



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
**FLORIDA CROP PROGRESS &
CONDITION REPORT**



In Cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Released: January 3, 2012 (4 PM EST) Week Ending: January 1, 2012

Late Week Temperatures Drop

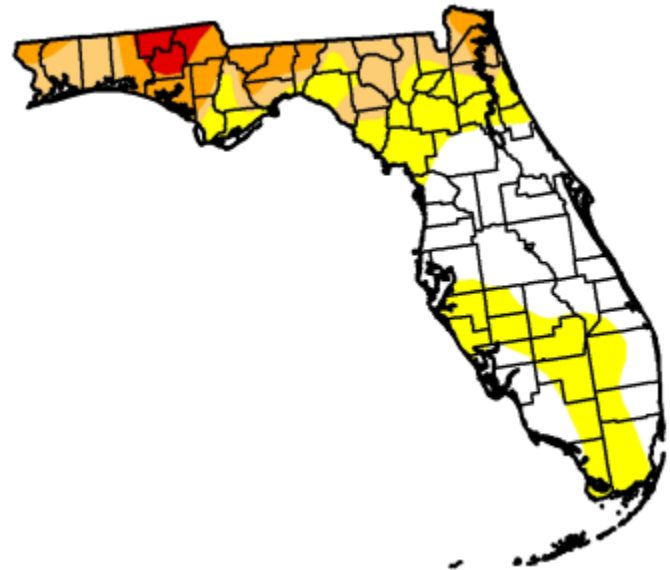
Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged one to five degrees above normal. Highs ranged from the low 70s to low 80s and lows between the 30s and 50s. However, on January 1, near freezing temperatures were experienced at various Florida Automated Weather Network Stations (FAWN) throughout northern and central Florida. Precipitation was low throughout the reference week. All but one FAWN station reported approximately half an inch or less of cumulative rainfall. The station in Marianna had recordings of 1.29 inches. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, updated December 27, 2011, drought conditions increased from last week with 61 percent of the State experiencing drought compared to 53 percent last week. Topsoil and subsoil moisture levels slightly increased from the previous week.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	4	26	5
Short.....	42	37	34
Adequate.....	51	35	59
Surplus	3	2	2

Field Crops: Most field crops have been harvested for the season; however, sugarcane harvesting continued and potatoes were still in the ground.

U.S. Drought Monitor: December 27, 2011



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Fruits & Vegetables: Farmers were anticipating a cold front and were preparing for the cold by protecting vegetable crops. Harvesting and replanting of winter vegetables continued in south Miami-Dade County. AMS market movement included strawberries, snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, bell peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes. Temperatures alternating between cold and warm weather concerned producers as they observed crop development.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, pasture condition was slightly lower than the previous week at 50 percent in fair condition. Drought and seasonal cold temperatures limited winter forage growth throughout the State. Hay and supplements were being fed to livestock. The cattle condition was mostly unchanged with 50 percent in fair condition. In the **Panhandle**, most pastures were in poor to fair condition. Unseasonably warm temperatures for the week supported pasture growth but most small grain winter forage was not yet up to grazing height. Recent rainfall enabled fertilization of winter pasture. Hay stocks were short. In the **northern** areas, pasture condition was mostly fair. Cattlemen were feeding supplemental hay and most cattle were in fair to good condition. In the **central** areas, pasture conditions were very poor to excellent with most fair to good. The condition of the cattle varied from very poor to excellent with most in good condition. The cattle in Osceola County were healthy and the forage quality was very high for this time of year. Supplemental hay was being fed. In the **southern** areas, pasture conditions were poor to excellent with most in fair condition. The condition of the cattle was fair to excellent with most in fair condition.

Citrus: Highs this week reached the 80s, while evening and morning lows were in the 30s and 40s. Rainfall was light and scattered in most of the citrus-growing region. The highest recorded total was in Lake Alfred at 0.53 inches. Abnormally dry conditions existed in most of the western and south-central citrus-growing areas, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated Dec. 27, 2011. The early and mid season orange harvest was in full swing. Cultural practices included young tree care and limited hedging and topping.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	Dec 12-18, 2011	Dec 19-25, 2011	Dec 26, 2011- Jan 1, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges....	5,850	4,677	6,045
Ambersweet.....	3	4	1
Navel oranges.....	181	81	87
Grapefruit.....	510	524	562
Tangelos.....	90	54	91
Tangerines.....	229	133	113
Temples.....	0	0	3
Total.....	6,863	5,473	6,902

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	2	2
Poor.....	2	1	15	20
Fair.....	55	50	60	50
Good.....	40	45	22	23
Excellent.....	2	3	1	5

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