



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 9, 2007

## IRRIGATION FOR DRY WEATHER, HARVESTING CONTINUES

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Collier and Broward counties of the southern Peninsula received limited rain during the week of December 3 through December 9; elsewhere, only traces of half an inch or less fell. Temperatures at the major stations averaged one to ten degrees above normal. Daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s. A cold front moved across the State mid-week, but the warm temperatures returned later in the week. Nighttime lows were in the 30s, 40s, 50s, and 60s; with Jay, Tallahassee, and Alachua recording at least one low temperature in the 20s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Last of the cotton was harvested in Washington County but a considerable amount was waiting to be picked in Santa Rosa. Harvest of locally grown pecans was active in the tri-county area around Starke. Soil moisture was rated very short to short in areas along the north-west coast. Some areas of the Panhandle, Santa Rosa, Washington, Jackson, and Leon reported short topsoil moisture. In areas along the east coast, reports of short to adequate soil moisture. No counties reported surplus soil moisture.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	12	13	33	11	15	29
Short	53	43	38	54	50	38
Adequate	35	43	29	35	35	34
Surplus	0	1	0	0	0	0

**VEGETABLES:** Planting and harvesting continued for some vegetable crops. The watermelon crop in the Ft. Myers area and tomato crop in Gadsden County has ended. Planting remained on schedule in central and southern Peninsula with potato planting very active around Immokalee. Around Palatka, acres of mixed vegetables were planted including mustard, kale, collards, turnips, broccoli, cabbage, beets, and green onions. Strawberries were in good condition around Plant City and should begin harvesting toward the end of this month. Other vegetables marketed during the week included snap beans, cucumbers, eggplant, green beans, escarole, endive, lettuce, okra, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in fair condition. In Santa Rosa County, most pasture continued to be overgrazed and stock ponds were still low. Little grass hay has been harvested with a considerable increase in peanut hay harvested this year. The lack of rain this past week combined with cold evening weather continued to negatively impact pastures. Statewide, cattle condition was mostly fair to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	3	1	7	5
Poor	4	5	19	30
Fair	45	40	46	40
Good	45	51	27	24
Excellent	3	3	1	1

**CITRUS:** Mild temperatures continued in all citrus-producing regions, reaching the low to mid-80s in all areas. Early in the week, a mild cold front brought nighttime temperatures to the low 40s in most areas. Rainfall for the week was sparse with most stations reporting less than one tenth of an inch or none. All areas are in need of more rainfall. All major packinghouses were running at full capacity. Packing for fundraising programs was in full swing and will continue through mid-December. Harvested varieties included Sunburst tangerines, early and Navel oranges, grapefruit, and tangelos. All processing plants have started running fruit, accepting field run or direct to processor fruit and packinghouse eliminations. Limited grove activity included mowing, spraying, fertilizing, and young tree care. Various methods were used to control greening and deal with its effects.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Nov 25	Dec 02	Dec 09
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early oranges	687	2,686	4,359
Navel oranges	113	264	362
Ambersweet oranges	0	30	10
Grapefruit	362	536	706
Fallglo tangerines	9	4	4
Sunburst tangerines	110	199	226
Tangelos	21	78	118

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