



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 27, 2011

Rain Needed for Crops

Weather Summary: During the week of March 21 through 27, temperatures were above average. Extremes ranged from the lower 40s to highs in the lower 90s. Daily highs were in the high 80s. Nearly all weather stations reported no rainfall or insignificant amounts for the week. Warm, windy weather dried out soils and pastures. Some planting was suspended until soil moisture improves. The need for irrigation was widespread. In St. Lucie County, surface water supplies for irrigation were quickly being depleted.

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	12	0	10	4	0	10
Short	36	2	45	34	4	40
Adequate	52	62	44	59	56	48
Surplus	0	36	1	3	40	2

Field Crops: Field preparations for planting crops were on schedule as producers prepared to plant corn, cotton, and peanuts. Some field corn had emerged. Rice planting was underway in Palm Beach County. In Miami-Dade County, producers were busy harvesting sweet potatoes.

Vegetables: Vegetable production increased in volume as growers harvested crops not affected by the winter freezes. In Hendry County, producers started harvesting cantaloupes. In Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, and Lee counties, there were increased quantities harvested for tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, and other specialty crops. Miami-Dade County reported sweet corn, squash, and tomatoes harvest ongoing. The weekly market movement included a light supply of endive, escarole, squash, sweet corn, and cherry tomatoes. Other vegetable market movement included snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, celery, radishes, and plum and grape-type tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures: The pasture condition **Statewide** was very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Below normal rainfall continued to hold back pastures. Soil temperatures were rising and green-up of summer perennial pastures was beginning. The cattle condition was mostly fair to good, slightly lower than the previous week. In the **Panhandle** area, pasture and cattle ranged from poor to excellent condition with most fair to good. Ryegrass and cool season forages were beginning to suffer. Although Bahia grass greened-up, no significant growth took place due to cool soil conditions. Feeding of hay and supplements continued. In the **northern** area, pasture and cattle ranged from poor to good condition with most in fair condition. There was an increase in the number of dry stock ponds. In the **central** and **southwestern** areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Temperatures in the high 80s and low 90s have dried out pastures and dropped water levels in stock ponds. The cattle ranged from 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	2	2
Poor.....	14	9	30	38
Fair.....	50	55	55	50
Good.....	30	30	11	9
Excellent.....	5	5	2	1

Citrus: Lows were in the upper 40s and lower 50s with highs in the 90s across most of the citrus area. This week, trace amounts of precipitation were recorded by five FAWN stations. Indian River and Kenansville 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 22nd. Indian River, Brevard, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, and parts of Collier, Hendry, Glades, Highlands, Okeechobee, Osceola, and Orange counties experienced extreme drought conditions. Forty-five packinghouses and 19 processors were opened, although many had halted production until the Valencia maturity reaches desired levels. Harvest of Valencia oranges and grapefruit continued with the open processing plants running grapefruit and Valencia. Pea and smaller sized fruit 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 13, 2011	March 20, 2011	March 27, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	500	53	31
Navel oranges.....	2	0	0
Valencia.....	1,058	2,818	3,827
Grapefruit.....	1,331	921	999
Temples.....	64	47	10
Tangelos.....	10	0	0
Sunburst tangerines.....	0	0	1
Honey tangerines.....	108	113	135
Total.....	3,073	3,952	5,003

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.