



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending January 31, 2010

## Return To Seasonal Temperatures, Scattered Showers

**Weather Summary:** Last week’s high temperatures were mostly in the 70s and 80s, with some locations in the Panhandle only reaching the upper 60s. Lows were generally in the 30s and 40s. A few locations in the northern Peninsula and across the Panhandle dipped slightly below freezing. Average temperatures statewide were 1 to 3 degrees above normal. Precipitation was light at most FAWN (Florida Automated Weather Network) stations in the Peninsula and was for the most part under a quarter of an inch. The Panhandle reported higher amounts with Santa Rosa, Jackson, and Gadsden counties reporting 2.74, 1.80, and 1.16 inches of rain, respectively.

**Field Crops:** Cold and wet conditions across the Panhandle continue to hinder fieldwork and slow growth of winter forage. Rye was planted for seed production. Some cool season pastures will be over seeded with oats or ryegrass due to stand reduction from extreme cold two weeks ago. Rivers and low lying areas remain flooded in some areas, but were starting to recede. In the Hastings area, potato fields still had standing water in places. Growers were able to return to the fields for limited fieldwork. Damage to the recently planted potato crop is unknown at this time. In Dade County, damage from the freeze was more evident as growers had to disk under some annual crops. Fire danger in St Lucie County remained high in abandoned groves, natural areas, and unimproved pastures. In the Everglades area, freeze damage to sugarcane ranged from extensive to minimal depending on location. The most heavily damaged fields were rushed to harvest to lessen sucrose loss. Damage to plant cane was severe in some areas and will affect next season’s yield; 35 to 40 percent of the cane crop is yet to be harvested.

## 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	6	1	1	17	1
Short .....	15	31	20	17	24	22
Adequate.....	68	62	67	68	58	64
Surplus.....	16	1	12	14	1	13

**Vegetables:** Due to freeze damage, vegetable movement remained below normal. Salvage operations were mostly complete. In the Panhandle, land preparation has begun for spring vegetables. Planting of spring vegetables was active. Strawberries were harvested in Hernando, Citrus, and Sumter counties and their condition was mostly good. Vegetables moving through the market last week included snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes.

**Livestock and Pastures:** In the Panhandle, pasture was in very poor to good condition with most poor. Some low lying pastures were still flooded from recent rain. More seasonable temperatures have aided winter pasture recovery. Hay feeding was active but has slowed. In the northern areas, pasture was in very poor to good condition with most very poor to poor. The condition of the cattle was poor to excellent with most fair to good. In the central and southwestern areas, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most very poor to fair. Some cool season forage was ready for grazing. The cattle condition was very poor to good with most fair. In the southwestern areas, pastures greened up slowly with warmer weather and good soil moisture. Hay and supplemental feeding were active. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was very poor to excellent with most fair to good.

### Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	2	1	15	20
Poor .....	8	14	50	50
Fair.....	40	45	25	25
Good .....	45	35	9	5
Excellent .....	5	5	1	0

**Citrus:** Highs this week reached the upper 70s and lower 80s, with early morning lows in the 30s and 40s. Citra recorded the lowest temperature of 32 degrees. Rainfall was generally light, with all but one station receiving less than an inch. Ocklawaha received the most at one inch. 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, midseason, and late 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 oranges.

### Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	January 17, 2010	January 24, 2010	January 31, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	6,614	6,012	5,631
Valencia	0	0	24
Navel oranges .....	29	22	14
Grapefruit .....	639	597	726
Tangelos .....	96	43	31
Tangerines .....	178	116	125

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](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.