



# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending March 20, 2011

## Dry Week

**Weather Summary:** During the week of March 14 through 20, temperatures were seasonal with extremes of lows in the mid 30s and highs in the upper 80s. Pleasant daily highs were in the mid 80s. Nearly all weather stations reported no rainfall or insignificant amounts for the week. Warm, windy weather was drying out soils and pastures.

## 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 ..... | 0             | 2             | 12           | 2             | 0             | 4            |
| Short .....      | 28            | 4             | 36           | 26            | 9             | 34           |
| Adequate .....   | 72            | 71            | 52           | 68            | 63            | 59           |
| Surplus .....    | 0             | 23            | 0            | 4             | 28            | 3            |

**Field Crops:** Field preparations for planting field crops remained on schedule with some planting underway in the Panhandle. Jackson County producers were preparing to plant corn, cotton, and peanuts. Madison County producers were planting corn. Suwannee County producers were planting corn and prepared fields for planting peanuts. Rice producers in Palm Beach County were busy preparing their fields and anticipated planting to be well underway within a week. The sugarcane harvest in Hendry County was nearing completion, therefore ending Florida's sugarcane harvest. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies were rated very short to adequate.

**Vegetables:** Gulf County producers were getting ready to plant watermelons, corn, and peas, but some growers will wait for warmer weather before planting. Producers in Jackson County were preparing to plant watermelons. Highlands County vegetable growers were planting watermelons, snap beans, and other vegetables. Vegetable crops were responding favorably to the warm temperatures. Flagler County producers were harvesting potatoes and cabbage. The vegetable harvest was increasing in volume as growers were harvesting crops less affected by the winter's freezes. The market movement of vegetables was fairly light for eggplant, endive, peppers, sweet corn, and tomatoes. The market movement for broccoli, radishes, and squash was steady. The market movement for cabbage was lower.

**Livestock and Pastures:** The pasture condition **Statewide** ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Drought was the first limiting factor to pasture condition though cold nighttime temperatures also restricted forage growth. The overall condition of pasture continued to be low due to poor growing conditions earlier in the year. The cattle condition was mostly fair. In the **Panhandle** area, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most fair to good. Permanent pasture started to come back following recent rains. Warmer temperatures moved winter pastures along and permanent pastures greened up. The cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in fair to good condition. Culling of cattle was active due to favorable cattle prices. In the **northern** areas, both the pasture and the cattle were in poor to good condition with most in fair condition. Drought, cold, and some damage from pests limited the pasture condition. In the **central** areas, pasture and cattle conditions ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. In the **southwestern** areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. The cattle condition ranged from very poor to excellent condition 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.....  | 1             | 1            | 0             | 2            |
| Poor .....      | 14            | 14           | 15            | 30           |
| Fair.....       | 45            | 50           | 60            | 55           |
| Good .....      | 39            | 30           | 25            | 11           |
| Excellent ..... | 1             | 5            | 0             | 2            |

**Citrus:** Lows were in the 40s with highs in the 80s across most of the citrus area. This week, trace amounts of precipitation were recorded by four FAWN stations. Balm and Sebring reported the most, with 0.03 inch of rainfall recorded at each station. 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 15th. Indian River, Brevard, and part of St. Lucie, Martin, and Palm Beach counties experienced extreme drought conditions. Forty-five packinghouses and 19 processors were opened, although many had stopped running fruit until the Valencia maturity reaches desired levels. Harvest of Valencia oranges and grapefruit continued as harvest of early-midseason oranges winds down. Pea and smaller sized fruit for next year's crop were visible on citrus trees throughout the citrus area. 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                       | March 6, 2011 | March 13, 2011 | March 20, 2011 |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
|                            | (boxes)       | (boxes)        | (boxes)        |
| Early and mid oranges..... | 1,464         | 500            | 53             |
| Navel oranges .....        | 3             | 2              | 0              |
| Valencia .....             | 252           | 1,058          | 2,818          |
| Grapefruit .....           | 809           | 1,331          | 921            |
| Temples .....              | 64            | 64             | 47             |
| Tangelos .....             | 3             | 10             | 0              |
| Honey tangerines .....     | 103           | 108            | 113            |
| Total.....                 | 2,698         | 3,073          | 3,952          |

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.