



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending January 23, 2011

Rains, Frost, and Cold Temperatures

Weather Summary: Scattered showers late in the week caused temperatures to drop across Florida. Cold weather crossed from the Panhandle down to the southern Peninsula with many areas experiencing frosts and hard freezes. Several localities recorded one to over two inches of precipitation. Avalon, Homestead, and Tampa reported over three inches of rainfall. Orlando recorded four and a quarter inch of rain. Temperatures at the major stations averaged four degrees below normal to four degrees above normal. Most nighttime lows were in the 20s and 30s with at least one low recorded in the 40s. Daily highs were in the 60s to 80s.

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	5	15	1	5
Short	35	17	29	33	18	32
Adequate	53	68	65	50	68	59
Surplus	2	14	1	2	13	4

Field Crops: Topsoil and subsoil moisture were rated short to mostly adequate. Growers continued to plant potatoes in Putnam County. Sugarcane harvesting was active in the Lake Okeechobee area.

Vegetables: Cooler temperatures late in the week slowed crop development. Continuous cold temperatures have lowered the amount of vegetables harvested for marketing. Cabbage, greens, and strawberries were reported being harvested in Bradford County. Growers in Lee County began planting watermelons. Producers marketed light supplies of snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, endive, escarole, bell peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures: Cattle condition **Statewide** ranged from poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Pasture condition improved slightly, but cold temperatures remained a factor in suppressing winter grazing growth. In the **Panhandle** area, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in poor condition. Below normal temperatures continued to slow growth of winter annuals. Grass was too short for grazing. Hay and supplements were being fed to livestock. In the **northern** areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most in poor condition. There was some short-term standing water in low areas but most had soaked in. Cool season forages responded to the warmer temperatures and have made some progress. Some summer forage planting had begun. The cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Supplemental hay was being fed to cattle. In the **central** areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most in poor to fair condition. In the **southwestern** areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in poor condition due to drought and cold. Pastures showed signs of greening up. The cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in fair condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	5	0	15	15
Poor	10	15	60	55
Fair.....	55	50	15	20
Good	29	30	10	9
Excellent	1	5	0	1

Citrus: Highs during the first part of this week were in the 70s and 80s in the majority of the citrus region, with lows in the 40s and 50s. A cold front at the end of the week dropped low temperatures into the 30s and highs into the 50s across much of the citrus area. This week, all 25 of the FAWN stations in the citrus area recorded some precipitation. Avalon reported the most, with 3.25 inches of rainfall. 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 18. About one-third of the citrus area is experiencing extreme drought conditions. Forty-eight packinghouses and 18 processors have opened. Grove activities included harvesting, irrigation, and application of lime.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	January 9, 2011	January 16, 2011	January 23, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	6,521	5,865	5,771
Navel oranges	71	74	79
Grapefruit	568	810	720
Temples	2	12	21
Tangelos	94	99	97
Tangerines	168	186	248
Total.....	7,424	7,046	6,936

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.