



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 16, 2004

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Warm temperatures kept field work on schedule during the first part of the week of January 10 through 16. However, towards the end of the week, significant showers brought much needed rains to many areas. Most localities received from over an inch to almost three inches of rainfall. Orlando received over three and half inches of rain and Homestead received less than half an inch. A few other areas received under an inch of precipitation. Temperatures at the major stations averaged from five to eleven degrees above normal. Daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s. Nighttime lows were in the 40s and 50s with a few locations recording at least one low in the 60s. Alachua, Hastings, Jay, Live Oak, MacClenny, Pierson and Putnam Hall all recorded at least one low in the 30s.

FIELD CROPS: Rain during the week delayed some field activity, but lowered the danger of wild fire especially in the Panhandle and central Peninsula areas. Some northern and southern Peninsula localities remain mostly dry. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies are short to mostly adequate with very short supplies existing in a few spots of the southeastern coast. Some lowland areas that received heavier rains this week have surplus soil moisture supplies.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	1	1	8	1	0	6
Short	39	46	27	24	18	24
Adequate	55	47	65	70	71	70
Surplus	5	6	0	5	11	0

VEGETABLES: Harvesting of cabbage was slowed due to rain and wet fields. Hastings growers expect to start harvesting a small acreage of potatoes with planting for the spring crop active. Growers in the Quincy area are preparing land for spring crop tomatoes. Vegetables and non citrus fruit being marketed include snap beans, broccoli, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, parsley, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, growing conditions vary from poor to good for winter forage. Warm temperatures and below normal rainfall have pastures stressed. Grazing of rye grass is active. Hay feeding is active in the northern areas. Cool season forages are doing well on wetter sites. Some greening of warm season pastures is occurring due to warm temperatures. In the central areas, the range

is mostly poor due to short moisture conditions. In the southwest, pasture and cattle are in fair condition. Pasture is suffering from drought and cold. Statewide, the condition of cattle is poor to good with most in fair condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	30	25	5	10
Fair	50	60	60	60
Good	20	15	35	30
Excellent	0	0	0	0

CITRUS: The beginning of the week of January 10 through 16 was dry and warm. A front passing over the state at the end of the week brought rain to most areas in the citrus belt. Stations in the center and on the west coast of the state had more rainfall on Friday than the combined three weeks since Christmas; the most being recorded was two and a half inches in Lake Alfred. On Sunday, temperatures dipped to the high 30s and low 40s in all citrus areas. Caretaking practices included limited mowing, hedging and topping, and continued removal of hurricane damaged trees. Late oranges are beginning to color in all areas with early and mid oranges being picked for mostly processing. Fresh fruit packing houses are still running early oranges (Navels and Hamlins), white and colored grapefruit, Sunburst tangerines, decreasing amounts of Tangelos, small amounts of Temples, and increasing quantities of Honey tangerines.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED WEEK ENDED

Crop	Jan 02	Jan 09	Jan 16
In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes			
Early & Mid oranges	4,982	6,697	6,483
Navel oranges	47	60	74
Grapefruit	335	458	612
Tangelos	76	85	114
Sunburst tangerines	97	76	38
Honey tangerines	28	66	156
Temples	6	14	29

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