

VEGETABLE HARVEST ACTIVE FOR HOLIDAY MARKET

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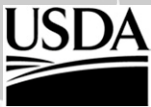
December 11, 2006
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WEATHER SUMMARY: Dry conditions kept vegetable harvesting on schedule during the week of December 4 through 10. Most localities reported no rain for the week. For areas receiving rain, most reported a tenth inch or less. The southeastern Peninsula around West Palm Beach was the exception with almost a half inch of rain falling. Temperatures ranged from five to eleven degrees below normal for some Panhandle and northern areas around Pensacola, Tallahassee and Jacksonville. Elsewhere, temperatures in the major cities hovered from two degrees below to two degrees above normal. Daytime highs were in the 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s while nighttime lows were in the 30s, 40s, 50s, and 60s. Several Panhandle and northern Peninsula localities reported at least one low in the 20s.

FIELD CROPS: Cotton picking is almost finished in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Also, peanut digging and combining are nearly finished in Santa Rosa County. In Escambia County, both cotton and peanut yields were reportedly very poor. Both Santa Rosa and Escambia counties reported poor peanut quality. In Jefferson County, the cold temperatures put most deciduous nursery stock into dormancy. Soil moisture supplies were rated short to adequate in the Panhandle, very short in the Big Bend area, and very short to short elsewhere. The central and southern Peninsula reported some locally adequate supplies. Statewide, soil moisture was rated mostly very short to adequate.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	35	23	0	30	21	0
Short	35	56	11	35	54	19
Adequate	30	21	65	35	25	58
Surplus	0	0	24	0	0	23

VEGETABLES: Warmer temperatures around Immokalee, Homestead, Balm, and Ft. Pierce helped the growth and development of vegetables with harvesting for the holiday market in full swing. Cabbage cutting got underway with a very light amount shipped. Other vegetables marketed included snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, okra, parsley, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes.

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LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Statewide, pasture is still in poor condition due over grazing, dry weather in the summer and lack of regular rain since then. The pasture condition in all areas is mostly poor to fair due to drought and frost. Some small grains pasture is near ready to graze in the Panhandle and northern areas. Cattle condition is fair to good. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from poor to good with most in good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	0	5	5
Poor	2	5	37	25
Fair	48	65	56	65
Good	50	30	2	5
Excellent	0	0	0	0

CITRUS: No rainfall was recorded in any monitored citrus producing areas for the week. It has been very dry, but timely showers in November, in conjunction with irrigation, have helped maintain healthy trees and good quality fruit. Daytime temperatures were slightly warmer than average, reaching the low to mid-80s during the day and dropping down to the 40s and 50s at night. Growers have concentrated harvesting efforts on some of the more productive groves, leaving the others to mature as the season progresses. Industry is reporting good juice quality on fruit going to processing plants. The color and quality of fresh tangerines and tangelos is also being reported as 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 and Sunburst tangerines are being picked for fresh. Grove maintenance is winding down but still includes irrigation, irrigation repair, and some applications of fertilizer. All processing plants that are planning to open this year have opened, except for one that is planning on opening in January.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Nov 26	Dec 03	Dec 10
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	153	246	326
Early and Mid oranges	877	3,349	4,286
Grapefruit	298	441	430
Sunburst tangerines	109	189	227
Tangelos	29	68	96

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