



Florida Agricultural Statistics Service
 1222 Woodward Street
 Orlando, Florida 32803
 407 / 648-6013

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl>



WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending January 4, 2004

Released 4:00 P.M.

January 6, 2004

WEATHER SUMMARY: Dry and mostly warm weather during the week of December 28 through January 3 kept field work on schedule. Most localities received no rain during the week. Pensacola and Quincy recorded about half an inch and Marianna, about a quarter inch. The danger for wild fires is increasing in most Big Bend, northern Peninsula and southeastern Peninsula counties due to the recent dry weather. Temperatures for the week averaged two to six degrees above normal in the major cities. Daytime highs were in the 60s and 70s with several reporting at least one daily high in the 80s. Nighttime lows were in the 40s, 50s and 60s with several recording at least one low in the 30s. Tallahassee and MacClenney reported at least one low in the 20s.

FIELD CROPS: Sugarcane harvesting is active in the Everglades area. The dry weather is hindering the growth of dryland hay in Lake County. The lack of recent significant rainfall is lowering soil moisture supplies with all regions except for most of the Panhandle reporting short to adequate topsoil and subsoil supplies. The Panhandle reported adequate soil moisture. St. John's, Highlands and Broward counties reported some localities have very short moisture supplies. Dade County subsoil moisture is affected by water canal levels which are currently unseasonably high.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	Percent					
Very short	2	1	1	2	5	1
Short	38	19	4	33	15	4
Adequate	60	79	51	65	79	53
Surplus	0	1	44	0	1	42

VEGETABLES: The warm, dry weather allowed planting and harvesting to proceed at a normal pace with most growers taking a break to welcome in the New Year near the end of the week. Vegetables and noncitrus fruit available include snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, the winter forage condition is mostly good with the clover forage in good condition. Drought reduced the condition to poor and fair in many locations in the Panhandle and north. In the central and

southwest, the condition of pastures and range is mostly fair due to dry soil conditions. Hay supplies are dwindling at some locations. Statewide, cattle are mostly in good condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	Percent			
Very poor	0	5	0	0
Poor	15	10	5	5
Fair	70	50	35	30
Good	14	35	59	60
Excellent	1	0	1	5

CITRUS: Unseasonably warm and dry weather prevailed all week. No rainfall was reported by citrus area stations and morning lows reached only into the 50s with some daytime highs into the low 80s. Some growers returned to irrigation to maintain tree condition and encourage continued fruit growth. With the previous weeks' colder weather, trees are hardy and should withstand any later cold weather. Growers and packers report good natural color and excellent external appearance on tangerines, early oranges, and grapefruit. Most fresh fruit packing houses reduced shipments during the holidays to avoid over supplies of fruit in the marketplace. Varieties being packed include early and midseason oranges (Navels, Hamlins, and Pineapple), white and colored grapefruit, Sunburst and Honey tangerines, tangelos, and Temples. Most processing plants remained open to receive fruit over the New Year's holiday. With the exception of the previous two weeks, volume for processing is reaching peak levels.

Crop	Estimated boxes harvested week ended		
	Dec 21	Dec 28	Jan 4
Navel oranges	189,000	61,000	57,000
Early and Mid oranges	8,280,000	5,111,000	8,854,000
Grapefruit	781,000	567,000	721,000
Early tangerines	276,000	137,000	95,000
Honey tangerines	17,000	26,000	78,000
Tangelos	66,000	22,000	26,000
Temples	6,000	4,000	21,000

To receive this report via e-mail, log onto <http://www.usda.gov/nass/ssr-rpts.htm> Then click on "Subscribe" (upper right part of screen), then select "Florida Crop-Weather", enter your name and your e-mail address, then click on "Subscribe". The report will be sent automatically to your e-mail address each week.

In cooperation with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service whose county directors participate in supplying field information.