



# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending March 13, 2011

## Cooler Temperatures

**Weather Summary:** Cool temperatures resulted in several freeze and frost reports during the week of March 7 through 13. Temperatures dropped below freezing in some localities in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula. Elsewhere, evening lows were in the mid 30s to 40s. Pleasant daily highs were in the 70s and 80s. Temperatures averaged from normal to five degrees below normal. Most of the stations received rainfall for the week. Several areas reported over one to nearly two inches of precipitation. Marianna and Pensacola recorded over two inches of rain.

## 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 .....	11	4	0	7	2	2
Short .....	36	2	28	37	8	26
Adequate .....	52	74	72	54	68	68
Surplus .....	1	20	0	2	22	4

**Field Crops:** Ground preparation for planting of field crops remained on schedule in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas. Growers in Hamilton County planted field corn. Planting of potatoes was active in the Tri-County area (Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns counties). Topsoil moisture supplies were rated short to mostly adequate. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated short to mostly adequate with a few pockets of surplus supplies reported.

**Vegetables:** Rains interrupted some field activities and harvesting as growers prepared to meet the St. Patrick's Day demand. Cabbage harvesting was slightly curtailed due to wet fields. Cooler temperatures in Hillsborough County slowed the growth of tomatoes. Watermelon planting was active when weather permitted across the State. Producers in Suwannee County finished land preparations for watermelons and will begin planting next week. Increased market movement included snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, celery, bell peppers, radishes, squash, and strawberries. Light supplies of sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, and tomatoes were also available.

**Livestock and Pastures:** The pasture condition improved somewhat **Statewide** over the previous week due to warmer temperatures and improved soil moisture. The cattle condition was mostly fair to good. In the **Panhandle** and northern areas, pasture condition ranged from poor to excellent, with most in fair condition. Pastures greened up and the condition improved due to warmer growing temperatures. In the **northern** areas, most of the pastures ranged from poor to good, with most in fair condition. Pastures had greened up but were not growing much due to cold nighttime temperatures. Some small grain forage was being planted. Cattle condition ranged from poor to good, with most in fair condition. In the **central** areas, pasture condition ranged from poor to good with most in fair condition. Pasture grass was being seeded. In the **southwest** area, the pasture condition was mostly fair.

**Cattle and Pasture Condition**

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	0	1	2	0
Poor.....	15	14	37	15
Fair.....	50	45	45	60
Good.....	30	39	15	25
Excellent.....	5	1	1	0

**Citrus:** Lows were in the upper 30s and 40s with highs in the 80s across most of the citrus area. This week, all of the 25 FAWN stations in the citrus area recorded at least a half-inch of precipitation. Umatilla reported the most, with 1.83 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 8th. Indian River, Brevard, and part of St Lucie, Martin, and Palm Beach counties experienced extreme drought conditions. Forty-eight packinghouses and 18 processors have opened. Harvest of early and midseason oranges was winding down, while the Valencia harvest began to pick up. Grapefruit harvest continued. 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 27, 2011	March 6, 2011	March 13, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	2,808	1,464	500
Navel oranges.....	4	3	2
Valencia.....	15	252	1,058
Grapefruit.....	912	809	1,331
Temples.....	58	64	64
Tangelos.....	18	3	10
Early tangerines.....	7	0	0
Honey tangerines.....	137	103	108
Total.....	3,959	2,698	3,073

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](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.