



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending January 11, 2009

WARM TEMPERATURES, LIGHT RAIN, FOG

WEATHER SUMMARY: Mornings were foggy during the week of January 5-11. Overall temperatures were 2 to 12 degrees above normal in the major cities. High temperatures reached the 70s and lower 80s. Nightly lows were in the 30s, 40s, and 50s. Several Panhandle locations received 0.3 inches or more of rain; Santa Rosa County reported 0.75 inches. Some areas of the central Peninsula collected two tenths of an inch.

FIELD AND NURSERY CROPS: The wheat crop in the Panhandle was doing well due to recent favorable conditions. More rain is still needed to improve small grain growth. Potatoes were being planted in St. Johns, Putnam, and Flagler counties. Dade County reported that nursery crops were barely moving through the market due to landscaping decreases. Sugarcane growers continued their harvest. Soil moisture levels were mostly short in the Big Bend and central Peninsula; fairly adequate in the Panhandle and southern Peninsula.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	15	17	25	16	19	31
Short	39	40	38	32	32	26
Adequate	45	41	36	48	45	43
Surplus	1	2	1	4	4	0

VEGETABLES: Cabbage and broccoli producers in St. Johns County have been irrigating fields to cope with slow production. Strawberry harvesting continued to go well in Hillsborough County. Tomato growers in Sarasota County reported some blight due to cool, wet conditions experienced earlier in the season. Producers in Hardee and Martin counties harvested tomatoes; while greens, cabbage, and strawberries were harvested in Orange and Seminole counties. Preparation for spring planting took place. Some growers in southern Florida have abandoned fields after the first picking due to poor prices. Other vegetables marketed last week were snap beans, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive/escarole, peppers, radishes, and squash. Many growers in northern Florida were concerned about the expected drop in temperatures next week and potential damage.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: The pasture condition throughout the State was very poor to good due to cold, frost, and drought. In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was mostly poor. Winter pastures (winter wheat, ryegrass) were beginning to show significant stress from lack of moisture while cool season forage was doing well. Bahia pasture greened up, however very little volume was available for grazing. Some winter forage has just reached the grazing stage and some will be ready for grazing at the end of the month. Slow growth on all small grains was due to dry conditions. Cattle condition was fair to good. In the central area, pasture condition was very poor to good. Some warm season forage was growing slowly. Some cattle were grazing on ryegrass forage. Cattle were being fed supplemental hay, including peanut hay. Hay supplies were low and some ranchers have used up stored hay. In the southwestern area, pasture was very poor to good with most in fair condition. Warm temperatures over the past few weeks have helped green up pastures to some extent. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most fair to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	10	2	15	10
Poor	10	18	20	35
Fair	35	45	45	45
Good	40	34	20	10
Excellent	5	1	0	0

CITRUS: Another week devoid of significant rainfall has come to Florida's citrus-producing areas. Some local areas received up to one-tenth of an inch of rainfall, but showers were not widespread. Temperatures again reached the upper 70s to lower 80s on several days in all areas. With rainfall amounts well below average since mid-December, abnormally dry conditions cover most of the citrus region. Citrus growers have been irrigating heavily, doing some light fertilization, and mowing for picking crews. Hedging and topping of grapefruit was observed on the East Coast after harvest. Early and midseason harvest was in full swing, at almost six million boxes weekly. Sunburst tangerine utilization has slowed but is expected to last about another month. Honeys were being picked, but still in small quantities.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Dec 28	Jan 04	Jan 11
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges (including Ambersweet)	3,698	5,615	5,934
Navel oranges	57	53	72
Grapefruit	349	615	710
Sunburst tangerines	149	101	70
Honey tangerines	0	17	70
Tangelos	52	79	77
Temples	0	0	5

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