

## COOL TEMPERATURES SLOWED VEGETABLE GROWTH

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**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Temperatures during the week of February 6 through 12 averaged three to eight degrees below normal in the major cities. Daytime highs averaged in the 60s and 70s while nighttime lows averaged in the 30s, 40s and 50s. Many southern Peninsula localities reported morning lows in the mid to upper 30s. Several northern Peninsula and Panhandle areas recorded at least one low in the 20s with heavy frost and freezes taking place in most areas. Some Panhandle and Big Bend localities received around an inch of rain during the week of February 6 through 12. Elsewhere, less than a half inch of rain fell. Rain amounts for the week ranged from less than a tenth inch in many Peninsula areas, to almost an inch and three-fourths at Marianna. Most rain fell at the end of the week as the tail end of a cold front, dubbed the "Blizzard of 2006", passed over the State, and also brought heavy snows to many areas of the eastern United States, including Atlanta.

**FIELD CROPS:** Sugarcane harvesting remained active around Lake Okeechobee. Recent rainfall increased soil moisture supplies, especially over the Panhandle where supplies are rated mostly adequate to surplus. Holmes County reported a small area of short soil moisture. Soil moisture supplies are mostly adequate over the Peninsula with scattered areas of short and surplus moisture supplies.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	0	0	9	0	0	9
Short	1	30	49	5	39	40
Adequate	84	55	33	90	53	49
Surplus	15	15	9	5	8	2

**VEGETABLES:** Cool temperatures slowed plant development over the central and southern Peninsula during the week. Immokalee reported lows in the 30s on two days; Homestead on one day; Balm and Dover on four days; Ft. Pierce on two days; Hastings on five days. Most other daily lows recorded were in the 40s for these localities. Strong winds at the end of the week blew sand over drier fields causing some loss of fruit quality. Clear weather for most of the week allowed planting and harvesting to proceed on schedule. Vegetables and non-citrus fruit marketed during the week included snap beans, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, parsley, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, sweet corn and tomatoes.

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Statistics  
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Field  
OfficeBenjamin F. Klugh, Jr.  
Director  
407/648-6013Florida Department  
of Agriculture and  
Consumer Services,  
Division of Marketing  
and Development

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle, pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most in fair condition due to seasonal cold and freezing weather. Heavy frost continued to keep pastures burned down. Cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the northern areas, pasture was in very poor to fair condition and cattle were in poor to good condition. Supplemental hay was being fed in the Panhandle, north and central areas. In the central areas, most of the pasture was in poor condition and cattle were in fair to good condition. In the southwestern areas, condition of the range was mostly fair and cattle were in fair condition. Supplemental hay was being fed. Statewide, cattle condition ranged from poor to good with most in fair condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	5	0	0
Poor	30	25	5	15
Fair	55	55	65	50
Good	10	15	30	30
Excellent	0	0	0	5

**CITRUS:** Temperatures in citrus producing counties were three to five degrees below normal for the week. Nighttime temperatures were in the mid to upper 30s and daytime highs were in the mid to upper 70s. Rainfall totals ranged from less than half an inch in Ona to less than a tenth of an inch in Ft. Pierce. Routine management practices included mowing, hedging and topping, brush removal, fertilizing, and irrigating one to two times per week. Small sizes on early-midseason oranges and shortage of labor has been evident in weekly harvesting amounts. Most plants will remain open at least through the end of February and some into the second week of March or later to complete the early-midseason harvesting. Valencia harvesting, which normally has begun by this time of year, has been held off due to low maturity levels. Grapefruit harvesting continues to be constant, running more than six-hundred thousand boxes weekly, with more going to processing than fresh. Honey tangerine and Temples harvest is slowly increasing, primarily for the fresh market.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Jan 29	Feb 05	Feb 12
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	106	79	72
Early and Mid oranges	4,978	4,809	4,397
Grapefruit	635	693	604
EarlyTangerines	24	10	7
Honey Tangerines	121	103	102
Tangelos	97	75	69
Temples	27	35	29

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