

COOL TEMPERATURES SLOWING VEGETABLES

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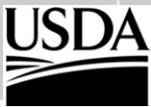
WEATHER SUMMARY: Frosty temperatures dipped into some central Peninsula areas during the week of January 9 through 15. Temperatures for the week averaged one to eight degrees above normal in the major cities. Most daytime highs averaged in the 70s with some southern Peninsula localities recording at least one high in the 80s. Miami reported at least one daily high in the 90s. Most nighttime lows were in the 40s, 50s and 60s with several areas reporting at least one low in the 30s. Most localities received no rainfall for the week with only traces to about a half inch recorded in a few Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas. Dry conditions in many areas increased the danger for wild fire outbreaks.

FIELD CROPS: Sugarcane harvesting remained active around Lake Okeechobee. Mostly dry conditions decreased soil moisture supplies throughout the State. Overall, soil moisture is short to mostly adequate. Areas reporting very short soil moisture included the counties of Indian River, St. Lucie, and Lee. The counties of Osceola and Madison reported some spots with surplus moisture.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last Week*	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	10	4	1	10	5	1
Short	20	24	40	10	11	23
Adequate	60	69	54	70	78	70
Surplus	10	3	5	10	6	6

*REVISED

VEGETABLES: Recent cool temperatures slowed crop development. Mostly dry weather over the central and southern Peninsula continued to provide nearly ideal conditions for planting and harvesting in the central and southern Peninsula. Potato planting continued in the Hastings area. 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. Sweet corn picking increased slowly.



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LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, most of the winter forage is in fair condition with limited grazing available. Hay feeding is active. In the northern areas, small grain forage is very poor to good with most in good condition. Ranchers are feeding hay. In the central areas, the condition of pasture is poor to good with most in fair condition. In the southwest, the condition of the range varies evenly from poor to fair with drought limiting grass growth. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from poor to good with most in good condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	5	5	5	0
Poor	20	15	5	10
Fair	50	35	30	35
Good	25	35	60	45
Excellent	0	10	0	10

CITRUS: There were mostly warm temperatures for the week of January 9 to January 15 in citrus producing areas. A cold front over the weekend brought isolated thunderstorms but very little rain to the northern areas of the citrus belt. All areas received less than one tenth of an inch of precipitation for the week. Growers are still irrigating in dryer areas, fertilizing, herbiciding and repairing broken irrigation. Weekly harvesting of early and midseason oranges this past week is about the same as last year. Small sizes and a shortage of labor are having an effect on the number of boxes being picked each week. Grapefruit harvest has picked up some, and now more is being picked per week for fresh use than for processing. Honey tangerines and Temples are just beginning, primarily for the fresh market. Twelve processing plants are still open this month with another scheduled to open sometime early in February.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Jan 01	Jan 08	Jan 15
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Navel oranges	81	94	114
Early and Mid oranges	4,439	4,701	6,373
Grapefruit	387	465	843
EarlyTangerines	159	103	112
Honey Tangerines	5	32	92
Tangelos	25	56	113
Temples	1	6	25

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