

FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS ALLOW ON-SCHEDULE HARVESTING

Released:

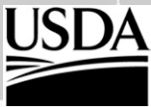
December 4, 2006
4:00 pmAccess our reports
Via the internet at
www.nass.usda.gov/fl

WEATHER SUMMARY: Most areas experienced warm temperatures during the week of November 27 through December 3. Temperatures in major cities averaged from four to ten degrees above normal. Pleasant daytime temperatures were in the 70s and 80s. Evening lows were in the 40s, 50s, and 60s with some areas recording lows in the 30s. Most areas received minimal rainfall for the week. Rainfall ranged from traces at most locations to nearly an inch at Umatilla.

FIELD CROPS: Cotton growers in Santa Rosa are finishing harvesting with yields reported as close to average. Sugarcane harvesting is progressing normally in the Everglades. Growers reported good peanut yields in Santa Rosa County. Light rains across the State allowed six days suitable for field work. Soil moisture supplies across the State were rated mostly short to adequate.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	23	39	2	21	38	2
Short	56	29	20	54	33	24
Adequate	21	32	61	25	29	60
Surplus	0	0	17	0	0	14

VEGETABLES: Mostly favorable conditions permitted planting and harvesting to stay on schedule. Growers in Alachua County finished harvesting snap beans with growers experiencing stem rot disease on some acreage. Strawberry growers in Hillsborough County are slightly behind schedule due to the continuous temperature changes. Growers need cooler temperatures to aid maturation and berry development. Growers have started marketing light shipments of strawberries. Light harvesting of endive and escarole is underway. Other vegetables being marketed by producers are snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes.

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

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Statewide, range and pasture condition was mostly fair and improved slightly from last week. In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition is poor to good with most in fair condition due to cold and drought. Stock ponds have little water in them. Cattlemen are seeding small grains for winter forage, hoping for enough rain to get forage to grow. In many locations, pasture has not recovered from damage by dry weather. Cattle condition is fair to good. In the central areas, pasture condition is poor to good with most in fair condition. Most of the cattle are in fair condition. In the southwest, pasture condition is very poor to fair with most in fair condition. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from poor to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	5	5	15
Poor	5	5	25	30
Fair	65	75	65	50
Good	30	15	5	5
Excellent	0	0	0	0

CITRUS: Intermittent showers the first half of the week brought three tenths of an inch of rain to the northern, central, and eastern citrus producing areas. Other areas received no significant rainfall for the week. It is still considered dry across the citrus region as some marshes and low lying areas have been depleted due to the shortage of rainfall. Daytime temperatures were warmer than average reaching the low to mid-80s on several days. With the Thanksgiving holiday over, picking has resumed. Early and mid orange harvesting is steadily increasing each week. The color and quality of tangerines and tangelos are being reported as very good. Grapefruit quality continues to be excellent with the majority of colored grapefruit being picked for the fresh market and white grapefruit being equally distributed to fresh and processed. Other than grapefruit, primarily Navel oranges, Sunburst tangerines and some tangelos are being picked for fresh market. Grove maintenance is winding down but it still includes mowing, irrigation, irrigation repair, and some applications of fertilizer. All processing plants that were planning to open this year have opened, except for one plant that is planning on opening in January.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Nov 19	Nov 26	Dec 03
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	191	153	246
Early and Mid oranges	1,041	877	3,349
Grapefruit	453	298	441
Fallglo Tangerines	5	0	0
Sunburst Tangerines	172	109	189
Tangelos	18	29	68

We are encouraging all subscribers of this report to consider receiving it by email. To do so, log onto: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics by State/Florida/Subscribe to FL Reports/index.asp> Select Florida Crop-Weather. Enter your first and last name. Enter your Email address. Click on Subscribe. The report will be sent automatically each week. Or you may call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter your subscription for you.

In cooperation with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service whose county directors participate in supplying field information