



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending December 6, 2009

## Cooler Temperatures in Panhandle; Significant Rainfall Statewide

**Weather Summary:** All Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations reported rainfall amounts of two to five inches, except for South Florida, which averaged between one half to two inches of precipitation. Heaviest rain fell in the already saturated Panhandle region of the State where Jefferson, Franklin, and Gadsden counties reported 5.39, 5.24, and 4.76 inches respectively. High temperatures were mostly in the 80s, the exception being the Panhandle where highs were in the 70s. Lows were in the 30s, and 40s, with 50s reported in the south. In major cities, temperatures were one to three degrees below average in the north and Panhandle, near normal central, and one to three degrees above normal in the southern Peninsula.

**Field Crops:** Heavy rain across the Panhandle further delayed field work. Peanut harvesting was 99% complete. Cotton and soybean harvest was roughly three quarters complete. Thousands of acres of cotton were open in the field. Producers were waiting on drier conditions to resume harvest. A significant amount of lint was reported as being on the ground. There was not enough cotton picking equipment available to meet demand due to delayed harvest schedule. Soybeans were similarly affected but to a lesser extent. Sugarcane harvest continued, but was delayed in some areas due to wet conditions. Winter forage crops benefitted from the moisture. Small grains in some areas have yet to be planted due to wet fields and row crops still unharvested. Soil moisture was adequate to surplus in the Panhandle, while most other areas had mostly adequate levels.

### Peanut Progress for Week Ending: December 6, 2009

Stage	2008	5-yr average	2009
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Harvested.....	100	100	99

### Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	6	5	2	6	6	5
Short .....	36	28	15	33	29	19
Adequate.....	54	66	75	56	61	68
Surplus.....	4	1	8	5	4	8

**Vegetables:** Growers harvested light volumes of strawberries, broccoli, cabbage, sweet corn, watermelons, radishes, snap beans, cucumbers, eggplants, okra, peppers, squash, tomatoes, and avocados. Vegetable volumes from southern Florida were still below normal due to reduced yields. Rainy and cloudy weather caused some increase in disease problems which affected quality in vegetables. Greens were being harvested in the northern counties. Cabbage planting was virtually complete in the Hastings area. Fields were being prepped for potato planting.

**Livestock and Pastures:** The condition of the pastures decreased due to cooler temperatures. Pastures in the Panhandle and northern areas were mostly fair. Most cool season forages need three to five weeks before it will be tall enough for grazing. Patchy frost caused light damage to small areas of pasture. Winter forage planting is winding down. The cattle condition ranged from fair to excellent with most in good condition. Supplemental hay was being fed. In the central areas, pastures were very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Drought of previous weeks was the major factor in the poor pasture condition in many locations. Ryegrass and clover for forage was being planted. The cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the Southwest, the pasture condition was poor to good with most in good condition. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was poor to excellent with most in good condition.

**Cattle and Pasture Condition**

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	0	0	1	1
Poor .....	5	5	9	4
Fair.....	30	40	40	55
Good .....	60	50	45	35
Excellent .....	5	5	5	5

**Citrus:** High temperatures for the week were in the 80s, while lows were primarily in the 40s, with a few areas reaching 30s over the weekend. Rainfall this week was generally good, with most stations receiving more than two inches. Belle Glade was the most notable exception, receiving only one half inch. North Port received the most precipitation, at four and a half inches. Most of the packinghouses have opened, with only a few remaining that have yet to ship. Shipment of fresh fruit was increasing with the anticipated boost from the fundraising programs starting. Varieties being packed included early oranges (Navel and Hamlin), white and colored grapefruit, and early tangerines (mostly Sunburst). Fifteen processors have opened and were accepting fruit. Early and midseason oranges and grapefruit comprised the majority of fruit going to the plants.

**Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested**

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	November 22, 2009	November 29, 2009	December 6, 2009
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	760	654	2,859
Navel oranges .....	151	131	260
Grapefruit .....	382	295	395
Tangelos .....	17	27	89
Tangerines .....	136	147	164

This report is available, at no cost, on the NASS web site: [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). To set-up this free subscription, select Florida Crop-Weather; enter your name and your email address, click on Subscribe. This report will be sent automatically each week; or 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.