



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending January 3, 2010

Cooler Temperatures; Rain in All Areas

Weather Summary: Last week’s highs were in the 60s, 70s, and 80s. Low temperatures ranged in the 20s, 30s, and 40s. Frosts were reported throughout the State; sub-freezing conditions for some locations. In major cities average daily highs were in the 50s, 60s, and 70s; average lows were in the 30s, 40s, and 50s. All Florida Automated Network Weather (FAWN) stations reported precipitation of at least 0.10 inches. The central Peninsula saw the highest rainfall amounts with many areas receiving over an inch of rain last week.

Field Crops: Some cotton and soybeans remained in the Panhandle. These will most likely not be harvested due to wet, cold conditions. Pine trees were planted in Taylor County. Planting preparations continued for potatoes in Putnam and Flagler counties. Growers ran heaters to prevent freezing of seed potatoes. Sugarcane harvest remained active. Soil moisture was adequate to surplus in the Panhandle; short to adequate in the Big Bend and central Peninsula; and mostly adequate in south Florida.

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.....	0	17	0	0	19	1
Short	25	38	26	27	30	25
Adequate.....	67	42	65	64	47	62
Surplus.....	8	2	9	9	4	12

Vegetables: Late last week freezing temperatures reached down to the southern Peninsula. Highlands County growers reported a small amount of tomatoes frozen. Growers harvested in anticipation of coming cold weather. Planting and land preparations continued. Irrigation was utilized to prevent freezing of strawberries. Vegetables moving through the market included snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, and strawberries.

Livestock and Pastures: Despite cold and freezing temperatures in the last week, pastures were in fair to good condition throughout the State. Supplemental hay feeding increased throughout the State. Pasture in the Panhandle and northern areas were mostly fair due to sub-freezing conditions. Permanent pasture was damaged by frost except in some protected areas. Most small grain forage was developed enough to graze. Some pasture was poor due to standing water. The cattle condition in the Panhandle and north was mostly fair to good. Pasture in the central area was in poor to fair condition. Frost slowed pasture growth. The cattle condition was mostly poor to fair. In the Southwest; the pasture condition was mostly fair to good. There was patchy frost over the weekend on pastures. Statewide, the condition of the cattle ranged from poor to excellent, with most fair to good.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	0	0	0	5
Poor	15	20	15	20
Fair.....	35	40	45	45
Good	45	35	40	30
Excellent	5	5	0	0

Citrus: High temperatures for the week were in the upper 70s to low 80s, while lows fell to the 30s. Alachua recorded the lowest temperature of 25 degrees on Saturday. Rainfall was moderate, with most stations receiving more than a half-inch. Umatilla received the most at 1.95 inches. All of the packinghouses have now opened. Varieties being packed included early oranges (Navel and Hamlin), white and colored grapefruit, and tangerines (predominately Sunburst and Murcotts, with a few Dancys). Seventeen processors have opened and were accepting fruit. Early and midseason oranges and grapefruit comprised the majority of fruit going to the plants. Other than harvesting, grove activity included fertilizing, cleaning up groves, dormant spraying for psyllid control, and a small amount of hedging.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	December 20, 2009	December 27, 2009	January 3, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	5,442	3,143	5,938
Navel oranges	214	55	31
Grapefruit	485	262	408
Tangelos	64	22	58
Tangerines	230	85	156

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.