



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending January 24, 2010

Warmer Weather and Scattered Showers

Weather Summary: The weather for the past week differed from that of the previous with warmer temperatures and increased precipitation. High temperatures averaged between the mid-70s and 80s and low temperatures averaged between the 40s and 50s. Temperatures were 1 to 6 degrees above normal. Highest temperatures were in the southern region and lowest temperatures were experienced throughout the Panhandle, northern, and central regions. Precipitation was highest in the Panhandle and northern areas with Santa Rosa and Jefferson counties reporting 9.5 and 6.8 inches of rain, respectively; whereas some counties within the central and southern region reported less than 1 inch of rain.

Field Crops: The detrimental effects of the freeze were more evident as growers continued to assess field damage. Forage crops such as rye and oats were damaged due to cold weather and flooding. Sugarcane suffered widespread freeze damage; growers harvested the crop at mill capacity. Cotton harvest neared completion. Scattered rains throughout the State caused flooding in the Panhandle, northern, and some parts of the central region. Some fields experienced flooding and leaching of fertilizer. In the Hastings area, recently planted potato fields had standing water. Counties that received little to no moisture were Polk, Desoto, and St. Lucie. In St. Lucie County, there was potential for wildfires with large amounts of dry plant material. Soil moisture was adequate in most regions, while the Panhandle region reported surplus levels.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	1	14	1	1	18	1
Short	31	38	15	26	30	17
Adequate.....	63	47	68	67	48	68
Surplus.....	5	1	16	6	4	14

Vegetables: Due to freeze damage, few vegetables moved through the market. Many vegetable packinghouses closed and will not reopen for several weeks. Cold weather caused extensive damage to snap beans and squash. Production volumes continued to be below normal for endive, escarole, radishes, and tomatoes. Vegetables moving through the market were cabbage, celery, sweet corn, snap beans, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, and strawberries. Growers planted spring crops.

Livestock and Pastures: In the Panhandle, pasture was in very poor to good condition with most in poor to fair condition. Recent heavy rains flooded many pastures. The excessive rains caused leaching of fertilizer from pastures. Freezing temperatures killed the emerged winter ryegrass, small grain forage, and lowered the forage quality. Cattlemen were feeding hay to make up for the lack of graze. In the northern areas, pasture was in very poor to good condition with most very poor to poor. In the central and southwest areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most very poor to fair. Most pasture grass was burned brown by the freezing temperatures earlier in the month, so forage quality was lost. Ranchers in Pasco County had to feed hay to their livestock. Small amounts of cool season forages were ready for grazing but most were not. In the southwest, livestock owners were feeding hay and supplements to compensate for poor pasture quality. The potential for wildfires was high with large amounts of very dry plant material in unimproved pastures. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was very poor to excellent with most in fair to good condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	2	20	15
Poor	19	8	45	50
Fair.....	35	40	25	25
Good	40	45	10	9
Excellent	5	5	0	1

Citrus: Highs this week reached the upper 70s and lower 80s, with early morning lows in the 30s and 40s. Alachua recorded the lowest temperature of 38 degrees. Rainfall was highly variable and scattered, with most stations receiving less than an inch. Putnam Hall received the most at three inches. All of the packinghouses were open. Varieties being packed included early oranges (Navel and Hamlin), white and colored grapefruit, and tangerines (mostly Sunburst with a few Honeys). Seventeen processors were open and accepting fruit. Early and midseason oranges and grapefruit comprised the majority of fruit going to the plants. The predominant grove activity last week was the harvesting of early and mid-season oranges.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	January 10, 2010	January 17, 2010	January 24, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	6,286	6,614	6,012
Navel oranges	38	29	22
Grapefruit	752	639	597
Tangelos	68	96	43
Tangerines	163	178	116

This report is available, at no cost, on the NASS web site: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp. To set-up this free subscription, select Florida Crop-Weather; enter your name and your email address, click on Subscribe. This report will be sent automatically each week; or 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.