

Weather Crop Report

Week ending December 17, 2006

DESPITE SHOWERS, SEVERAL AREAS REMAIN DRY

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Most areas received light showers, except for some areas in the southern Peninsula during the week of December 11 through 17. West Palm Beach as well as some surrounding areas recorded over nine inches of precipitation for the week. Fort Lauderdale received over four and a quarter inches of rainfall. Several areas in the southern Peninsula received over four inches of rain for the week. Areas receiving over one inch of rain included Frostproof, Fort Pierce, Miami, and Orlando. Other areas across the State recorded less than an inch of rainfall. Temperatures for the week averaged from four to seven degrees above normal. Cool evening lows were in the 40, 50s, and 60s with some areas experiencing lows in the 30s. Pleasant daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s.

FIELD CROPS: Sugarcane harvesting continues in the Everglades region. Hay production is down with drought conditions negatively impacting yields. Cotton growers are cutting the old crop in Santa Rosa County. Topsoil and subsoil moisture is rated mostly very short to adequate in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas. Central and southern Peninsula areas soil moisture supplies were rated mostly short to adequate with a few pockets of very short supplies.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	44	35	0	27	30	1
Short	27	35	13	41	35	13
Adequate	29	30	78	32	35	82
Surplus	0	0	9	0	0	4

VEGETABLES: Some field activities were interrupted by the rains last week. Most harvesting is on schedule as producers satisfy the holiday demands. Harvesting of the fall crop okra is nearing the end. Cooler temperatures aided strawberry development and growth in the Plant City-Dover area. Producers marketed snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes.



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LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Statewide, pasture is in very poor to good condition, with drought and cold conditions slowing forage growth. In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture remains poor due to extended dry weather this year. Frost has killed all perennial grass. Cool season forages are delayed and drought stressed. Hay supplies are dwindling fast. Pastures have been over seeded, but nothing is coming up at this time. Ranchers are feeding hay everyday. Cattle condition is very poor to good. In the central and southwest areas, pasture is mostly fair to good. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from very poor to good with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	0	10	5
Poor	10	2	20	37
Fair	30	48	35	56
Good	55	50	35	2
Excellent	0	0	0	0

CITRUS: Light steady rainfalls throughout the day on Wednesday and Thursday covered the complete citrus producing region. All areas received at least some rain over the two-day period. The east coast continued to have rainfall over the weekend, amounting to almost two inches for the week. Daytime temperatures were slightly warmer than average for this time of year, reaching the high 70s during the day, with cool mornings ranging from the low 50s to low 60s. Overall, conditions have been very favorable to maintain fruit quality and incite good growth. Gift fruit shipping is at its busiest level this time of year for many small gift-fruit packers statewide. Fresh shipments of both Navels and grapefruit have reached two to three-hundred thousand boxes each week for the past couple weeks. Also, good juice quality is being reported on fruit going to processing plants. Grove maintenance activity included some irrigation, irrigation repair, and applications of fertilizer. All processing plants that are planning to open this year have opened, except for one that is planning on opening in January.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Dec 03	Dec 10	Dec 17
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	246	326	317
Early and Mid oranges	3,349	4,286	4,933
Grapefruit	441	430	535
Sunburst Tangerines	189	227	231
Tangelos	68	96	80

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