



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 January 27, 2008

## WELCOMED RAINS IMPROVED SOIL MOISTURE

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Rains across the State combined with cool nighttime temperatures provided some relief from drought conditions during the week of January 21 through 27. Daytime temperatures for the week ranged in the high 70s and lower 80s, with a high of 83 degrees in Dade County followed by Collier, Broward, and Highlands counties at 81 degrees. An area of low pressure brought patchy, light rain as a cold front moved south into the west central and southwest regions towards the end of the week. Cool evening lows were in the high 20s, 30s, and 40s with a low of 23 degrees Fahrenheit in Santa Rosa County. Rainfall ranged from minimal traces to over one inch in Orange, Dade, Levy, Marion, Broward, Lake, and Putnam. The counties of Hillsborough, St Lucie, and Santa Rosa received close to an inch of rain. Elsewhere, most areas received less than half an inch of precipitation for the week.

**FIELD CROPS:** Sugarcane harvesting continued in the Everglades region. Potato planting was in full swing in the tri-county agricultural area (Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns). Rains this week across the State elevated soil moisture supplies; however, more precipitation is needed to overcome the drought problem. Soil moisture supplies in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula were rated mostly short to adequate. Topsoil and subsoil moisture in the central and southern Peninsula were also rated very short to adequate.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	4	15	10	11	18	7
Short	19	28	42	42	37	40
Adequate	76	56	47	47	44	52
Surplus	1	1	1	0	1	1

**VEGETABLES:** Weather conditions allowed planting and harvesting to progress on schedule. In Hendry County, vegetable planting and harvesting continued with yields negatively impacted as a result of freezing conditions earlier in January. In St. Johns County, cabbage cutting continued. Vegetables and non-citrus fruit marketed during the week included avocados, snap beans, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, peppers, squash, sweet corn, strawberries, and tomatoes.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** Forage growth was limited due to cold weather and drought. In the Panhandle, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in poor condition. Livestock feed quality remained affected by the drought. Temperatures in the 40s and low 50s have suppressed forage production. In the northern areas, pasture condition was mostly poor. Rainfall during the past week was very beneficial to annual forage pastures. In central areas, pasture was very poor to good with most in fair condition. Seasonally cold weather limited warm season forage growth. Limited acreage of cool season forages improved with recent rains. In the southwestern areas, pasture ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. In De Soto County, drought limited forage growth. In Polk County, recent rains and warmer weather have brought new life to the pastures. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most in good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	5	5	20	15
Poor	15	15	20	25
Fair	25	35	45	45
Good	50	45	10	15
Excellent	5	0	5	0

**CITRUS:** Cool mornings, moderate afternoon temperatures, and steady showers during the week provided ideal growing conditions for the upper part of the citrus-producing areas. Most counties in the northern and central regions had between one and one and a half inches of rainfall. The western citrus-producing region lacked in rainfall with less than one tenth of an inch. Grove owners were scheduling and applying early fertilizer, hedging, topping, and irrigating where needed. Additionally, they implemented various strategies to deal with and manage greening and canker to include spraying, removing infected trees, and providing wind breaks. Research to address the challenges of greening and canker continued to be on the fore-front of the citrus industry. Estimated Early and midseason orange harvest went over six million boxes for the week. Navel orange and Sunburst tangerine harvest has slowed, but continued to come in. Honey tangerine harvest is picking up rapidly. Overall, trees and fruit were in good condition. Fruit sets on all varieties were above average. Varieties being harvested included early, midseason, Navel, and Temple oranges; grapefruit; Sunburst and Honey tangerines, and tangelos.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Jan 13	Jan 20	Jan 27
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and Mid oranges	5,941	5,800	6,202
Navel oranges	53	38	43
Temples	5	19	27
Grapefruit	717	781	810
Sunburst tangerines	149	101	38
Honey tangerines	16	47	84
Tangelos	127	122	135

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