



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 January 16, 2011

Record Cold Temperatures

Weather Summary: Another record cold snap hit the Sunshine State during the week of January 10 through 16. Temperatures dipped to below freezing across the State which set new record lows. Unseasonably cold temperatures averaged four to fourteen degrees below normal. Several regions from the Panhandle down to the southern Peninsula experienced hard freezes and frosts. Nippy evening lows were in the 20s to low 30s with the wind chill factor in the teens at several stations. Areas recording lows in the teens included MacClenny, Monticello, and Tallahassee. Pleasant daytime highs were in the 50s to 70s with some areas reporting at least one high in the 80s. Numerous stations reported no rainfall for the week. Scattered showers brought from traces to nearly a half inch of rain to some areas. Live Oak reported one inch of precipitation.

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	10	1	10	15	1	15
Short	30	29	35	27	25	33
Adequate	55	65	53	54	68	50
Surplus	5	5	2	4	6	2

Field Crops: Land preparations for spring row crops were active in parts of the Panhandle. Growers planted potatoes but reported being behind schedule due to cold weather in Flagler and Putnam counties. Sugarcane harvesting was hindered again by the freezing temperatures. Freeze damage to sugarcane was still being assessed.

Vegetables: Harvesting of vegetables was curtailed due to sustained freezing temperatures. Cold weather continued to slow plant growth and development. Some producers ran overhead sprinklers systems and put freeze cloths over vegetables for protection. Strawberries were showing signs of stress from the freezes despite the cold protection growers provided. The past freezes have hindered the vegetables that are available for marketing. Shipment levels were reported below normal for this time of year. Light supplies of cabbage, celery, bell peppers, radishes, tomatoes, and strawberries were marketed.

Livestock and Pastures: Colder than normal weather lowered pasture condition and hampered growth of winter grazing. The condition of the pasture varied from very poor to good with most in poor condition. In the Panhandle area, pasture condition was mostly poor. Cold weather and only spotty rainfall suppressed growth of cool season forage and small grains. In the northern areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most very poor to poor. Freezing conditions held progress of cool season forages down. Hay feeding is in full swing. There was some damage from mole crickets. The cattle condition ranged from very poor to good with most in fair condition. Supplemental hay was fed to cattle. In the central areas, pasture condition was mostly poor and cattle were in fair condition. Ryegrass planting for forage was limited in part by the cost of the seed. In the southwestern areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most in poor condition due to drought and cold. The cattle condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. 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	5	15
Poor.....	9	10	40	60
Fair.....	40	55	35	15
Good.....	45	29	20	10
Excellent.....	5	1	0	0

Citrus: Highs were in the 60s and 70s in the majority of the citrus region, with lows in the 40s and 50s. A cold front in the middle of the week dropped low temperatures into the 30s across much of the citrus area, but temperatures warmed up by the weekend. Eleven of the 25 stations recorded some precipitation this week. Brooksville reported the most precipitation with 0.35 inch of rainfall recorded. Overall, there were moderate to severe drought conditions in most of the citrus area according to the U.S. drought monitor, last updated on January 11. About a third of the citrus area is experiencing extreme drought conditions. Forty-eight packinghouses and eighteen processors have opened. Cultural practices included irrigation and application of lime.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	January 2, 2011	January 9, 2011	January 16, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	5,578	6,521	5,865
Navel oranges.....	66	71	74
Grapefruit.....	402	568	810
Temples.....	0	2	12
Tangelos.....	68	94	99
Tangerines.....	121	168	186
Total.....	6,235	7,424	7,046

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.