



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending December 2, 2007

DRY WEATHER, SOUTHERN PENINSULA SPEEDED VEGETABLE HARVEST

WEATHER SUMMARY: Significant showers fell over some Panhandle and Big Bend areas during the week of November 26 through December 2. Most rain was received early to mid-week. Rainfall ranged from traces over most central and southern Peninsula areas to nearly two inches in Daytona Beach. Some Panhandle localities received over one inch with an unofficial report of seven inches in a localized area. Several stations reported no rain during the week. Temperatures at the major stations averaged one to seven degrees above normal. Daytime highs were in the 60s, 70s, and 80s. Nighttime lows were in the 40s, 50s, 60s, and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Harvest of peanuts for nuts was nearly finished. Cotton picking continued with only a few acres left. In Washington County, peanut harvest is complete and cotton harvest is nearing the end. Harvest of locally grown pecans was active in the tri-county area around Starke. Soil moisture was rated short to adequate in most areas, except for short soil moisture reported for the Big Bend area. Counties reporting spots with very short soil moisture included Jackson, Washington, Marion, Brevard, Lake, Hernando, Polk, De Soto, Lee, Pasco, and Jefferson. Counties reporting spots with surplus soil moisture included Jackson and Holmes.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	13	30	25	15	15	23
Short	43	35	52	50	55	51
Adequate	43	35	23	35	30	26
Surplus	1	0	0	0	0	0

VEGETABLES: Growers continued to plant, harvest, and irrigate crops. Harvest of the small fall crop of watermelons in the Ft. Myers area, and picking of yellow-type Roma and globe tomatoes in the Quincy area was virtually finished. Planting remained on schedule in central and southern Peninsula with potato planting very active around Immokalee. Around Palatka, cabbage transplanting continued while squash harvest wound down. Cabbage heads are finally gaining size. Growers replanted some cabbage fields earlier due to problems with heading. Strawberries were in good condition around Plant City and Dover with picking increasing very slowly. Warm temperatures are hindering strawberry development. Light harvesting of cucumbers and eggplant began around Pompano. Other vegetables marketed during the week included snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, escarole, endive, lettuce, okra, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Washington County: summer grasses were frosted and cattle are dependant on hay for forage at this time; most cool season forages won't be ready for grazing until after Christmas or even January 1st. Baker County: All local pastures were frosted resulting in the need to feed livestock. Pasco County: Some frost in colder locations damaged warm season forage. Sumter County: Drought dried up the pastures considerably this past week; hay production was decreasing. Hendry County: Less sunshine and cooler temperatures over the past few weeks, and a lack of rain negatively impacted the quality of pasture. Holmes County: seeding of pasture on hold due to excessive rain.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	0	5	5
Poor	5	15	30	20
Fair	40	50	40	55
Good	51	35	24	20
Excellent	3	0	1	0

CITRUS: Temperatures continued warm this past week in all citrus-producing regions, reaching the mid-80s in all areas. Ft. Pierce again reported the most rainfall for the week at less than one inch, with most other stations reporting less than one half inch. All areas are in need of more rainfall during this typically dry time of the year. All major packinghouses have opened and are running at full capacity. Packing for fundraising programs was in full swing and will continue through mid-December. Harvested varieties include Fallglo and Sunburst tangerines; early, Ambersweet, and Navel oranges; grapefruit; and a few tangelos. All processing plants have started running fruit, accepting field-run or direct to processor fruit and packinghouse eliminations. Limited grove activity included mowing, spraying, fertilizing, and young tree care. Various methods were being used to control greening and deal with its effects.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Nov 18	Nov 25	Dec 02
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early oranges	656	687	2686
Navel oranges	158	113	264
Ambersweet oranges	11	0	30
Grapefruit	499	362	536
Fallglo tangerines	40	9	4
Sunburst tangerines	138	110	199
Tangelos	17	21	78

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