



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending March 28, 2010

## Seasonal Temperatures, Widespread Rainfall

**Weather Summary:** High temperatures last week ranged from the mid-70s to the low 80s. Night time low temperatures were mostly in the 40s, with a few locations in the upper 30s and lower 50s. In major cities, temperatures averaged 1 to 6 degrees below normal. Rain was recorded at all Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations, with most locations reporting over an inch of precipitation. The heaviest amounts were in the central and southern regions. Hillsborough, Polk, and Osceola counties collected 2.00 inches or more of rainfall. Soil moisture levels were mostly adequate to surplus.

## 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	0	0	34	0
Short .....	5	45	2	9	37	3
Adequate .....	71	17	60	62	25	55
Surplus .....	23	6	38	29	4	42

**Field Crops:** Corn planting in the Panhandle neared completion and growers prepared fields for planting peanuts. Many fields were too wet, which delayed planting and spring tillage. Potatoes in the Hastings area had standing water, which increased chances for disease and rot. In the south, rice planting was delayed by rain. Dry beans, potatoes, and sweet potatoes were harvested. Only one sugar mill remains open and was processing freeze-damaged cane.

**Vegetables:** Tomatoes, watermelons, and other commercial vegetables were planted in the Panhandle. Cabbage in the Hastings area progressed slowly due to cool temperatures. A few greens were harvested. Spring vegetable planting continued throughout the State. Below average temperatures delayed some vegetable crops. Snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, strawberries, and tomatoes moved through the market last week with below normal movement.

**Floriculture and Nursery:** Growers were still waiting on freeze-damaged crops to green up so that freeze losses can be fully assessed.

**Livestock and Pastures:** In the Panhandle and northern areas, the pasture condition was poor to good with most good. Winter forage growth varied depending on local weather conditions. Some locations saw a jump in cool season forage production. Fewer pastures had standing water. Most permanent pasture was still dormant. Cool season forage was approaching maturity while hay feeding continued. The cattle condition was poor to excellent with most fair to good. In the central areas, pasture was very poor to good with most poor to fair. Permanent pasture was greening up. Hay feeding was active. Most of the cattle were in poor to fair condition. In the southwestern areas, the pasture condition was very poor to good with most poor to fair due to cold weather. Livestock producers were feeding hay and supplements. Statewide, the condition of 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.....	5	5	20	10
Poor .....	20	15	45	35
Fair.....	40	50	25	35
Good .....	30	25	9	20
Excellent .....	5	5	1	0

**Citrus:** Highs this week were in the upper 70s to lower 80s, with early morning lows in the 40s and 50s. Dover and Okahumpka received the most rainfall for the week at 2.25 inches, Belle Glade received the least at 0.11 inches. The citrus bloom was full and widespread in LaBelle and points south, with more buds and fewer open flowers seen in more northern counties. Most packinghouses remained open. Varieties being packed included 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 mowing, pesticide 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	March 14, 2010	March 21, 2010	March 28, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	43	45	0
Temples .....	48	64	65
Valencia .....	1,553	2,374	3,370
Navel oranges .....	0	3	3
Grapefruit .....	1,193	1,059	975
Tangelo .....	0	0	1
Honey tangerines .....	149	124	137

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.