



WEATHER CROP



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Week ending November 18, 2007

DRY AND CLEAR CONDITIONS FACILITATE HARVEST

WEATHER SUMMARY: Dry, clear weather continued to speed harvesting during the week of November 13 through 18. Many localities reported no measurable rain for the period. Only the extreme southeastern coast received significant rainfall with Ft. Lauderdale reporting nearly two inches for the week. Miami recorded about a quarter inch. Elsewhere, stations reported only four tenths of an inch or less of rain for the week. Temperatures remained cool with daily averages ranging from one to five degrees below normal in the major cities. Daily highs were mostly in the 70s and 80s while nighttime lows were in the 30s, 40s, and 50s. Alachua, Brooksville, Live Oak, MacClenny, Monticello, Quincy, and Tallahassee reported at least one low in the 20s. The recent dry weather increased the danger of wildfires over most of the State, and especially over the southern Peninsula.

FIELD CROPS: The recent dry weather prevented some planting of winter wheat due to soils being too dry. In Jefferson County, cotton picking continued as the pecan harvest got underway. Nurseries in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas were beginning to dig field-grown deciduous plants, now entering dormancy after recent freezing temperatures. In Washington County, cotton picking continued with yields reported negatively impacted by hardlock and bolls being too close to the ground to harvest. The peanut harvest in Washington County was expected to finish within the next 10 days. Some peanut fields sustained damage during recent freezes. Peanut condition was rated 20% very poor, 25% poor, 20% fair, 32% good, and 3% excellent. Soil moisture was rated short to adequate in the Panhandle with several areas of very short moisture reported. Very short soil moisture was also reported for the Big Bend area and parts of the northern Peninsula, while mostly adequate soil moisture was reported for the southern Peninsula. Elsewhere, soil moisture was rated short to adequate. Counties reporting spots with surplus soil moisture included Jackson and Osceola. Counties reporting areas with very short moisture included Santa Rosa, Washington, Gadsden, Jefferson, Suwannee, Marion, Osceola, and Polk.

Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
96	99	99

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	10	10	35	10	15	29
Short	40	42	34	35	40	44
Adequate	49	45	29	55	45	27
Surplus	1	3	2	0	0	0

VEGETABLES: The clear weather allowed harvesting to proceed with growers trying to satisfy the Thanksgiving Day demands. Crops marketed included snap beans, Chinese cabbage, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, escarole, endive, lettuce, okra, peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes. Producers in the Plant City and Dover areas also shipped very light amount of strawberries.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in good condition. Winter forage planted in September and early October was withering and dying from drought and hard freezes. Grass growth of permanent pastures was also stopped by the cold. Hay production has been below normal this year. Winter small grain forage was weak and supplemental hay cost was high. Some locations still need rain before they can plant small grain forage. The cattle condition was fair to good. In central areas, pasture condition was poor to fair with most in good condition. The season's first frost fell the night of November 16, so cattle producers will need to begin feeding supplemental hay. The freeze was severe enough to damage grass, particularly those in low-lying areas. Also, there was no rain this past week and the pastures are beginning to turn brown. Rain is needed at some locations for planting winter forage. The cattle condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the southwest areas, pasture condition was poor to good. Statewide, cattle condition was mostly good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	1	1	5
Poor	20	9	29	25
Fair	30	50	35	40
Good	45	35	35	29
Excellent	5	5	0	1

CITRUS: Temperatures in citrus-producing areas were cooler than average this past week. Lows ranged from the low to high 40s in the mornings; highs reached the low 80s. Only Ft. Pierce reported rain for the week, at less than half an inch. All areas were dryer than normal, with lakes and reservoirs below normal levels. In spite of the dry weather, irrigated groves across the citrus belt were in relatively good condition due to good maintenance practices and increased irrigation. Limited grove activity included mowing, spraying, fertilizing, and caring for young trees. Various methods were being used to control greening. Most growers were training scouts to look for greening and removing trees affected with the disease. Almost all major packinghouses have opened and began running fruit. About two thirds of the processing plants are open, with the remaining plants planning on opening following Thanksgiving. Most fundraising programs have started and will continue through the Thanksgiving holidays. Harvested varieties included Fallglo and Sunburst tangerines, early, Ambersweet and Navel oranges, grapefruit, and a few tangelos.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Nov 04	Nov 11	Nov 18
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early oranges	51	89	656
Navel oranges	89	91	158
Ambersweet oranges	11	20	11
Grapefruit	258	363	499
Fallglo tangerines	81	60	40
Sunburst tangerines	0	78	138
Tangelos	2	7	12

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