



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending April 12, 2009

WINDY AND COOLER

WEATHER SUMMARY: Very little rain received in the State last week. Several counties in the central and southern Peninsulas received under a tenth of an inch. Virtually no rain in the Panhandle or Big Bend region; however, some areas near rivers remain flooded. A light frost was reported as far south as Hernando County, but only minor damage resulted. High temperatures were in the 70s, 80s, and 90s. Lows were in the 30s, 40s, and 50s. In major cities temperatures were normal to 3 degrees below average.

FIELD CROPS: The harvesting of potatoes continued. Growers burnt down cover crops in preparation for planting peanuts and cotton. Corn was planted in Escambia County. In the Big Bend, corn was already planted and up; however, Hamilton County had some corn fields under water. Excessively wet soils in the Panhandle have alleviated drought conditions, but delayed field work. Many fields will need to be reworked due to erosion. Sugarcane harvest ended for the season. Soil moisture levels were mostly adequate to surplus in the Panhandle and Big Bend, while the central and southern Peninsulas reported very short to adequate levels.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	28	17	1	24	12	1
Short	44	43	22	39	49	18
Adequate	20	27	76	27	29	76
Surplus	8	13	1	10	10	5

VEGETABLES: Many producers have completed their spring vegetable planting, but others continue for some crops. Growers in the Big Bend reported that many fields remain flooded. Some snap beans and carrots were under water in Hamilton County. Last week's cold front caused a frost in some areas. Minor damage was reported to cucumbers, watermelon, tomatoes, and peppers. In Hernando and Highlands counties blueberry harvest continued with some damage from birds. Union County reported that conditions were too dry and windy; planting of vegetables was behind. Growers in south Florida were faced with warm, dry, and windy conditions as well. Dade County growers harvested snap beans, sweet corn, eggplant, squash, and tomatoes. Other vegetables marketed were broccoli, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, escarole, endive, greens, peppers, radishes, and strawberries.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Dry, warm, and windy conditions improved pasture condition in the very wet Panhandle and north Florida, but hurt pasture in the dry central and southwest areas. In the Panhandle, pasture condition was poor to excellent. Cold and flooding hurt forage growth in some areas, but improved soil moisture for forage in other locations. Pastures improved daily, although frost burned back some Argentine Bahia pastures. There was some pasture flooding in several counties, especially along rivers. Cattle condition was mostly fair to good. In the northern areas, pasture condition was mostly fair with some pasture poor due to flooding and cold temperatures. Pasture in Hamilton and Dixie counties had flooding. Supplemental hay was being fed. In the central areas, pasture was very poor to good with most very poor to fair. In Marion County, dry, windy conditions decreased pasture grass growth. Many ranchers were feeding hay in Union County. Cattle condition was very poor to good. Pasture condition in the southwest was very poor to good with most in fair condition due to drought. In Charlotte County, ranchers irrigated some pasture. Livestock were given supplemental feed in many counties in the southwest. 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	10	5	19	15
Poor	15	20	25	40
Fair	45	45	45	35
Good	29	25	10	9
Excellent	1	5	1	1

CITRUS: Most of the citrus region experienced windy conditions on Monday and Tuesday as a cold front moved through the area. Wind gusts over 40 mph were recorded on the east coast. Warmer temperatures returned with afternoon highs in the upper 80s the latter half of the week. The week passed with no significant rainfall in any of the citrus-producing region. The drought intensity was between moderate to severe everywhere. Burn bans have been put in place on the east coast. Due to the dry conditions, trees ranged from poor in groves with less maintenance and little irrigation to good in well-cared-for groves. The citrus bloom was over and trees were experiencing petal drop with small fruit forming on the trees. Caretakers applied nutritional sprays to assist the trees in holding the new fruit for the next season. Harvesting on early-midseason fruit was relatively over. The Valencia crop harvest remains fairly strong with over five million boxes picked weekly. The Honey tangerine harvest continues with over 20,000 boxes harvested last week. The grapefruit harvest remains fairly strong with the majority of both colored and white going processed.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Mar 29	Apr 05	Apr 12
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges	52	4	21
Temples	18	13	4
Valencia oranges	4,576	5,024	5,147
Navel oranges	3	2	2
Grapefruit	840	801	605
Tangelos	6	1	5
Sunburst tangerines	3	1	0
Honey tangerines	80	27	22

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