



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending December 13, 2009

Vegetable Harvest Progressing; Surplus Rain in Northern Florida

Weather Summary: High temperatures reached the 70s and 80s last week. Lows were mostly in the 30s, 40s, and 50s. However, a few areas in south Florida only got down into the 60s at night. A hard frost was reported in the northern part of Dixie County. The heaviest rain was received in the Big Bend and Panhandle, with most locations reporting two to six inches. Rainfall was less prevalent in the central and southern Peninsula; the majority received less than one inch total for the week. The exception was Lee County, which reported three inches.

Field Crops: Peanut harvest was complete with a few fields abandoned due to low quality. Cotton harvest continued slowly as growers picked when possible. Due to wet conditions, a substantial amount of cotton remained unharvested in the western Panhandle. The unharvested crop condition continued to deteriorate. Soybean harvest was also delayed. Sugarcane harvest continued. Corn harvesting was finished. Planting of cool season forage remained active. Wet weather in Santa Rosa County significantly reduced wheat acreage and many growers reported below average row crop yields. Soil moisture was adequate to surplus in the Panhandle and Big Bend; the central and southern Peninsulas were short to adequate.

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.....	2	9	2	5	13	2
Short.....	15	21	6	19	17	16
Adequate.....	75	64	79	68	66	70
Surplus.....	8	6	13	8	4	12

Vegetables: Endive and escarole began moving through the market. Growers in Hamilton County picked greens. Avocado growers were nearly finished harvesting. Sweet corn, radishes, snap beans, cucumbers, eggplants, peppers, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes were marketed as well. Volumes continued to be light due to below normal yields. In addition to other vegetables, Hendry County harvested watermelon, herbs, and specialty items.

Livestock and Pastures: Pasture in the Panhandle area was mostly fair. Some winter pasture in Calhoun County was hurt by rain which washed away seed, and by standing water in established fields. Small grain winter forage acreage has been reduced due to wet weather in Santa Rosa County. In other locations, soil moisture levels and moderate temperatures provided ideal growing conditions for winter pasture; however, temperatures of 28 to 31 degrees early this week eliminated any benefit to warm season grasses for cattle. The cattle condition ranged from fair to excellent with most in good condition. Supplemental hay was being fed. Pastures in the northern areas were mostly good. However, pasture in northern Dixie County was hurt by a hard frost. In the central areas, pasture was very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Ryegrass for forage was in good condition. Winter annual pasture planting continued. The cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in fair condition. In the Southwest, the pasture condition was poor to good with most pasture in good condition. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was poor to excellent with most in fair to 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	4	7
Fair	40	40	55	45
Good	50	50	35	45
Excellent.....	5	5	5	2

Citrus: High temperatures for the week were in the 80s, while lows were primarily in the 50s, with a few areas dropping to the 40s towards the end of the week. Heavier than normal rainfall over the previous week and the beginning of this week lessened the mild drought conditions which had been negatively affecting fruit size. Most of the packinghouses have opened with very few remaining that have yet to ship. Varieties being packed included early oranges (Navel and Hamlin), white and colored grapefruit, and early tangerines (predominately Sunburst). Eighteen processors have opened and were accepting fruit. Early and midseason oranges and grapefruit comprise the majority of fruit going to the plants.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	November 29, 2009	December 6, 2009	December 13, 2009
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges	654	2,859	5,274
Navel oranges	131	260	279
Grapefruit	295	395	388
Tangelos	27	89	85
Tangerines	147	164	204

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. 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.