



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending, December 30, 2007

## WARM TEMPERATURES, MILD WINDS AND SCATTERED SHOWERS

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** The State of Florida was mostly dry last week with a cold front sweeping through the Panhandle at the end of the week. Traces of rain were spotted, a quarter of an inch or more in the Panhandle throughout the week and less than half an inch of rain in Orlando on Christmas day. Daily temperatures for the major cities averaged in the high 70s and mid-80s; lows in the mid-30s to high 60s. Daytime temperatures for all areas warmed up to the 70s and 80s with low temperatures ranging from the 30s to 70s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Sugarcane harvesting was active in the Lake Okeechobee area. In Gadsden County and parts of the Panhandle, topsoil moisture increased due to the recent rain. The Panhandle soil moisture was mostly short to adequate. Big Bend and northern Peninsula soil moisture is mostly very short. Soil moisture in the southern Peninsula is mostly adequate. Overall, conditions were still very dry in the central and southern Peninsula areas and farmers relied on their irrigation systems.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	42	35	11	36	35	16
Short	17	35	17	21	45	38
Adequate	41	30	67	43	20	42
Surplus	0	0	4	0	0	3

**VEGETABLES:** Harvesting and packing of beans, okra, squash and tomatoes continued in Florida City. Winter crops progressed nicely in Palatka; harvesting of cabbage and broccoli continued. Potato planting began and will continue through February. Strawberry plants continued to look good in Plant City while grape tomatoes neared the end of their fall harvest. Zucchini, peppers, cucumbers, squash and tomatoes moved through the market.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture was very poor to good, due to drought and cold weather. Water levels in Jefferson County ponds, streams, ditches were extremely low. Most of the pasture was in fair condition. The condition of the cattle was poor to good, with most in good condition. In the central areas, pasture was in very poor to good condition, with most in very poor condition. Pastures in Sumter County have been very dry due to lack of rain. In the southwestern areas, pasture was in poor to excellent condition, with most in good condition; cattle condition was fair to good. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to excellent, with most in fair condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	20	15	20	25
Poor	5	30	15	15
Fair	45	30	30	25
Good	25	25	30	35
Excellent	5	0	5	0

**CITRUS:** Not much rain was reported for the week, however, citrus trees and groves that were cared for looked good despite the continuing drought conditions. Temperatures warmed up over the weekend, reaching near record highs in some localities. Both the southern and northern citrus producing areas reached the lower 80's. Weekly harvest amounts were lower for the week, reflecting the closing of processing plants and packing houses for the holidays. Early mid-harvest should be back up to five million boxes a week and sustain that level throughout January. Both grapefruit and tangelos will start being picked more heavily for the processed market in the upcoming weeks. Grove care is limited this time of year. Some growers were mowing, spraying, fertilizing, and irrigating. Combined efforts continue being made by grove owners to reduce psyllid populations in an effort to control greening. Varieties being harvested include early and Navel oranges, grapefruit, Sunburst tangerines and tangelos.

<b>ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED</b>			
Crop	Dec 16	Dec 23	Dec 30
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early oranges	5,219	4,768	NA
Navel oranges	300	192	NA
Ambersweet oranges	0	1	NA
Grapefruit	635	512	NA
Fallglo tangerines	0	0	NA
Sunburst tangerines	211	196	NA
Tangelos	89	82	NA

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