



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



In Cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751 · (407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

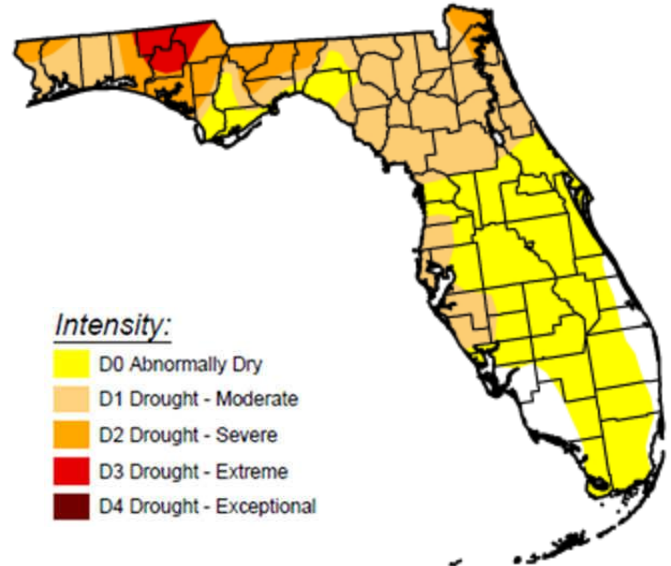
Released: January 17, 2012 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: January 15, 2012

Freezing Temperatures Continued

Weather Summary: Bitter temperatures, swept across the State from the **Panhandle** down to the southern Peninsula. Most areas across the Sunshine State experienced below freezing or near freezing temperatures. Several stations reported lows in the 20s but as the week progressed evening lows peaked in the mid-30s. Out of the 36 stations recorded by the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) 19 stations reported lows in the 20s. There were eight stations that recorded near freezing temperatures by FAWN. Enjoyable daytime temperatures were in the 70s and 80s. Nearly all stations received no measurable rainfall during the week. Monticello and Quincy recorded over half an inch of precipitation. Tallahassee reported the most rainfall at slightly over one inch.

U.S. Drought Monitor: January 10, 2012



Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	8	10	9
Short.....	49	34	57
Adequate	42	54	33
Surplus	1	2	1

Field Crops: Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly short to adequate. Areas across the **Panhandle** and northern Peninsula experienced severe to extreme drought conditions. Rains are needed to decrease the outbreak risk of wild land fires. Sugarcane growers continue to assess damage caused by a previous freeze and last week's freeze.

Fruits & Vegetables: Vegetables: All vegetable producing counties received freezing or below freezing temperatures during the week. Most vegetable growers worked around the clock in the fields to protect their crops and plants from the chilling temperatures. Cold temperatures burned the tops of some plants with young acreage expected to recover. Strawberry growers ran overhead sprinklers to form ice caps on plants as cold protection. The freezing temperatures hindered some marketing of vegetables that are normally shipped this time of year. Normal supplies of snap beans, sweet corn, bell peppers, cherry and plum tomatoes were marketed. Producers shipped light supplies of cabbage, celery, endive, escarole, radishes, squash, and round tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, the pasture condition was slightly lower than the previous week. Drought and seasonal cold have lowered pasture conditions in all areas of the State. Hay and supplements were being fed. The cattle condition was 55 percent fair. In the **Panhandle and northern** areas, most pasture was in poor condition. Some stock ponds have gone dry that have not been this dry in memory. Cool season forages in Washington County were performing well on low damp sites, although cold weather has slowed growth in many locations. Winter grasses in Walton County improved some with the warmer weather, but most cattle were on hay. Some ryegrass was being planted for forage. Hay stocks are short. Most cattle were in fair to good condition. In the **central** area, the pasture condition was mostly poor to fair. The condition of the cattle varied from very poor to excellent, with most in fair condition. Ryegrass pasture was doing well. Supplemental hay was being fed. In the **southern** area, most pasture was in poor to fair condition. Frost killed a lot of grass in Manatee County, and pasture grasses were burnt pretty badly from the freeze of two weeks ago and could use some rain to help recover. Small grain winter forage was hurt by the lack of soil moisture in Highlands County. The condition of the cattle was poor to excellent, with most in fair condition.⁹

Citrus: Highs this week reached the upper 70s, while evening and morning lows were in the 20s and 30s. Rainfall was light and scattered in most of the citrus growing region. The highest recorded total was in Lake Alfred at 0.34 inches. Abnormally dry conditions existed in most of the citrus growing areas, with moderate drought conditions in the western and northernmost counties, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated Jan 10, 2012. 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 26, 2011- Jan 1, 2012	Jan 2-8, 2012	Jan 9-15, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	6,045	5,239	7,363
Valencia.....	0	0	56
Ambersweet.....	1	0	0
Navel oranges.....	87	36	45
Temples.....	3	12	21
Grapefruit.....	562	630	899
Tangelos.....	91	121	85
Tangerines.....	113	160	184
Total.....	6,902	6,198	8,653

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	5	10
Poor.....	4	7	40	35
Fair.....	42	55	45	45
Good.....	50	35	9	9
Excellent.....	3	2	1	1

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