small grain forage growth decreased as grain matures. Bahia grass pastures were greening up. In the central areas, pasture was very poor to good with most in poor condition. Rain and warmer temperatures helped pasture grass growth. Pasture in many central area locations received little or no rain. Cattle condition was very poor to good with most poor to fair. Pasture condition in the southwest was very poor to good with most in poor to fair condition. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most cattle in poor to good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	5	15	15	30
Poor	20	25	40	40
Fair	45	35	35	24
Good	25	24	9	5
Excellent	5	1	1	1

CITRUS: Temperatures ranged from early morning lows in the 50s to late afternoon highs in the 80s across the citrus region. A few widely scattered showers fell in various citrus-producing areas. Fort Pierce had the most rainfall at one-third of an inch. Windy conditions, combined with warm temperatures caused some dryness to citrus trees, increasing the need for irrigation. The drought intensity was between moderate to severe due to the lack of precipitation in all citrus areas. A heavy citrus bloom continues to be observed on all varieties. Caretakers were conducting limited fertilizer and pesticide applications as to not disturb the bloom. Harvesting has increased slightly and remains strong for the Valencia crop with over 5.0 million boxes picked this week. Packinghouses were still accepting very small quantities of the early and midseason varieties and should be finishing up soon. The Honey tangerine harvest has decreased significantly while the white and colored grapefruit remains steady with many boxes still left for harvesting.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Mar 22	Mar 29	Apr 05
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges	20	52	4
Temples	31	18	13
Valencia oranges	3,479	4,576	5,024
Navel oranges	2	3	2
Grapefruit	960	840	801
Tangelos	1	6	1
Sunburst tangerines	0	3	1
Honey tangerines	54	80	27

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.