

# Weather Crop Report

Week ending November 26, 2006

## COLD FRONT BROUGHT CHILLY TEMPERATURES

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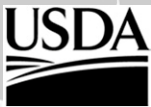
**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Another cold front crossing the State brought chilly temperatures to nearly all areas during the week of November 20 through 26. Temperatures in the major cities averaged eight to twelve degrees below normal. Daytime highs were in the 60s and 70s with Frostproof reporting at least one high at 80 degrees. Nighttime lows were in the 30s, 40s, and 50s. Scattered rainfall was limited to parts of the eastern Peninsula, the Big Bend area, and the Panhandle. Less than two tenths inch of rain was recorded by any station. Most stations reported no measurable rain for the week. The danger of wild fires is high in most Peninsula areas due to the dry weather.

**FIELD CROPS:** Cotton harvesting is nearly done. The harvest of green peanuts remained active. Sugarcane cutting continued around Lake Okeechobee. Pecans in Jefferson County are in poor condition. The dry weather depleted soil moisture in most areas. Panhandle soil moisture remained short to adequate with the area receiving more rain earlier in the season.

Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
99	100	100

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	39	36	10	38	32	5
Short	29	35	28	33	42	20
Adequate	32	27	48	29	26	62
Surplus	0	2	14	0	0	13

**VEGETABLES:** Cool temperatures slowed plant growth and fruit maturation in most areas. However, the dry conditions allowed planting and harvesting to proceed on schedule. Some harvesting slowed as growers observed the Thanksgiving holiday. Strawberry picking around Plant City and Dover and the harvesting of escarole, endive, and lettuce around Lake Okeechobee increased slowly with very light amounts marketed. Other vegetables marketed included snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes.



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**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle, pasture condition is poor to good with most in poor condition due to drought. Hay is being fed on many operations as winter small grains forage is not yet ready for grazing. Cattle condition is mostly fair. In the northern areas, pasture and cattle condition are mostly fair. Some winter forage has yet to be planted as the ground is too dry and hard to break. In the central areas, pasture condition is very poor to fair with most in poor condition. Most of the cattle are in fair condition. In the southwest, pasture condition is poor to fair. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from very poor to good with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	5	15	15
Poor	5	10	30	20
Fair	75	55	50	50
Good	15	25	5	15
Excellent	0	5	0	0

**CITRUS:** The week of November 20 to 26 was dry in all the citrus region. Areas that had rainfall recorded less than one tenth of an inch. A cool front at the beginning of the week dropped morning lows to the high 30s in the center of the State and in the southern citrus regions. Ft. Pierce recorded the lowest temperature at 36 degrees. The cool weather is generally beneficial by assisting in adding heartiness to the trees and preparing them for cold winter weather. Daytime highs moved back up to the high 70s by the weekend. Grove maintenance includes ditch mowing, irrigation, irrigation repair, and some applications of supplemental miticide. Fruit quality on early oranges and tangerines is being reported as good. Grapefruit quality is very good with the large majority of colored grapefruit being picked for the fresh market and white grapefruit being picked fairly equally for both fresh and processed. Pickers continued strong into Navels throughout the week, primarily for fund raising programs. Four additional processing plants are planning on opening this week to accept packinghouse eliminations and field-run fruit.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Nov 12	Nov 19	Nov 26
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	128	191	153
Ambersweet	4	1	0
Early and Mid oranges	337	1,040	877
Grapefruit	458	453	298
Fallglo tangerines	20	5	0
Sunburst tangerines	134	172	109
Tangelos	7	18	29

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