



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
1222 Woodward St., Orlando, FL 32803  
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · [www.nass.usda.gov/fl](http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl)

Week ending December 7, 2008

## VEGETABLE HARVEST PICKS UP; FROST ON PASTURES

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Last week, high temperatures were in the 60s and 70s with some 80 degree days in Dade and Broward counties. Night time lows ranged from the 20s to 40s. However, some central and southern portions of the State reported lows in the 50s. Pasco County reported their heaviest frost of the season. Rainfall was less than a quarter of an inch for most areas. Marion, Hernando, Volusia, and Jackson counties received just over 0.25 inches. In the Panhandle, Franklin County recorded 0.48 inches.

**FIELD CROPS:** Most cotton harvesting was complete. Santa Rosa County reported approximately 10% of their cotton had not been picked yet. Wheat was being planted in Calhoun County. Rains over Thanksgiving weekend improved soil moisture in the Panhandle with most areas adequate. The rest of the State had short to adequate soil moisture levels.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	4	9	12	6	5	12
Short	28	31	50	27	40	53
Adequate	67	58	38	63	53	35
Surplus	1	2	0	4	2	0

**VEGETABLES:** Some broccoli and cabbage crops were damaged by frost in Columbia County and worms in Duval County. Cabbage was about 70% planted in Flagler County. Manatee County continued harvesting tomatoes. Cold weather has put some Charlotte County vegetables behind schedule. Other vegetables marketed last week were snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, radishes, and squash. Light volumes of endive, escarole, okra, and strawberries also moved through the market. Avocados were still being marketed, but shipments declined seasonally.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle area, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in poor condition. Recent rains helped winter (small grain) pasture, but freezing temperatures damaged most pasture. The decrease in available forage due to frosts forced cattlemen to feed hay. Cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent. In the northern area, the condition of pasture was poor to fair with cold and drought hurting forage. Light rain helped small grain forage establishment. Freezing and near freezing temperatures continued to reduce any remaining permanent pasture forage. Cattlemen were feeding supplemental hay and minerals. In the central area, pasture condition was very poor to excellent. Light rain helped the grass, but grass growth was set back by the heaviest frost of the season. Cattle condition was poor to good. In the southwest area, pasture condition was very poor to excellent with most in poor condition. Frost, continued cool temperatures, and short soil moisture have suppressed pasture grass growth. However a heavy rain in Hendry County caused some pasture flooding. Statewide, cattle condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair to good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	1	5	5
Poor	4	4	25	25
Fair	45	25	50	40
Good	45	65	19	30
Excellent	5	5	1	0

**CITRUS:** Another round of cool weather dropped lows to the upper 30s through out the citrus producing area. Although not the coldest temperatures of the season, averages were several degrees below normal for the week. Rainfall was limited to a quarter of an inch or less in all citrus producing areas. Most caretakers continue to irrigate in order to maintain adequate surface moisture levels. Processing picked up rapidly this past week. All of the plants have opened and were receiving fruit; most were running at or near full capacity. Growers reported high maturity levels on early and midseason oranges being taken to the plants. Fresh fruit demand has been down slightly, but was picking up with the Christmas season. Grapefruit reports indicate excellent quality this season. Fresh fruit harvested included Hamlin and Navel oranges, white and colored grapefruit, Sunburst tangerines, and a small amount of tangelos. Other than harvesting, grove activity included cleaning up groves in preparation for harvesting, some fertilizing, and a small amount of hedging.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Nov 23	Nov 30	Dec 07
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges (including Ambersweet)	1,693	1,716	4,741
Navel oranges	194	164	329
Grapefruit	548	351	573
Fallglo tangerines	1	1	1
Sunburst tangerines	187	107	227
Tangelos	25	33	99

We encourage all subscribers of this report to consider receiving it by e-mail. To do so, log onto: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Florida/Subscribe\\_to\\_FL\\_Reports/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp). Select Florida Crop-Weather. Enter your first and last name. Enter your Email address. Click on Subscribe. The report will be sent automatically each week, or you may call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter the subscription for you. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Data for individual reporting stations is available at <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.