

# Weather Crop Report

Week ending December 4, 2005

## RAINS SLOWED SOME VEGETABLE FIELD WORK, MOST ON SCHEDULE

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**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Scattered rainfall dropped from a quarter inch to five and a third inches over parts of the Panhandle and the northern, central and southwestern Peninsula during the week of November 28 through December 4. The southeastern Peninsula received only traces of rain during the same period. Daily temperatures in the major cities averaged from three degrees above normal in Pensacola to two degrees below in Daytona Beach and Tampa. Daytime highs averaged in the 60s and 70s with several localities recording at least one daytime high in the 80s. Nighttime lows were in the 40s, 50s and 60s with several areas reporting at least one nighttime low in the 30s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Growers in Washington County completed cotton and peanut harvesting last week. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies are short to mostly adequate in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula. Washington County reported short to adequate soil moisture supplies and Madison County reported very short to short supplies. Soil moisture supplies throughout the central and southern Peninsula are short to mostly adequate with a few pockets of surplus supplies.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	1	10	13	1	5	11
Short	18	30	19	25	20	13
Adequate	64	45	55	60	60	62
Surplus	17	15	13	14	15	14

**VEGETABLES:** Showers in the Immokalee and Palmetto-Ruskin areas slowed some planting and harvesting with most activity remaining on schedule. The harvesting of endive, escarole, Romaine lettuce, radishes and cabbage started with only very light supplies available. A very light amount of strawberries were also marketed from the Plant City and Dover areas with the cooler temperatures boosting berry development. Other vegetables available included snap beans, peppers, squash and tomatoes, and very light amounts of sweet corn, eggplant and okra.



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**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle and northern areas, the pasture condition is mostly good. Cool season forages are behind, stunted, but improving following rain. Hay feeding of livestock is active. Winter forage planting resumed after recent rains. Pasture in the northern areas is very poor to good with most in fair condition. In the central areas, much needed rain fell on drought-stricken pasture. Cool season forages may be ready for grazing in two weeks. The first real frost affected pasture in spots. The condition of the pasture and range is fair to good. In the southwest, the range condition is poor to good with most pasture in good condition. Statewide, the cattle condition is mostly good.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last Week	This week	Last Week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	0	0	0
Poor	20	20	5	0
Fair	35	30	35	25
Good	40	50	55	70
Excellent	0	0	5	5

**CITRUS:** During the past week there was rainfall in all citrus producing areas. The southern area received over an inch and a half, while the least recorded was less than a half of an inch in the center of the State. Temperatures were normal for this time of year, cooling down to the lower 40s at night in most of the citrus belt and reaching the upper 70s and low 80s during the day. The cooler temperatures at night are helping to stimulate good fruit color on all varieties. Horticultural practices include limited herbiciding, fertilizing and mowing prior to harvest. Varieties being picked include Hamlin and Navel oranges, colored and white grapefruit, Sunburst tangerines and Tangelos. Fallglo tangerines and Ambersweet are virtually complete. About two-thirds of the major packing houses and processing plants are now open.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Nov 20	Nov 27	Dec 4
In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes			
Navel oranges	221	106	324
Early and Mid oranges	968	470	2611
Grapefruit	648	265	519
EarlyTangerines	237	160	255
Tangelos	33	25	85

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