



WEATHER CROP

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Week ending November 11, 2007

DRY CONDITIONS ACCELERATE THANKSGIVING HARVEST

WEATHER SUMMARY: Virtually all localities recorded no measurable rain during the week of November 5 through 11. Measurable amounts reported included about a quarter inch falling in Bronson and traces in Dover, Ft. Lauderdale, Homestead, Palmdale, and Tallahassee. Temperatures in the major cities averaged 4 to 7 degrees below normal for the week. Most daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s. Nighttime lows ranged from the 30s to the 60s. Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Monticello, and Quincy reported at least one nighttime low in the 20s.

FIELD CROPS: Dry weather in many Panhandle and northern Peninsula areas during the last two weeks hindered the germination of small grains, ryegrass, and clover. Several northern Peninsula and Panhandle producers made the last cut of hay. Frosts and freezing temperatures lowered the quality of some peanuts with growers assessing actual damage. Statewide, peanut harvesting reached 95 percent completion compared with 95 percent last year and the five year average progress of 97 percent done by November 11th. Peanut condition was rated 3% very poor, 30% poor, 40% fair, and 27% good. Most producers plan to harvest the remaining peanuts as soon as possible to avoid more cold damages. Cotton picking was active in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula. In Jefferson County, a killing frost stopped the growth of most crops. Soil moisture was rated short to adequate in the Panhandle, very short in the Big Bend area and parts of the northern Peninsula, mostly short over the central Peninsula and parts of the northern Peninsula, and mostly adequate in the southern Peninsula. Counties reporting spots with surplus soil moisture included Jackson and Okeechobee. Counties reporting areas with very short moisture included Jackson, De Soto, Pasco, Marion, Union, Suwannee, and Jefferson.

Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
95	95	97

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	10	3	33	15	7	16
Short	42	30	29	40	35	54
Adequate	45	63	38	45	57	30
Surplus	3	4	0	0	1	0

VEGETABLES: The dry conditions allowed harvesting to accelerate with growers trying to satisfy the Thanksgiving Day demand. Wauchula: strawberry planting was active; growers picked squash and watermelons. Palatka: potato growers are preparing the ground for planting. Quincy: Tomato growers finished picking. Hastings: Cabbage planting continued while broccoli planting neared completion; squash and cucumber yields were rated good with very good quality. Suwannee Valley: Growers completed the watermelon and most of the snap bean harvest; pepper, and cucumber picking were expected to resume this week. West Central: Watermelon picking is expected to start soon; tomato harvesting continued. Plant City, Dover: Strawberry picking was active with very light amounts available. Other crops marketed included snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, squash, and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, pasture conditions were poor to excellent with most in poor condition due to drought and seasonally cool temperatures. Some locations had a killing frost or freeze. Growing conditions were too dry for good germination of winter small grains, ryegrass, and clover. The last cutting of hay was complete with very short yields over the entire season. Cattle condition was mostly fair. In the northern areas, pasture condition was mostly poor due to drought and a killing frost. Pasture condition was falling off seasonally. In central areas, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in fair condition. Cattle condition was fair to good. In the southwest areas, pasture and cattle conditions were very poor to excellent with most in fair to good condition. Statewide, cattle condition was mostly fair.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	1	5	1
Poor	9	4	25	9
Fair	50	40	40	45
Good	35	50	29	40
Excellent	5	5	1	5

CITRUS: Temperatures were slightly cooler this week than in the past couple weeks. Highs ranged from the high 70s to low 80s during the day, cooling down to the mid-40s at night. No rain was reported for the week in any of the seven monitored citrus producing counties. Generally speaking, most areas are dryer than normal with lakes and reservoirs below normal levels. Trees are being kept in good condition by good maintenance habits and increased irrigation. Maturity levels and ratios on oranges and grapefruit have fallen in line with recent years, making available more fruit for harvesting. Limited grove activity included mowing, spraying, fertilizing, and young tree care. Various methods are being used to look for and control greening. Most owners were using chemical control to reduce the psyllid. Some large operations clipped trees affected with the disease. Almost all major packinghouses that will be open this season have opened and began running fruit. About six processing plants were open with more planning on opening this week. Harvested varieties included Fallglo and Sunburst tangerines; early, Ambersweet and Navel oranges; grapefruit; and a few tangelos.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Oct 28	Nov 04	Nov 11
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early oranges	23	51	89
Navel oranges	104	89	91
Ambersweet oranges	26	11	20
Grapefruit	165	258	363
Fallglo tangerines	91	81	60
Sunburst tangerines	0	0	78
Tangelos	2	2	7

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