



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



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 February 20, 2011

Moderate, Dry Weather

Weather Summary: Precipitation was minimal during the reference week. The few Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations that reported precipitation had amounts of less than a quarter of an inch. Temperatures did not greatly differ from the norm. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor last updated February 15, drought conditions were present in all of Florida and were extreme along the East Coast. Temperatures dipped below freezing in the northern counties. Highs were in the 70s and 80s throughout the State.

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	1	1	1	1	3
Short	19	10	34	14	13	28
Adequate	77	72	63	83	69	67
Surplus	3	17	2	2	17	2

Field Crops: In the northern region of Florida, farmers were preparing fields for spring row crops. In Okaloosa County, farmers were tilling cotton and peanut fields. Wheat was in good condition. In Suwannee County, soil preparation for field crops and potato planting was underway. In Putnam County, potatoes had emerged. In the southern region, one plant completed sugarcane harvesting while others are still harvesting. Farmers prepared fields for rice planting in Palm Beach County.

Vegetables: Cabbage supplies were light in north Florida. Growers were gearing up for the Saint Patrick's Day holiday. In Putnam County, white mold was reported in cabbage fields. In Suwannee County, soil preparation for watermelon was complete. Market movement included snap beans, celery, sweet corn, endive, escarole, bell peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, and strawberries.

Livestock and Pastures: The pasture condition **Statewide** was relatively unchanged from the previous week, with the overall condition mostly poor to fair limited primarily by drought. Winter pastures improved with the warmer weather. The cattle condition was mostly fair to good, unchanged from the previous week. In the **Panhandle** areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most poor to fair. Winter pastures improved. Clover showed notable improvement this past week. Hay and supplements were fed to livestock as grazing was in poor condition. Hay supplies were getting low. In the **northern** areas, pasture condition ranged from mostly fair to good. Cattle grazed on small grain forages. Nighttime temperatures in the low 30s were too cool for permanent pasture to break dormancy. The cattle condition was mostly fair. In the **central** areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most in fair condition. Warmer weather helped forage growth but was limited by dry conditions. In the **southwest** areas, pasture condition ranged from poor to good with most in fair condition. Pasture grass greened up from the warmer temperatures. The cattle condition ranged from poor to good with most in good condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	0	1	1	4
Poor.....	15	10	44	30
Fair.....	45	45	40	55
Good.....	35	40	14	10
Excellent.....	5	4	1	1

Citrus: Lows were in the upper 30s and 40s with highs in the 70s and lower 80s across most of the citrus area. This week, three of the 25 FAWN stations in the citrus area recorded trace amounts of precipitation. Sebring reported the most, with 0.03 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. Indian River, Brevard, and part of St Lucie, Martin, and Palm Beach counties were experiencing extreme drought conditions. Forty-eight packinghouses and 18 processors were open. Harvest of early and midseason oranges and grapefruit continued, with processing plants running early and midseason oranges. New growth and buds were noted across the region. Cultural practices continued, including irrigation and application of lime.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	February 6, 2011	February 13, 2011	February 20, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	6,000	5,028	3,829
Navel oranges.....	18	5	4
Valencia.....	4	5	9
Grapefruit.....	720	762	910
Temples.....	35	38	34
Tangelos.....	68	45	12
Early tangerines.....	11	2	0
Honey tangerines.....	153	143	111
Total.....	7,009	6,028	4,909

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.