

Weather Crop Report

Week ending November 12, 2006

VEGETABLE HARVESTING REMAINS ON SCHEDULE FOR THANKSGIVING

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Mostly favorable weather conditions existed, except for two days, during the week of November 6 through 12. Rains swept through most of the State excluding some areas near the extreme western coastal southern Peninsula on Monday and Tuesday. Rainfall totals ranged from minimal traces at Immokalee to over 2 inches at Carrabelle. Areas receiving at least one inch of precipitation included Apopka, Brooksville, Dover, Jay, Marianna, Pensacola, Tampa and Quincy. Most other localities throughout the State received under one-tenth of an inch to nearly an inch of rainfall for the week. A high pressure system developed mid-week that kept temperatures around normal at most major stations. Orlando and West Palm Beach temperatures were one degree below normal for the week. Pleasant daytime temperatures were in the 70s and 80s. Cooler evening lows were in the 40s, 50s, and 60s.

FIELD CROPS: Growers reported a lower than average pecan crop in Jefferson County. Peanut harvesting is finished except for some growers in Jackson County, who expect to complete harvesting within the next ten days. Rains improved some topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies, but several areas still remain very dry throughout the State. Topsoil and subsoil moisture is mostly very short to adequate in the Panhandle. Soil moisture supplies across the Peninsula remained mostly short to adequate. Pockets of very short supplies were reported in Hernando, Dade, Madison, Palm Beach, Suwannee, and Union counties.

Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
96	99	98

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	35	21	4	14	29	2
Short	27	40	34	55	49	31
Adequate	38	38	47	31	21	58
Surplus	0	1	15	0	1	9

VEGETABLES: Harvesting of fall vegetables continues to increase moderately over the central and southern Peninsula localities as growers prepare to meet the Thanksgiving Day demand. Some areas in the southern Peninsula that have received less than the average amount of rainfall for the season have been asked to voluntarily cut back on water usage to ensure there is enough water for various uses, including irrigating crops. Tomato picking is gaining momentum in the Palmetto-Ruskin, Immokalee, and East Coast areas, while in the Quincy region tomato picking is decreasing. Cooler temperatures aided strawberry development around Plant City and Dover. Producers marketed snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes.



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LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, the pasture condition is very poor to good, with most in fair condition. There is very little growth of permanent pasture grass, but it is adequate for grazing. Small grain winter forage is not tall enough to graze. The conditions are good for the continued planting of small grains, ryegrass, and clover. Cattle condition is mostly fair. Cattle are being fed supplemental hay. In the northern areas, pasture condition is very poor to good, with most very poor. Grass is growing some and there has been no damage to grass from frost. The cattle condition is very poor to fair, with most in fair condition. In the central areas, pasture condition is mostly good. Despite recent rains, the pastures still struggle from the dry fall and now cooler growing conditions. Most of the cattle are in fair condition. Many cattle are being fed supplemental hay. In the southwest, pasture condition is very poor to good. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from very poor to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	5	5	10
Poor	5	10	20	40
Fair	40	45	60	30
Good	50	40	15	20
Excellent	0	0	0	0

CITRUS: Most Florida citrus producing counties have experienced continued dry weather this past week. The exceptions are in the northern citrus area, where almost two inches of rain fell in a single day, and in central Florida which received half an inch for the week. All other citrus producing counties received less than a tenth of an inch of rain all week. Temperatures have been in the high 70s during the day, and cooling down to the mid-50s at night. With dry, warm weather for the last few months, growers and caretakers are irrigating on a regular basis. Grove maintenance also includes ditch mowing, irrigation repair, and some applications of supplemental miticide. Color break is evident on early oranges and grapefruit. Grapefruit quality is very good, and both colored and white grapefruit are being picked primarily for the fresh market. Packinghouses are finishing Ambersweet oranges and Fallglo tangerines with volume of Sunburst tangerine boxes picking up steadily. Other varieties being picked include early and midseason oranges, Navels and tangelos. Primarily processing plants are running packinghouse eliminations.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Oct 29	Nov 05	Nov 12
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	125	142	128
Ambersweet	13	7	4
Early and Mid oranges	64	50	337
Grapefruit	388	346	458
Fallglo tangerines	96	63	20
Sunburst tangerines	0	33	134
Tangelos	0	2	7

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