

## VEGETABLE HARVESTING REMAINS ACTIVE

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**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Dry and mostly warm weather during the week of January 16 through 22 kept field work on schedule. Temperatures for the week averaged from three degrees below to three degrees above normal in the major cities. Pleasant daytime highs were mostly in the 60s and 70s with a few locations recording at least one high in the 80s. Evening lows were in the 30s, 40s, and 50s with a few areas recording at least one low in the 20s. Continued dry conditions increased the risk for potential wild fire outbreaks. Jay received over one inch of rain with other Panhandle localities recording under an inch of rain for the week. Recorded precipitation across most of the Peninsula was less than half an inch.

**FIELD CROPS:** Sugarcane harvesting continued in the Everglades region. Scattered rains over the Panhandle and northern Peninsula kept soil moisture short to mostly adequate with a few pockets of surplus supplies. Washington County reported very short to adequate moisture supplies. Soil moisture is rated short to adequate in central and southern Peninsula localities with very short supplies in scattered areas of Indian River, Lee and St. Lucie counties.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	12	10	2	8	10	0
Short	25	20	37	18	10	28
Adequate	62	60	59	72	70	67
Surplus	1	10	2	2	10	4

**VEGETABLES:** Favorable weather conditions allowed planting and harvesting to progress on schedule during last week. Growers in Quincy are beginning land preparation for spring crop planting of tomatoes and other crops. Potato harvest is active in the Hastings area. Blueberries are in bloom in Hernando County. Producers marketed snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries and tomatoes.

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**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle, small grain winter forage is substandard for this time of year due to drought. Cattle condition is fair to good with most in good condition. Hay feeding is active. In the northern areas, cool season forages are in poor to fair condition. Pastures in some locations suffer from surplus moisture and most is doing poorly due to cold nighttime temperatures. Haying of livestock is active. Cattle condition is poor to good. In the central areas, pasture condition is poor to good with most in fair condition due to dry soil and cool temperatures. In the southwest, the range condition is poor to excellent. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from poor to excellent with most cattle in fair condition.

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

**CITRUS:** There was unseasonably warm weather for most of the week and very little rain. After cooling down to the mid 40s Tuesday night, all areas of the citrus belt temperatures warmed up, staying above 60 at night and reaching the mid 70s and low 80s during the day. Rainfall ranged from one tenth of an inch in Ft. Pierce to just under a half inch in the north. Growers continue to irrigate where needed, fertilize and herbicide. Weekly harvesting of early and midseason oranges has picked up some and is running about the same per week as last year. Small sizes still are having an effect on total utilization. Grapefruit harvest is still going strong; over the last couple of weeks, processing and fresh are running about average. 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 08	Jan 15	Jan 22
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	101	114	118
Early and Mid oranges	4,870	6,373	4,872
Grapefruit	551	843	611
EarlyTangerines	117	112	49
Honey Tangerines	44	92	109
Tangelos	72	113	89
Temples	8	25	29

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