



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 4, 2009

MOSTLY DRY, WARM DAYS AND COOL NIGHTS PREVAIL

WEATHER SUMMARY: Scattered rain showers were only reported in the far Western Panhandle. Most of the State had no rain or less than a quarter of an inch. Major cities averaged high temperatures in the 60s, 70s, and 80s with lows ranging from the 30s to 50s. Daytime temperatures reached highs in the 70s and 80s; lows in the 30s and 40s.

FIELD CROPS: Wheat in the fields looked good in Escambia County. Winter forages and grains in Columbia and Jefferson counties slowed due to warm, dry conditions. Mild conditions had not reduced aphid populations this winter and raised concerns of Barley Yellow Dwarf Mosaic virus in winter grains. Some fungus was reported in the Panhandle in areas that received excessive rainfall. Oats for harvest in Walton County were reported in good condition. Soil moisture was mostly adequate in the Panhandle and southern Peninsula but mostly short in the Big Bend and central Peninsula.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	17	20	32	19	17	30
Short	40	28	33	32	21	35
Adequate	41	49	35	45	59	36
Surplus	2	3	0	4	3	0

VEGETABLES: Cabbage and broccoli continued to be harvested in Putnam and St Johns County with good quality. Greens and cabbage continued to be irrigated and harvested in Columbia County. Much of the southern Peninsula continued harvesting during their peak time of year. Fifty two different vegetables were harvested, which included beans, cucumbers, sweet corn, tomatoes, squash, and peppers. Light late blight was found in isolated areas among tomato and potato crops. Other vegetables marketed included celery, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, and strawberries. Vegetable grower's activity included planting, staking, spraying, and performing other cultural needs.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: The pasture condition throughout the State was mostly fair to good. Drought, cold and frost have hurt forage growth. Warmer days have caused the permanent pasture to green up in many locations. In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture was in very poor to good condition. In locations that received rain in the past couple weeks, cool season forages were doing well. Most warm season forage (permanent pasture) was dormant, but some has started to green up following days of 80 degree temperatures. The warm temperature has helped the growth of small grain forage for grazing. Hay and protein supplement was being fed. The cattle condition was mostly fair to good. In the central areas, pasture was mostly poor. Pasture in some locations has greened up due to warm weather in the month of December, but growth is minimal due to drought and cold in most locations. Pastures with planted ryegrass were being grazed. The cattle condition was poor to fair. In the southwest areas, the pasture was very poor to good, with most in fair condition. Due to fertilizer and fuel costs, growers did not plant the normal amount of winter ryegrass. Grasses were being depleted, depending on grazing pressure. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to excellent, but most was fair to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	2	0	10	5
Poor	18	15	35	35
Fair	45	30	45	30
Good	34	50	10	30
Excellent	1	5	0	0

CITRUS: Florida's citrus producing areas had another week of warm temperatures and very little rainfall. Highs reached the mid to upper 70s on several days in all areas. With no significant rainfall recorded since mid-December, trees began to show slight afternoon wilt and drought conditions were extending further into the citrus region. Growers continued to push trees affected with greening, irrigate, perform irrigation maintenance, and fertilize. Hedging and topping of grapefruit was observed on the East Coast after harvest. The grapefruit picked for the fresh market was of very good quality this year following a cold snap in late November. Early and midseason orange harvesting slowed for the holidays, but was picking up now that the new year has begun. Sunburst tangerines' utilization has slowed and Honeys are being picked in very small quantities.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Dec 21	Dec 28	Jan 04
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges including Ambersweet)	6,323	3,698	5,615
Navel oranges	205	57	53
Grapefruit	745	349	615
Sunburst tangerines	198	149	101
Tangelos	71	52	79

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