



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 March 6, 2011

Some Rain, Warm Temperatures

Weather Summary: Cumulative precipitation increased from the previous week, with Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations in Jay, Ocklawaha, Umatilla, and Marianna reporting rainfall of an inch or more. All other stations reported lesser amounts. Warmer temperatures were present in the State with average temperatures ranging between five to seven degrees above normal. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated March 1, drought conditions were present in over 85 percent of Florida and extreme along the eastern coast. Lows were mostly in the 40s and 50s and highs were mostly in the 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	7	1	11	6	4	7
Short	40	9	36	25	10	37
Adequate	50	81	52	66	76	54
Surplus	3	9	1	3	10	2

Field Crops: Soil preparation is taking place in the north. In Suwannee County, potatoes planting was completed. In St. Johns County, potato planting was ongoing. The multiple premature freezes in December affected the sugarcane crop and harvesting was completed sooner than usual.

Vegetables: In central Florida, vegetable planting was delayed due to drought. Production levels for sweet corn, endive, escarole, and tomatoes were below expectations due to drought and previous cold conditions. Strawberry harvest was in full swing in the Plant City area. Cabbage harvesting was ongoing in St. Johns County. Market movement included: snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, endive, escarole, bell peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, and strawberries.

Livestock and Pastures: Most of the pasture **Statewide** was in poor to fair condition. Growth of perennial grass growth was insufficient to support cattle due to cold temperatures. Most of the cattle were in fair condition. Hay feeding continued. In the **Panhandle** area, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in poor to fair condition. Rainfall and warmer temperatures helped pastures green up; however, cattlemen still were feeding hay and supplements. In the **northern** areas, pasture condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition. Cool season small grain for grazing started to head out which will slow production of forage. Permanent pastures showed signs of green-up, but nighttime temperatures were too low for significant growth. Hay supplies in Columbia County were good. The cattle condition was mostly good. In the **central** area, pasture condition ranged from poor to good with most pasture in poor condition. Pasture grasses began to grow. In the **southwestern** area, pasture condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in poor to fair condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	0	2	2
Poor.....	9	15	37	37
Fair.....	50	50	45	45
Good.....	35	30	15	15
Excellent.....	5	5	1	1

Citrus: Lows were in the 50s with highs in the 80s across most of the citrus area. This week, twenty-four of the 25 FAWN stations in the citrus area recorded some precipitation. Ocklawaha reported the most, with 1.25 inches 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 March 1st. Indian River, Brevard, and part of St. Lucie, Martin, and Palm Beach counties experienced 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. Heavy and widespread citrus bloom was observed on trees throughout the citrus region. Grove activity included mowing, hedging and topping, brush removal, fertilizer application, and ditch cleaning.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	February 20, 2011	February 27, 2011	March 6, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	3,829	2,808	1,464
Navel oranges.....	4	4	3
Valencia.....	9	15	252
Grapefruit.....	910	912	809
Temples.....	34	58	64
Tangelos.....	12	18	3
Early tangerines.....	0	7	0
Honey tangerines.....	111	137	103
Total.....	4,909	3,959	2,698

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.