

Weather Crop Report

Week ending November 20, 2005

VEGETABLE HARVEST INCREASING SLOWLY IN SOUTHERN PENINSULA

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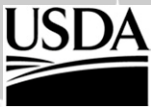
WEATHER SUMMARY: Significant rains fell in some eastern Panhandle, Big Bend and southeastern Peninsula areas during the week of November 14 through 20. Preliminary reports showed less than half an inch of rain fell in other areas with several stations recording no precipitation for the week. Four inches fell at Carabelle. Pompano Beach reported about four and half inches falling on the last day of the week. Temperatures averaged one to three degrees above normal in the major cities. Daytime highs averaged in the 70s and 80s while nighttime lows averaged in the 50s and 60s with several Panhandle and northern Peninsula localities recording at least one low in the 30s and 40s.

FIELD CROPS: Growers are finished with peanut harvesting. Some peanut growers in Jackson County reported yields off by over 500 pounds. Scattered showers throughout the week interrupted some cotton harvesting in Jackson County with yields rated good to excellent. Light showers over the Panhandle and northern Peninsula were not enough to increase soil moisture supplies with supplies rated very short to adequate. Rains in the central and southern Peninsula maintained soil moisture supplies with supplies rated mostly adequate. Lee County reported short to adequate moisture supplies and Indian River County reported surplus to adequate supplies.

Percentage of Peanuts Harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average
100	99	99

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	11	4	1	5	2	0
Short	17	37	28	18	33	20
Adequate	65	45	68	77	57	69
Surplus	7	14	3	0	8	10

VEGETABLES: Harvesting gained momentum over the central and southern Peninsula with the volume of cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes increasing. Lighter amounts of snap beans, eggplant and squash were also marketed during the week. Tomato growers in the Quincy area continued picking during the week with the volume decreasing as the season nears the end and temperatures plunge to near freezing. A very light volume of sweet corn was also picked in northern and central Peninsula localities. Okra harvesting is starting back up in Miami-Dade County with very light amounts available. Strawberry growers welcomed cooler temperatures at the end of the week which enhanced berry development.

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LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, pasture condition is fair to good. Pasture in the northern counties is very poor to fair. Several locations had frost and near freezing temperatures. Drought is lowering winter forage production. Cattle condition is mostly fair. Livestock owners are feeding supplemental hay. In the central area, range and cattle are in good condition. In the southwest, range is in fair to good condition. Statewide, cattle condition is mostly good.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	0	0	0
Poor	10	10	5	5
Fair	20	35	20	20
Good	65	55	75	75
Excellent	0	0	0	0

CITRUS: Persistent showers inundated much of the east coast this past week, drenching areas already soaked from earlier rainfall. The rest of Florida's citrus belt was relatively dry with only a little rain in a few scattered areas. Growers in the northern, central and southern areas are beginning to irrigate to maintain surface moisture levels. Warmer temperatures prevailed early in the week and then turned cooler as a front passed through the State at the end of the week, bringing temperatures down to the mid to low 50s in the northern citrus area and the west coast. Horticultural practices include mowing and cover crop control as groves are being prepared for the picking season. Some of the Sunburst and Ambersweet tangerines have excellent on-tree color and can be packed following washing. Good color is being reported on early oranges, mids, and grapefruit. Varieties being picked include Hamlin, Ambersweet and Navel oranges, colored and white grapefruit, Fallglo and Sunburst tangerines, and Tangelos. About two-thirds of the packing houses and processing plants are now open.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Nov 6	Nov 13	Nov 20
In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes			
Navel oranges	101	99	161
Early and Mid oranges	233	472	943
Grapefruit	225	383	478
Early Tangerines	103	124	209
Tangelos	0	9	28

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