



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 23, 2007

SPOTTY RAINS IN SOME AREAS

WEATHER SUMMARY: Showers late in the week of December 17 through 23 improved growing conditions in some areas. Most rain fell over parts of the northern and central Peninsula and the Panhandle, while most southern Peninsula areas recorded very little precipitation for the week. Rainfall amounts for the week ranged from traces to over two inches. Daytona Beach, Jacksonville, and Pensacola reported over two inches while other areas getting rainfall recorded around a half inch or less. Daily temperature averages for the major cities ranged from three degrees below normal in Tampa to one degree above normal in Pensacola. Daytime highs were in the 60s, 70s, and 80s. Nighttime lows were in the 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, and 70s with Alachua, Live Oak, MacClenny, Monticello, and Jacksonville recording at least one low in the 20s.

FIELD CROPS: Some cotton harvesting in Santa Rosa County was interrupted by rainfall. Rainfall over the Panhandle and northern Peninsula improved the condition of small grain fields. Topsoil and subsoil moisture improved slightly over the Panhandle and northern Peninsula. However, soil moisture conditions remained extremely dry in some central and most southern Peninsula areas.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	35	17	23	35	18	25
Short	35	39	31	45	44	29
Adequate	30	44	46	20	38	46
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0

VEGETABLES: Celery cutting got underway late in the week. Other vegetables marketed during the week included snap beans, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, escarole, endive, lettuce, okra, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture was very poor to good with most in poor condition. Rainfall earlier in December has sustained forage growth in some locations, but most of the forage was hurt by drought. The condition of the cattle was poor to good with most in fair condition. In central and southwestern areas, pasture was in very poor to good condition with most very poor or poor due to drought. Cattle condition was mostly poor. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	15	5	25	5
Poor	30	10	15	25
Fair	30	45	25	40
Good	25	35	35	25
Excellent	0	5	0	5

CITRUS: Temperatures, slightly warmer than normal, reached the mid to high 70s on several days during the week. Traces of rainfall were recorded in many citrus-producing counties; however, all areas continue to experience drought conditions and are in need of more rainfall. Fruit sizes were being reported as small on all varieties, but fruit sets were higher than average. Overall quality was good on varieties being picked for the fresh market. Most packinghouses and processing plants closed Saturday the 22nd, with expectations of opening back up the day after Christmas. Fresh shipments will slow down significantly after the holidays and most grove owners will concentrate on fruit being harvested for processing. Grove care is very limited this time of year. Many growers were mowing, spraying, fertilizing, and irrigating. Combined efforts were being made by grove owners to reduce psyllid populations in an effort to control greening. Attempts were being made to get rid of as many abandoned or non-productive groves as possible. Varieties being harvested include early and Navel oranges, grapefruit, Sunburst tangerines, and tangelos.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Dec 09	Dec 16	Dec 23
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early oranges	4,359	5,219	4,768
Navel oranges	362	300	192
Ambersweet oranges	10	0	1
Grapefruit	706	635	512
Fallglo tangerines	4	0	0
Sunburst tangerines	226	211	196
Tangelos	118	89	82

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