



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 December 5, 2010

Cold Temperatures Swept the State

Weather Summary: A cold front crossed from the Panhandle down to the southern Peninsula which brought unseasonably, frigid temperatures. The cold snap set record lows statewide with temperatures averaging two to five degrees below normal. Many areas from the Panhandle down to the central Peninsula experienced some frosts and hard freezes. Chilling evening lows were in the 30s and 40s; however, lows fell into the 20s in several stations at least one night. Daytime highs reached the 70s and 80s. Rainfall reports ranged from none to minimal traces, which increased the risk of wildfires. Jay and Pensacola reported over one inch of precipitation.

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	9	3	14	11	5	14
Short.....	40	18	34	37	21	35
Adequate.....	50	72	51	50	66	50
Surplus	1	7	1	2	8	1

Field Crops: Sugarcane harvesting progressed in the Everglades region. Peanut quality in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties was reported significantly poorer this year compared to previous years. Growers finished planting wheat in Jackson County. Cotton harvesting in the Panhandle is over 90 percent complete.

Vegetables: Some vegetable producers covered plants with freeze cloths and ran overhead sprinklers for protection. Strawberry growers ran overhead sprinklers to form ice caps on plants as cold protection to save the plants and immature fruit during the cold nights. Tomato harvesting ended in West Florida. Light harvesting of okra was available as the season comes to an end. Vegetables marketed included snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, okra, bell peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures: Pastures were hurt by freezing low temperatures, drought, and shorter days. Pasture in the Panhandle ranged from very poor to good with most in poor condition. Two nights with freezing temperatures stopped all summer pasture growth. Winter forage growth was slow due to low temperatures, short days, and drier than normal soil. Winter forage growth was aided by rainfall. The cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Ranchers were feeding hay and supplements. In the northern areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most in poor condition. The cattle condition ranged from very poor to good with most fair to good. In the central areas, the pasture ranged from very poor to good with most in poor to fair condition. Pastures suffered due to the first significant frost of the fall and to only traces of precipitation. The condition of most of the cattle was good. In the southwestern areas, pasture condition ranged from mostly fair to good, with the condition throughout the area ranging from very poor to excellent. Light frost on Thursday morning in some cooler inland areas browned pastures slightly. Ranchers were feeding hay. The cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was very 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.....	2	5	3	5
Poor.....	3	5	20	25
Fair.....	35	30	35	40
Good.....	55	55	39	25
Excellent.....	5	5	3	5

Citrus: Highs were in the 80s, with early morning lows ranging from the 30s to the lower 40s. Twenty-two of the 25 stations recorded some precipitation. The station reporting the most precipitation was Indian River, with 0.48 inch of recorded rainfall. Overall, there were abnormally dry conditions in all of the citrus area according to the U.S. drought monitor, last updated on November 30. Indian River and Brevard counties continued to experience extreme drought conditions, while surrounding counties reported severe conditions. Moderate to extreme drought conditions extend over most of the citrus area. Forty-four packinghouses and fourteen processors have opened, with few more scheduled to open. Cultural practices included application of lime and irrigation.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	November 21, 2010	November 28, 2010	December 5, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	164	289	2,462
Ambersweet.....	16	4	17
Navel oranges.....	186	96	277
Grapefruit.....	394	238	457
Tangelos.....	31	21	91
Tangerines.....	204	113	214
Total.....	995	761	3,518

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.