



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

Week ending March 14, 2010

Strong Storms and Heavy Rain

Weather Summary: Last week's high temperatures were mostly in the upper 70s and lower 80s. Lows were in the 30s and 40s. Average temperatures were between 1 to 5 degrees below normal. Freezing temperatures were absent in most areas of the State. Severe storms with high winds, some producing tornados, brought heavy rain to many areas. Two to four inches of rainfall was common over much of the State, with some areas in southern Florida reporting over 5 inches of precipitation. FAWN (Florida Automated Weather Network) stations in Polk, Palm Beach, and Osceola counties reported 5.47, 5.03, and 5.01 inches of rainfall, respectively. The majority of the topsoil and subsoil moisture reported was adequate to surplus for all regions.

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	32	5	5	29	1
Short	10	49	1	10	46	8
Adequate	80	19	72	75	25	67
Surplus	9	0	22	10	0	24

Field Crops: Wet conditions in the Panhandle slowed field preparations and planting. Some planting was reported, but most field crops will be delayed a few more weeks. Cool and wet conditions slowed growth of winter forage. Flooded fields in the Hastings area caused some potato crops to be replanted. Cabbage harvest was below normal. In southern Florida, sugarcane harvest was nearing completion. Two of the three mills were scheduled to close for the season and the remaining plant will shut down later in the month. In Miami-Dade County, operators were planting beans and other alternative food crops. Some boniatos were being harvested.

Vegetables: Warmer conditions this week favored vegetables but growth is still below normal due to cool nights and the long duration of cold weather. Spring watermelon planting was active in many areas of the State but cold weather slowed growth. Moving through the market this week were beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, strawberries, and tomatoes. Volume has been increasing but shipments continue to be below normal.

Greenhouse and Nursery: Nursery growers were still waiting on freeze-damaged crops to green up and assess the extent of damage.

Livestock and Pastures: Pasture and range was in very poor to good condition throughout the State. Forages were recovering from the cold spell of the past weeks. In the Panhandle and northern areas, the pasture condition was very poor to good. Winter forage was growing but unable to supply all the feed needs of the cattle. Pastures were soggy. Pasture was severely overgrazed due to cold weather stunting grass growth. The cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most fair to good. In the central areas, pasture was very poor to good with most fair to good. Rain and warmer temperatures caused pastures to green up. Most cattle in the area were in fair to good condition. In the southwestern areas, pasture condition was very poor to good. The pasture was in very poor to poor condition in some locations due to standing water and the previous week's frost. However, the rain helped green up pastures dramatically. The cattle were in poor to excellent condition with most fair. Livestock producers fed hay and supplements. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was very poor to excellent with most fair.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	5	20	20
Poor	20	10	50	35
Fair.....	45	50	20	40
Good	30	30	10	5
Excellent	4	5	0	0

Citrus: Highs this week were in the upper 70s to lower 80s, with early morning lows in the 30s and 40s. The citrus producing areas received a heavy, soaking rain on the 11th and 12th, with Lake Alfred receiving the most for the week at 5.47 inches, and Alachua the least at 0.95 inches. With the single exception of Alachua, all stations received at least one and a half inches and most received an excess of three inches. The bloom is not yet full, so the high winds on the 12th and 13th had minimal effect on flower droppage. Most packinghouses remained open. Varieties packed included midseason oranges, Temples, Valencia, white and colored grapefruit, and Honey tangerines. Fifteen processors were open and accepting fruit. Valencia oranges and grapefruit comprised the majority of fruit going to the plants. Grove activity included harvesting, mowing, Temik application, psyllid treatment, hedging and topping, brush removal, fertilizer application, and ditch cleaning.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	February 28, 2010	March 7, 2010	March 14, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	1,522	242	43
Temples	29	23	48
Valencia	263	616	1,553
Navel oranges	1	0	0
Grapefruit.....	1,217	1,248	1,193
Tangelos	6	0	0
Honey tangerines	187	91	149

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.