



# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending December 11, 2011

## Sugarcane Harvesting Making Good Progress

**Weather Summary:** Most areas within Florida had temperatures averaging one to three degrees above normal. Highs were in the 80s and 90s, while lows ranged between the 30s and 50s. Some rain increased topsoil moisture but did not affect subsoil moisture. Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) Stations recording over an inch of rain include: Indian River (1.95 in.), Fort Pierce (1.70 in.), Fort Lauderdale (1.50 in.), and Belle Glade (1.48 in.). Approximately 60 percent of the topsoil and subsoil moisture ratings were adequate or surplus. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated December 6, drought conditions were not as prevalent compared to the previous year. Currently, 46 percent of the State had drought compared to 96 percent last year.

## 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	18	4	4	18	9
Short .....	27	39	39	28	35	31
Adequate .....	65	42	55	64	46	58
Surplus .....	2	1	2	4	1	2

**Field Crops:** Sugarcane was quickly being harvested. Sugarcane planting continued. Most sugarcane producers would like to have planting completed by the Christmas holiday. Field crop harvesting was ending for most crops. Harvest was virtually complete for cotton and peanuts in Walton County. Small amounts of soybeans were harvested in Suwannee County. In the Panhandle region, some farmers had sufficient soil moisture to plant wheat. Flagler and Putnam counties were preparing to plant potatoes.

**Vegetables:** In Flagler and Putnam counties, cabbage planting was underway. Recent weekend rains increased risk of disease for vegetable crops in St. Lucie County. Harvesting and replanting of winter vegetables continued in south Miami-Dade County. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service movement included strawberries, avocados, snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, bell peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes. Okra was finished for the season. Light harvesting of celery was expected to begin in two weeks.

**Livestock and Pastures: Statewide**, the pasture conditions ranged from very poor to excellent with 25 percent in good condition. Drought and cold temperatures limited winter forage growth. Hay and supplements were fed to livestock. The cattle conditions ranged from very poor to excellent with 50 percent in good condition. In the **Panhandle** and **northern areas**, the pasture conditions ranged from very poor to excellent with most in poor to fair condition. Dry soils limited winter grazing. Cool season pastures grew enough for light grazing in some locations. However, drought severely limited winter forage in other locations. Some fields for winter grazing finally received enough rain to permit fertilizing. Most producers were actively feeding hay. Cattle ranged from poor to excellent condition with most fair to good. In the **central** areas, the pasture conditions ranged from very poor to good with most in fair condition. Ryegrass was being planted for winter forage. The conditions of the cattle ranged from very poor to excellent with most in good condition. Supplemental hay was being fed. In the **southern** areas, the pasture conditions ranged from poor to excellent with most in fair condition. The conditions of the cattle ranged from 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.....	1	1	1	2
Poor.....	4	2	16	16
Fair.....	30	50	45	55
Good.....	60	44	35	25
Excellent.....	5	3	3	2

**Citrus:** Highs this week reached the 80s while evening and morning lows were in the 40s and 50s. Rainfall was sparse in most of the citrus growing region with only the East Coast receiving significant amounts of precipitation. The highest recorded total was in Vero Beach at about two inches. Harvesting of early and mid-season oranges increased significantly over the past two weeks reaching over five million boxes for the first time this season, not including Navels. Maturity tests revealed much higher ratios than last season on all orange varieties and on colored and white grapefruit. Fresh specialty citrus (tangelos and tangerines combined) shipments have been between one-hundred fifty and two-hundred thousand boxes weekly, slightly less than last season.

### Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	November 27, 2011	December 4, 2011	December 11, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	2,146	4,130	5,087
Ambersweet.....	30	31	6
Navel oranges.....	113	263	311
Grapefruit.....	326	541	602
Tangelos.....	28	94	99
Tangerines.....	135	180	235
Total.....	2,778	5,239	6,340

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.