



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending April 10, 2011

Field Crop Planting Underway, More Rain Needed

Weather Summary: Last week most Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations received between 0.50 and 1.00 inches of rainfall. Weather stations in Jefferson, Hillsborough, and Suwannee counties recorded the most at about 1.30 inches. Temperatures mostly ranged from the mid-40s to upper 80s, and averaged two to five degrees above normal. Lowest temperatures were recorded at Alachua County (36 degrees), Baker County (37 degrees), and Jefferson County (38 degrees). Highest temperatures were recorded at Marion and Highlands counties (93 degrees).

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	2	2	2	0	2	1
Short.....	17	15	31	21	7	32
Adequate	73	76	63	74	80	64
Surplus	8	7	4	5	11	3

Field Crops: Widespread showers and above average seasonal temperatures helped the growth of early-planted crops, but it was still fairly dry throughout the State. Corn was planted in Jackson County and final field preparations were underway for planting cotton and peanuts. Rice continued to be planted in Palm Beach County. Peanut planting was underway in Gilchrist and Levy counties.

Vegetables: Producers marketed beans, broccoli, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, radishes, squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes. There were lighter amounts of endive and peppers other than bell peppers available. In Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, and Volusia counties, the vegetable harvest reached normal seasonal volumes. In Palm Beach County, producers were harvesting sweet corn and green beans. Leafy vegetable crops were declining as seasonal temperatures rose. In Miami-Dade County, tomato harvest was in full swing. The producers were planting beans and sweet potatoes, and harvesting squash. Water restrictions remained in effect. Watermelon planting was underway in Gilchrist and Levy counties. The strawberry harvest continued in Bradford County.

Livestock and Pastures: The pasture condition **Statewide** ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. The pasture condition improved only slightly from the previous week. The cattle condition was mostly fair. In the **Panhandle** area, the pasture ranged from very poor to excellent condition with most fair to good. Summer grasses were starting to grow given the warmer temperatures, but grass feed volume was still low. The feeding of hay and supplements continued, but at a reduced level. In the **northern** areas, the pasture and cattle ranged from poor to good condition, with most cattle in good condition. In the **central** and **southwestern** areas, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. The pasture grass condition improved slightly following limited rainfall during the week but hot, dry weather rapidly depleted the additional soil moisture. Cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent 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	0	1	1
Poor.....	10	15	20	17
Fair.....	50	50	50	55
Good.....	35	30	27	25
Excellent.....	4	5	2	2

Citrus: Lows were in the 40s with highs in the 80s and 90s across most of the citrus area. All of the 25 FAWN stations recorded some precipitation, but only two of them recorded more than an inch. Dover reported the most with 1.30 inches of rainfall recorded. Belle Glade reported the least at 0.27 inches. Drought conditions in the citrus-producing area ranged from none in the west to extreme in the southeast, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated on April 5th. St Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, and parts of Collier, Hendry, Glades, Indian River, and Okeechobee counties were experiencing extreme drought conditions. Thirty-eight packinghouses and 19 processors remained opened, although some temporarily paused production. Harvest of Valencia oranges and grapefruit continued, with the open processing plants running grapefruit and Valencia oranges. Grove activity included young tree care, applying herbicides, hedging and topping, brush removal, and fertilizer application.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	March 27, 2011	April 3, 2011	April 10, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	31	10	0
Navel oranges.....	0	1	4
Valencia.....	3,827	3,492	5,234
Grapefruit.....	999	874	1,028
Temples.....	10	24	43
Tangelos.....	0	1	0
Sunburst tangerines.....	1	0	0
Honey tangerines.....	135	67	94
Total.....	5,003	4,469	6,403

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.