



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending April 18, 2010

North Needs Rain

Weather Summary: Most areas in Florida were one to three degrees above normal. Low temperatures ranged between the 50s and 60s and highs ranged between the 70s and 80s. Weather stations that reported nightly temperatures below 50 were located in northern counties and included Suwannee, Jefferson, Alachua, and Baker counties. Those that reported daily temperatures above 85 degrees were in Jackson, Highlands, and Sarasota counties. There was no rainfall reported for many weather stations. Extension agents that reported dryer conditions were mostly in the northern areas. Areas that received the most rain were located in the south with Collier and Broward counties receiving over 3 inches of rain. Seventy-five percent of soil moisture levels were 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	2	25	5	2	25	0
Short.....	16	45	15	8	41	15
Adequate	76	26	75	80	30	75
Surplus	6	5	5	10	4	10

Field Crops: The warmer weather was allowing forage growth in Jefferson County. Extension agents in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties expressed that the lack of rain affected pasture conditions and newly planted row crops. Agents in northern counties reported that low topsoil moisture will require irrigation to continue field crop planting. Peanut planting was contingent on precipitation and was in progress in Columbia and Suwannee counties. Potato plants in Flagler County survived earlier flooding and were in good condition. Sugarcane harvest was coming to an end and one sugar mill in Palm Beach County remained in operation. Also in Palm Beach County, rice planting was in progress. Light harvesting began for blueberries.

Vegetables: Planting season for most spring vegetables was coming to an end. Movement for strawberries and celery were expected to decrease. Some strawberry fields were abandoned due to lack of market and low prices. Overall, movement of tomatoes was expected to increase as production increases. In south Florida, endive, escarole, and radish supplies were expected to decrease, while eggplant and squash supplies are expected to increase. In Suwannee County, watermelons have been planted. Snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumber, eggplant, endive, escarole, pepper, radish, squash, strawberry, and tomato moved through the market last week.

Livestock and Pastures: The pasture condition on balance was unchanged from the previous week. Warmer weather promoted forage growth, but less soil moisture held back growth in other locations. Hay and supplement feeding was still active. In the Panhandle areas, pasture condition was mostly fair to good. Warmer weather promoted forage growth, but pasture in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties was limited by lack of soil moisture. Pasture in some locations had standing water. In the northern areas, pasture condition was mostly fair to good, with pastures needing rain. In the central areas, pasture condition was very poor to good with most fair. Some pasture was limited by drought while others had surplus soil moisture. The cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most fair to good. In the southwestern areas, the pasture condition was very poor to excellent with most fair. Most pasture looked good and grass was growing as most of the area has received rain. 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.....	0	1	2	2
Poor	15	15	20	20
Fair.....	45	45	50	50
Good	35	37	27	27
Excellent	5	2	1	1

Citrus: Highs this week were in the mid 80s, with early morning lows ranging from the upper 40s to the lower 60s. Rainfall was highly variable this week. Immokalee received the most rainfall, with 3.55 inches, while Putnam Hall and Palmdale received none. The citrus bloom is finished for the season in most of the citrus-producing areas. Most packinghouses remained open. Varieties packed included 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	April 4, 2010	April 11, 2010	April 18, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	10	2	0
Temples	26	15	9
Valencia	3,689	4,867	5,229
Navel oranges	2	1	2
Grapefruit.....	802	704	359
Honey tangerines	113	102	99

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.