



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending February 14, 2010

## Temperatures Much Below Normal, Snow in Panhandle

**Weather Summary:** Temperatures averaged 6 to 12 degrees below normal. High temperatures were mostly in the 60s, and 70s; lows ranged from the 20s and 30s. Freezing temperatures were recorded as far south as Orlando. Snow fell across parts of the Panhandle. Significant amounts of rain fell over large areas of the State. Most areas received precipitation in excess of an inch. The northern Peninsula recorded the highest amounts with Alachua, Marion, Putnam, and Volusia counties all reporting over 2.00 inches.

**Field Crops:** Excessively wet fields, cold temperatures, and snow brought fieldwork to a standstill in the Panhandle and Big Bend areas. Heavy rainfall caused some erosion, fertilizer leaching, standing water, and slower growth of winter pasture. In the Hastings area, flooding and standing water have caused some recently planted potatoes to rot. Growers were replanting fields where possible. Sugarcane harvest continued in south Florida with some reduction in yield and sucrose loss due to freeze damage.

## 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	9	2	1	16	2
Short .....	14	39	12	15	32	15
Adequate.....	68	52	58	68	49	57
Surplus.....	17	0	28	16	3	26

**Vegetables:** Spring vegetables and early watermelons were planted in the Lake Okeechobee area. Tomato planting in Manatee County was near completion and growers harvested strawberries. Spring vegetable planting and field preparations were delayed. Light volumes of vegetables continued to move through the market including snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes.

**Greenhouse and Nursery:** Nursery growers across the State reported varied amounts of damage from the extended period of cold and sub-freezing nights.

**Non-citrus Fruit:** In the Panhandle and Big Bend, non-citrus fruit trees were starting to bud and risked damage from hard freezes.

**Livestock and Pastures:** Throughout the northern and central regions of Florida, cattle conditions were reported as poor to good with most fair. In the south, cattle conditions were reported as mostly good. The combination of cold and damp weather slightly affected livestock conditions in the Panhandle region. Some losses were reported in cattle herds and pig litters. Pasture and range conditions were reported as poor to good with most of the State reporting poor to fair. Winter pasture growth has slowed due to the cold and rain. Morning frosts within the past week affected growth of cool season grasses. Supplemental hay feeding was active. Hay supplies were short in some areas. St. Lucie County continued to report dry ground conditions.

### Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	2	1	15	10
Poor .....	10	12	45	55
Fair.....	50	55	30	20
Good .....	35	30	10	15
Excellent .....	3	2	0	0

**Citrus:** Highs this week ranged from the lower 60s to the upper 70s, with early morning lows in the 20s and 30s. Brooksville recorded dangerously low temperatures (26° to 27°) for five consecutive hours on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup>. Rainfall was moderate to heavy with most stations receiving a half-inch or more. Alachua received the most at 2.50 inches; while Kenansville received only a trace amount. All of the packinghouses were open. Varieties packed included mid-season oranges (Pineapple, Midsweet, etc.), Temples, Valencia, white and colored grapefruit, and Honey tangerines. 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-season oranges.

### Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	January 31, 2010	February 7, 2010	February 14, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	5,631	5,155	3,756
Valencia .....	24	44	102
Navel oranges .....	14	12	7
Grapefruit .....	726	908	1,013
Tangelos .....	31	8	39
Tangerines .....	125	106	136

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.