



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending April 11, 2010

Mostly Dry Conditions; Field Work Moved Forward

Weather Summary: Last week most Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations received rainfall. The higher levels of precipitation were in the southern Peninsula with Broward, Miami-Dade, and Sarasota counties collecting over an inch each. Jefferson and Gadsden counties in the Panhandle recorded 1.66 and 0.94 inches, respectively. Other locations around the State received less than half an inch. High temperatures were in the upper 70s to mid 80s. Lows ranged from the 50s to 70s, with a few nights reaching the 40s. In major cities, temperatures averaged normal to 3 degrees above normal. Soil moisture levels were mostly short to adequate.

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	0	26	2	0	22	2
Short	6	44	16	4	40	8
Adequate	79	21	76	77	28	80
Surplus	15	9	6	19	10	10

Field Crops: Flagler County potato growers reported that the crop made it through the cold and did not have to be replanted. Potato harvest progressed in the southern Peninsula. Corn, tobacco, and peanut planting took place in some north Florida fields. Many other fields were still being prepped and needed more rain. Hay was growing well in Flagler County.

Vegetables: Light volumes of cucumbers were marketed from central and south Florida. In central and northern Florida, blueberry growers began light harvesting. Hernando County growers reported the blueberry crop two weeks behind schedule due to the cold. Cabbage production in Flagler County was still below normal. Melons were planted in Washington and Dixie counties, while most watermelon fields in Gilchrist, Charlotte, and Levy counties were already planted. Spring tomatoes in Gadsden County were in excellent condition. Producers in Okeechobee and Manatee counties experienced cold delays and began spring harvest only recently. Snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, specialty items, and tomatoes moved through the market last week.

Livestock and Pastures: The pasture condition improved slightly following warmer growing conditions; however, forage growth was limited due to unseasonably cool weather. In the Panhandle areas, the pasture condition was poor to excellent with most fair to good. Ryegrass was at peak condition. Summer perennial pasture was turning green as the soil temperature slowly increased. Some pasture in Jefferson County had standing water, while in Santa Rosa County it was dry. In the northern areas, pasture condition was poor to good with most fair to good. Pasture and range had greened up but growth was minimal due to cool soil and nights. Cool season forages were about at maturity and stopped growing. Hay feeding was active but at a reduced rate. In the central areas, the pasture condition was very poor to good with most fair. Most cattle were in fair condition. Pasture grass growth remained very slow due to a combination of cold weather, cold soil temperatures, and now dry conditions. The cattle condition was in very poor to fair condition. In the southwestern areas, the pasture condition was poor to good with most fair. The pasture condition improved markedly over the last week. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was 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.....	3	0	9	2
Poor	15	15	30	20
Fair.....	45	45	40	50
Good	35	35	20	27
Excellent	2	5	1	1

Citrus: Highs were in the mid 80s, with early morning lows ranging from the low 40s to upper 50s. North Port received the most rainfall, with 1.11 inches. All other areas received less than half an inch, with five stations experiencing no rain at all. The citrus bloom is almost finished in the southern counties, and still full in the more northern areas. An outbreak of citrus black spot was reported in southwest Florida. 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 harvesting, mowing, 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 28, 2010	April 4, 2010	April 11, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	0	10	2
Temples	65	26	15
Valencia	3,370	3,689	4,867
Navel oranges	3	2	1
Grapefruit	975	802	704
Tangelos	1	0	0
Honey tangerines	137	113	102

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.