



Florida Agricultural Statistics Service
1222 Woodward Street
Orlando, Florida 32803
407 / 648-6013

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl>

WEATHER & CROP NEWS

FLORIDA
AGRICULTURE



Week ending October 21, 2001

Released 4:00 P.M.

October 22, 2001

WEATHER SUMMARY: Mostly clear conditions prevailed in many Peninsula areas until late in the week of October 14 through 20 when showers brought from a third of an inch to over four inches of rain to many central and southern Peninsula localities on Friday through Sunday, October 19 through 21. Precipitation for the week ending Saturday, October 20 ranged from none to about three inches with many northern and western Panhandle localities recording none to only trace amounts. Temperatures at the major stations averaged two degrees above normal to five degrees below. Daytime highs were mostly in the 70s and 80s. Nighttime lows were mostly in the 50s, 60s and 70s. Tallahassee and Alachua reported at least one low in the 30s with light frost occurring in a few western Panhandle and northern localities. Jacksonville, Pensacola, Citra, Hastings and Putnam Hall reported at least one low in the 40s.

FIELD CROPS: Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies are mostly short to adequate with some, mainly western Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas reporting very short supplies. Subsoil moisture is mainly short to adequate with a few areas reporting very short supplies and a few localities having surplus supplies. Peanut digging is eighty-five percent finished compared with eighty-eight percent finished by this time a year ago and the five-year average of 87 percent done by this date. Haying remains active in a few western Panhandle and northern areas. Producers continue to plant small grains for pasture. Growers are preparing to harvest pecans in Jefferson County. Cotton producers continue to defoliate plants with picking increasing seasonally. Sugarcane planting remains active as weather permits.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		Subsoil	
	Last week	This week	Last week	This week
	Percent			
Very short	8	7	4	6
Short	20	35	20	27
Adequate	63	58	61	64
Surplus	9	0	15	3

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern counties, the planting in some locations is delayed due to dry soil. Permanent pasture growth is seasonally very slow. In the west central area, the condition of pasture is good where rain fell recently. Some pastures still have standing water while others could use rain. In the southwest, cattle and pasture are in good condition. Statewide, cattle and calves are mostly in good condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	Last week	This week	Last week	This week
	Percent			
Very poor	0	5	0	0
Poor	10	5	0	0
Fair	15	25	15	25
Good	75	60	85	75
Excellent	0	5	0	0

CITRUS: The first part of this week was dry and cool. However Friday through Sunday there were increasing rains with a few thunderstorms forming from the south to the north and from the east to the west. Rainfall amounts were generally sufficient enough to discontinue irrigation. New growth is slowing on most older tree with some younger trees still flushing. Most early fruit continues to show good first stages of color break. Navels, Hamlins and Ambersweet oranges along with white and colored grapefruit, tangerines and

tangelos are all being picked and packed for fresh shipments. Several processing plants are now open to receive packing house eliminations. A few grove-run, young tree Hamlins and tangelos are also going to the juice plants.

Caretakers are mowing, chopping and discing cover crops that have grown tall and out of control. There are still a few fall clean-up sprays being applied to fresh crops. Dead tree removal and burning of the limbs and stumps continues in all areas. Several of the larger groves are still putting in reset trees.

Crop	Estimated boxes harvested week ended		
	Oct 7	Oct 14	Oct 21
Navel oranges	27,000	85,000	165,000
Early & Mid oranges including Ambersweet	53,000	88,000	125,000
All grapefruit	226,000	323,000	544,000
Tangerines	106,000	133,000	167,000
K-Early Citrus Fruit	0	0	7,000

VEGETABLES: Growers around Immokalee started picking fresh market cucumbers. Pickle harvesting is underway in Dade County. Harvesting of Bell peppers and Italian type eggplant began in the East Coast region. Other crops available include tomatoes, sweet corn, okra, hot peppers, other sweet peppers, squash and watermelons.

SNAP BEANS: Dade--Crop condition remains good. Plants are blooming with pin beans forming. Planting continues. Picking is expected to begin within a week to ten days. Southwest--The crop is in good condition. Planting remains steady. East Coast--Condition is fair to good. Foliage growth is good with plants blooming and forming pin beans.

SWEET CORN: Zellwood--Picking is active. Everglades--Harvesting is expected to begin in late November. East Coast--Plant growth is mostly good. Producers are preparing the ground for winter crop planting. Southwest--Condition is good.

CABBAGE: Dade--The crop is in good condition. Planting is active.

CUCUMBERS, fresh market: Southwest--The crop is in fair to good condition. Planting is steady. Harvesting started with fair to good quality available. Palmetto-Ruskin, Plant City--Crop condition is fair to good. Picking is steady. Quality is fair to good. East Coast--Oldest plants are setting fruit. Recent strong wind and heavy rain adversely affected some acreage with most plants expected to slowly recover. Planting continues. Germination is good.

CUCUMBERS, pickles: Zellwood--Harvesting continues. Dade--Young acreage is in good condition. Harvesting began. Quality is good. Southwest--Crop condition is fair. Planting of a small acreage is slow.

EGGPLANT: Southwest--Crop condition is good. Planting is steady. Plant City--Cutting of a small volume is active. East Coast--Condition is mostly good. Cutting of Italian type began. Quality and color are mostly good. Planting is slow. Workers continue to stake and tie as needed. Dade--The crop is in good condition. Planting slowed.

ENDIVE/ESCAROLE: Everglades--Planting is active.

LETTUCE: Everglades--planting is active.

OKRA: Dade--Harvesting is active. Quality and yield are good.

In cooperation with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service whose county directors participate in supplying field information.

BELL PEPPERS: Southwest--The crop is in fair to good condition. Planting is steady. East Coast--Condition is mostly good. Transplanting is active. Picking started. Quality is good. West Central--Crop condition is fair.

OTHER SWEET PEPPERS: Southwest--Crop condition is good. Planting is steady. Picking is gaining momentum. Quality is good. East Coast--Young cubanelle plants are off to a good start. Fruit is gaining size on older plants. Harvesting is expected to begin over the next seven days.

HOT PEPPERS: Southwest--The crop is in good condition. Planting is steady. Picking is increasing seasonally. Quality is good. East Coast--Transplanting is active. Harvesting is expected to start within the next five to seven days.

POTATOES: Southwest--Planting is increasing. Dade-- Planting is getting underway.

SQUASH: Southwest--The crop is in good condition. Planting is steady. Picking is increasing. Quality is good. Plant City--Harvesting of a small volume is active. East Coast--Crop condition is fair to mostly good. Recent heavy rainfall and strong winds adversely affected some acreage. Picking is active. Quality and color are mostly good with medium and fancy grades available. Dade--Crop condition is rated good. Planting continues to increase slowly.

STRAWBERRIES: Plant City, Dover, Floral City, Palmetto-Ruskin--Transplanting is on schedule with seventy to seventy-five percent of the intended acreage planted.

TOMATOES: Quincy--Harvesting continues to increase seasonally. Quality remains mostly good. Southwest--The crop is in good condition. Fruit setting is improving. Fruit sizing is good. Planting is steady. Workers are spraying for the control of insects and disease as needed. Other field work includes staking, pruning and tying. West Central--The crop is in fair condition. Picking is getting underway. East Coast--The crop is in mostly good condition. Transplanting continues. Picking is expected to begin within the next five to seven days. Other field work includes ground preparations, tying and spraying. Dade--The crop is in good condition. Transplanting is increasing.

CHERRY TOMATOES: West Central--Condition is rated fair to good. Picking is increasing. Quality is fair to good. Southwest--The crop is in good condition. Planting is steady.

GRAPE TOMATOES: Palmetto-Ruskin--Crop condition is fair to good. Harvesting is steady.

PLUM TOMATOES: Southwest--The crop is in good condition. Transplanting is steady. West Central-- Crop condition is fair to good.

WATERMELONS: West Central-- Crop condition is rated fair to good. Harvesting is steady. Quality is fair to good. Sizes are fair. Southwest--The crop is in fair to good condition. Cutting is slowing seasonally. Quality is mostly good.

To receive this report via e-mail, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov with the following message: **add usda-fl-crop-weather your-email-address your.name (optional) An example: add usda-fl-crop-weather jsmith@qtm.com john smith.** The report will be e-mailed automatically to your e-mail address each week.