

## MOST VEGETABLES PROTECTED FROM FROST, FREEZE

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**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Scattered rains over the Panhandle and northern Peninsula aided the growth of small grains during the week of January 2 through 8. Dry weather over the central and southern Peninsula let growers complete scheduled vegetable planting and harvesting. Many central and southern Peninsula localities received no rainfall. MacClenny reported nearly 3 inches while most Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas recorded from about one to two inches for the week. Temperatures averaged two degrees below normal to five degrees above. Daytime highs averaged in the 60s and 70s with many central and southern Peninsula areas recording at least one daily high in the 80s. Nighttime lows were mostly in the 40s, 50s and 60s with most areas, statewide, reporting at least one low in the 30s and several Panhandle and northern Peninsula localities reporting at least one low in the 20s. Widespread frost was reported by most central and southern Peninsula areas at the end of the week.

**FIELD CROPS:** Some sugarcane plants just emerging were singed by the frost in Hendry County as harvest of mature plants advanced around Lake Okeechobee. Rainfall over the Panhandle and northern Peninsula increased soil moisture with supplies rated mostly adequate with a few pockets of surplus supplies. Suwannee County reported short to adequate soil moisture supplies. Mostly dry conditions over the central and southern Peninsula localities kept soil moisture short to adequate. Soil moisture was rated adequate to surplus in Okeechobee.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	4	10	1	0	10	0
Short	24	10	44	16	10	20
Adequate	69	76	48	78	79	70
Surplus	3	4	7	6	1	10

**VEGETABLES:** Dry, clear conditions during the week allowed planting and harvesting to stay on schedule. Most vegetable and strawberry producers provided protection to crops when cold weather arrived at the end of the week. Producers covered some plants with cloths and irrigated crops to minimize frost damage. Most acreage showed no significant damage although the cold singed a few acres of plants. Most potato planting in the Hastings area just started with no significant frost damage reported. Vegetables and non citrus fruit marketed during the week included snap beans, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries and tomatoes. A very small amount of sweet corn was picked with the supply slowly increasing. Tomato picking around Quincy is finished.

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**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle, pasture is mostly in fair condition due to cold weather. Hay feeding is active. In the northern areas, small grain forages are growing well in between cold spells. Ample rainfall has fallen in the Big Bend area recently. Ranchers are feeding hay. In the central areas, the condition of the pasture is poor to good. Excessive rainfall has caused many low lying pastures to have pockets of standing water. In the southwest, range condition varies evenly from poor to excellent. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from poor to excellent with most in good condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	0	0	0
Poor	15	10	10	0
Fair	35	70	35	60
Good	35	20	45	40
Excellent	10	0	10	0

**CITRUS:** There was little to no rain recorded in citrus producing counties for the week. Daytime temperatures were in the mid 70s to low 80s for most of the week. On Friday, a cold front swept across the State bringing near freezing temperatures to several areas in the citrus regions. Two cold pockets, one in Hardee County and one in Hillsborough County, recorded 30 and 31 degrees respectively for a couple of hours. Growers are still irrigating in dryer areas, cleaning ditches and removing dead limbs and debris from groves. Harvesting of early and midseason oranges has picked up during the first week of January. Grapefruit has about equal percentages going to processing and fresh. A small quantity of Honey tangerines are being picked for fresh and processing. Twelve processing plants ran oranges this past week with another scheduled to open sometime early next month.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Dec 25	Jan 01	Jan 08
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	139	81	94
Early and Mid oranges	3,443	4,439	4,701
Grapefruit	423	387	465
EarlyTangerines	210	159	103
Honey Tangerines	1	5	32
Tangelos	24	25	56
Temples	0	1	6

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