



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending November 25, 2007

## PANHANDLE RAINS SLOW HARVEST, ELSEWHERE DRY

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Scattered rainfall skipped some localities during the week of November 19 through 25. Parts of the eastern and central Panhandle and the Big Bend area received from one to two or more inches of rain during the period; elsewhere, only traces to about half an inch fell. Apopka, Avalon, Immokalee, Lake Alfred, Orlando, and Palmdale reported no measurable rain during the week. Temperatures at the major stations averaged normal to two degrees above normal. Daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s. Nighttime lows were in the 40s, 50s, and 60s with Dover, Jay, Tallahassee, and Umatilla recording at least one low in the 30s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Rains in some eastern and central Panhandle and Big Bend localities interrupted harvesting. Cotton picking is nearing the end. Most peanut digging is finished. Peanut condition was rated 20% very poor, 25% poor, 20% fair, 32% good, and 3% excellent. Soil moisture ratings improved in areas receiving rainfall with ratings mostly adequate for the central and eastern Panhandle. However, the western Panhandle reported very short soil moisture. Some Big Bend and northern Peninsula areas remained dry with soil moisture rated short to adequate. The central Peninsula reported very short to short soil moisture while the southern Peninsula reported short soil moisture.

Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
97	99	99

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	30	10	39	15	10	37
Short	35	40	30	55	35	34
Adequate	35	49	31	30	55	29
Surplus	0	1	0	0	0	0

**VEGETABLES:** Clear weather over most of the central and southern Peninsula allowed planting and harvesting to stay on schedule. Crops shipped during the week included snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, escarole, endive, okra, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture conditions was very poor to good with most in fair condition. Ground preparation for planting winter forage continues. Planting of small grains for forage delayed in several locations because the soil is too dry for germination. In central and southwest areas, pasture condition was poor to good with most in fair condition. Statewide, cattle condition was 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	1
Poor	15	20	20	29
Fair	50	30	55	35
Good	35	45	20	35
Excellent	0	5	0	0

**CITRUS:** Temperatures were unseasonably warm this past week in citrus-producing regions, reaching the low to mid-80s in all areas over the weekend. Ft. Pierce reported the most rainfall for the week at less than half an inch followed by Ona at less than one tenth of an inch. All areas are in need of more rainfall during this dry time of the year. Almost all major packinghouses have opened and begun running fruit. About two thirds of the processing plants have already run fruit, with the remaining plants planning to open this week. Of those plants open, two shut down on Thanksgiving Day only, while the rest remained closed for the complete weekend. Fundraising programs will be in full swing by the beginning of next week and will continue through mid-December. Harvested varieties include Fallglo and Sunburst tangerines; early, Ambersweet, and Navel oranges; grapefruit; and a few tangelos. Limited grove activity included mowing, spraying, fertilizing, and young tree care. Various methods were being used to control greening and deal with its effects.

<b>ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED</b>			
Crop	Nov 11	Nov 18	Nov 25
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early oranges	89	656	687
Navel oranges	91	158	113
Ambersweet oranges	20	11	0
Grapefruit	363	499	362
Fallglo tangerines	60	40	9
Sunburst tangerines	78	138	110
Tangelos	7	17	21

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