



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending November 2, 2008

UNUSUALLY COOL TEMPERATURES

WEATHER SUMMARY: Last week's temperatures were unusually cold. In major cities, daytime highs averaged in the 60s and 70s, while lows were in the 30s, 40s, and 50s. A few locations got below 30 degrees at night. Season's first frost and freezes were reported in the northern third of the State. Overall, major cities ranged from 5 to 10 degrees below normal. Light, scattered rainfall accumulated over the State with most areas receiving less than a tenth of an inch. The most rain received last week fell in Ft. Pierce and Hastings, reporting 0.82 and 0.43 inches respectively.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut digging was 90 percent complete, compared with 87 percent last year, and a five year average progress of 92 percent. Clear skies aided field work for most regions. Sugarcane harvest began in some areas of Glades County. Cotton growers continue to harvest, less than half of the cotton remained in the fields. Okaloosa County growers reported that they were cutting soybeans. Last cuttings of hay were made in an effort to save what wasn't damaged by frost. Rye came up in Dixie County fields. Soil moisture levels were mostly adequate in the southern Peninsula and Panhandle, while the Big Bend and central areas were mostly short.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending November 2, 2008			
Stage	2008	2007	5-yr Average
<i>Percent</i>			
Harvested	90	87	92

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
<i>Percent</i>						
Very short	5	5	2	7	6	7
Short	22	19	27	24	19	32
Adequate	61	68	67	60	69	60
Surplus	12	8	4	9	6	1

VEGETABLES: Cabbage planting slowed in St. Johns County. Land preparations were underway for potatoes in St. Johns County as well. Drier soils in southern fields helped keep disease down. Bradford County planted strawberries and onions. Producers in Union County lost a significant amount of their eggplant and snap beans due to a heavy freeze. Seminole County producers reported little damage from frost. Cucumbers, okra, squash, and avocados moved through the market last week. Light volumes of snap beans, tomatoes, and eggplant were also marketed.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Early frost in the Panhandle, Big Bend, and central Peninsula caused browning in some pastures. Union County lost twenty percent of their pasture due to heavy frost and dry temperatures. Winter forage was planted in Baker County but the cold front slowed forage growth in Osceola County. Wet soils were seen in the east-central part of the State preventing cattle from returning to the fields. Low protein levels were reported in areas of Orange and Seminole counties. Overall, cattle were mostly fair to good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	0	2	3
Poor	2	2	11	6
Fair	30	28	38	37
Good	60	58	46	49
Excellent	8	12	3	5

CITRUS: Cool weather early in the week was welcomed, but had little to no impact on Florida citrus. On Wednesday, several areas dropped to the upper 30s at night, warming only to the mid-60s during the afternoon. Rainfall was very light for the week across the citrus belt. Only Ft. Pierce had significant rainfall totaling almost an inch. The quantity and quality of fruit continues to be reported good in all areas with good ratios, especially on oranges. Few caretakers were resetting groves at this time, due to the availability of trees. Most grove owners have begun irrigating due to the dryer weather this past week. Other grove activity included limited harvesting, herbiciding, and mowing. Scouting for greening and removal of affected trees was common primarily in the southern citrus growing region where the disease was the most widespread. About forty major packinghouses have opened and have begun shipping fruit, with only a few left that could open. Varieties being packed included early oranges (Navels, Ambersweet, and Hamlin), white and colored grapefruit, and early tangerines (Fallglo and Sunburst). Processing was still very limited at this time, with only five houses open and two to three more planning to open in the next week.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Oct 19	Oct 26	Nov 02
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges	42	52	73
Navel oranges	61	110	99
Grapefruit	191	302	296
Fallglo tangerines	85	110	66
Sunburst tangerines	0	7	36

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