



# Weather Crop

National  
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Statistics  
Service

In Cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

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## HOT TEMPERATURES CONTINUED

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Temperatures remained above normal in nearly all localities during the week of December 25 through 31. In the major cities, temperatures averaged one to five degrees above normal. Daytime highs were in the 60s, 70s, and 80s. Nighttime lows were in the 30s, 40s, 50s, and 60s. Alachua and Jay recorded at least one low in upper 20s. Rainfall for the week ranged from about a half inch in several areas to over five and a half inches in Tallahassee. Hastings reported only a quarter inch of rain for the week.

**FIELD CROPS:** Some sugarcane growers delayed field work to avoid rainfall and to observe the holidays with most harvesting on schedule. Rainfall over the Panhandle and northern Peninsula continued to boost small grain growth. The rains increased soil moisture supplies in most areas. However, more rain is needed. Localities receiving abundant rainfall over the past two weeks have some areas with surplus soil moisture, while those reporting small amounts of rain still have areas with very short soil moisture.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	10	19	9	15	25	9
Short	15	32	11	40	27	11
Adequate	70	49	76	41	48	79
Surplus	5	0	4	4	0	1

**VEGETABLES:** The warm weather continued to adversely affect strawberry quality. Growers kept planting and harvesting active between showers. However, many producers briefly stopped activities to observe the holidays. Vegetables shipped during the week included snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, parsley, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries and tomatoes.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** Statewide, pasture is in very poor to good condition, with most in fair condition. Ranchers are feeding hay. Winter forage is improving following recent rains. 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	10	15	25
Poor	10	20	10	20
Fair	55	30	60	25
Good	30	40	15	30
Excellent	0	0	0	0

**CITRUS:** Rainfall accompanied cooler weather statewide on Monday, Christmas Day, and on Tuesday, December 26th. The most rainfall recorded was in Ona at less than one and a half inches. Temperatures gradually warmed up the rest of the week, with daytime highs reaching the upper 70s and lower 80s in all citrus producing areas. Some central and southern citrus producing counties recorded temperatures as high as 83 degrees. With the unseasonably warm temperatures and high humidity, early and midseason fruit has matured quickly and is ready for harvest. Early midseason orange harvesting is in full swing now that the holidays are over. Navel orange harvest peaked early in the month of December and has dropped off significantly since then. Sunburst tangerine harvest is beginning to dwindle and Honey tangerine harvest is soon on the way. Trees and fruit are in good condition following a mild fall season. Citrus fruit maturity levels are on average higher this year compared to last year for all varieties. Grove maintenance includes irrigation, irrigation repair, as well as preparations needed for continuation of harvest.

<b>ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED</b>			
<b>Crop</b>	<b>Dec 17</b>	<b>Dec 24</b>	<b>Dec 31</b>
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	317	125	35
Early and Mid oranges	4,933	3,990	3,980
Grapefruit	535	367	337
Sunburst Tangerines	231	181	85
Tangelos	80	69	51

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