



Weather Crop Report

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In Cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

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VEGETABLE GROWERS MONITOR COLD SNAP

WEATHER SUMMARY: Cooler temperatures swept over the sunshine State by mid-week during January 22 through 28. Cold weather crossed from the Panhandle all the way down to the central Peninsula with some areas experiencing some frosts and hard freezes. Temperatures at the major stations averaged around normal to four degrees above normal with Pensacola and Tallahassee two degrees below normal. Most nighttime temperatures were in the 30s, 40s, and 50s with some lows plunging into the 20s. Pleasant daytime highs were in 60s and 70s with some areas receiving highs in the low 80s. Rainfall ranged from none at Immokalee to over two inches at Balm. A few areas throughout the State received minimal showers with most areas receiving over one inch of precipitation.

FIELD CROPS: Sugarcane harvesting remained active around Lake Okeechobee. Light showers last week helped soil moisture supplies in most localities, but more rains are still needed. Soil moisture supplies over the Panhandle are mostly adequate to surplus. In the northern Peninsula, topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies are short to mostly adequate with some pockets of surplus supplies. Madison County reported very short to adequate soil moisture. Short to mostly adequate soil moisture were reported in the central Peninsula areas. Soil moisture supplies in the southern Peninsula range from very short to surplus.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	7	10	12	10	10	8
Short	40	39	27	43	41	20
Adequate	52	50	60	47	49	70
Surplus	1	1	1	0	0	2

VEGETABLES: Vegetable producers in the southern as well as central Peninsula prepared for the cold front expected to hit several areas tonight. Strawberry growers welcomed the cold temperatures which helped berry development and growth. Potato planting is active around the Hastings area. Vegetables marketed included snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, parsley, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Statewide, pasture condition ranges from very poor to good. In the Panhandle areas, pasture condition is fair to good. Winter grass growth is slowing due to cold and drought. In the northern areas, pasture condition is very poor to fair. Winter grazing is not doing very well due to drought. In the central areas, pasture is in very poor to good condition with most in good condition. In the southwest areas, pasture condition is in very poor to good condition with most in fair condition. Some winter rye grass for forage has fungal growth. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from very poor to excellent with most in good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	5	1	10	5
Poor	10	9	20	5
Fair	40	35	45	50
Good	44	55	25	40
Excellent	1	0	0	0

CITRUS: Temperatures in the citrus areas were above normal levels early in the week, but a strong cold front that passed through the State brought colder weather by Friday. Low temperatures reached the low to mid-40s in most locations. A light wind prevented frost except in very scattered locations. Rainfall preceding the front ranged from none in the lower interior areas to over one and a half inches in interior areas. Growers report bloom buds forming in all locations on navels, Valencia oranges, and grapefruit. The cooler temperatures have the potential to slow the bloom progression. Harvest on early and midseason oranges for processing was slowed by the rain, but continues strong for fresh market oranges and Temples. Sales organizations report renewed interest in oranges to replace diminished supplies from California. Grapefruit for fresh domestic and export use continues strong with mostly eliminations going to processing. Sunburst tangerine harvest is almost complete with Honey tangerines increasing in movement. Minneola tangelos are being picked for fresh use and the remaining Orlando tangelos are being used in processing. Growers continue to mow before harvest and scout for diseases. Ditch maintenance and cleanup after harvest continues with some hedging reported.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Jan 14	Jan 21	Jan 28
<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>			
Navel oranges	42	31	24
Early and Mid oranges	5,949	4,276	4,624
Grapefruit	795	679	910
Sunburst Tangerines	28	15	3
Honey Tangerines	120	111	109
Tangelos	171	96	77
Temples	25	32	40

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