



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending January 13, 2008

MOSTLY DRY AND COOL EVENING CONDITIONS PREVAILED

WEATHER SUMMARY: Mostly dry, cool evening conditions across the State allowed field work to progress on schedule during January 7 through 13. Mornings were very foggy during the week. Temperatures for the week were in the high 70s and lower 80s. Cool evening lows were in the 30s, 40s, and 50s. Rainfall ranged from minimal traces to over one inch of rainfall in Baker, Levy, and Putnam counties. Elsewhere, most areas received less than half an inch of precipitation for the week.

FIELD CROPS: Sugarcane harvesting remained active in the Everglades region. Potato planting has started in the tri-county agricultural area (Flagler, Putnam, and St Johns). Rains continued to be needed across the State to elevate soil moisture supplies. Soil moisture supplies in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula were rated mostly short to adequate with some scattered pockets of very short supplies. Topsoil and subsoil moisture in the central and southern Peninsula were rated very short to adequate.

| Moisture Rating | Topsoil | | | Subsoil | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | This week | Last week | Last year | This week | Last week | Last Year |
| | <i>Percent</i> | | | | | |
| Very short | 24 | 28 | 19 | 33 | 27 | 15 |
| Short | 37 | 39 | 35 | 20 | 40 | 43 |
| Adequate | 38 | 33 | 45 | 47 | 33 | 42 |
| Surplus | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

VEGETABLES: Favorable weather conditions allowed planting and harvesting to progress on schedule. In Hendry County, wind and cold damage on vegetables from the previous week's freeze was becoming more apparent. Some plantings lost tops but damage was not uniform across the area. Some vegetables fields were spared freeze damage, while being severely battered by cold winds. In Washington County, foggy mornings and mild temperatures were causing disease problems in cole crops. Vegetables and non-citrus fruit marketed during the week included snap beans, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most poor. Dry conditions had put significant stress on cool season forage. The condition of cattle was very poor to excellent with most in poor condition. In central areas, pasture was very poor to good with most poor to fair. The combination of last week's freezing temperatures and lack of rain has damaged pastures except for some winter forages which were also lacking sufficient moisture. Stock ponds were dry and pasture was brown from drought. In the southwestern areas, pasture was very poor to good and cattle condition was mostly good. Statewide, cattle condition was mostly good.

| Condition | Cattle | | Pasture | |
|-----------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | This week | Last week | This week | Last week |
| | <i>Percent</i> | | | |
| Very poor | 5 | 5 | 20 | 15 |
| Poor | 20 | 15 | 30 | 20 |
| Fair | 25 | 30 | 30 | 40 |
| Good | 45 | 45 | 20 | 25 |
| Excellent | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |

CITRUS: Minimal damage was done to citrus from the previous week's freezing temperatures. Quick moving thunderstorms passed over the northern, eastern, and central-growing regions over the weekend. The most recorded rain for citrus-growing areas was in Apopka at three quarters of an inch, followed by Ft. Pierce and Lake Alfred at half of an inch. Growers continued with heavy irrigation due to extended periods of dry weather. Cool mornings this month have been beneficial to the trees to harden them for any additional freezing temperatures. Early and midseason orange weekly harvest was up to its highest level of the season. Navel orange and Sunburst tangerines were continuing to come in. Honey tangerine harvest should be picking up rapidly in the next couple of weeks. Grove care included some mowing, early fertilizing, irrigating, and some hedging and topping. Grove owners continued their combined approach to reduce psyllid populations in an effort to control greening. Varieties being harvested included early, midseason, Navel, and Temple oranges; grapefruit; Sunburst and Honey tangerines; and tangelos.

| ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED | | | |
|--|---|--------|--------|
| Crop | Dec 30 | Jan 06 | Jan 13 |
| | <i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i> | | |
| Early and Mid oranges | 4,724 | 5,463 | 5,941 |
| Navel oranges | 57 | 67 | 53 |
| Temples | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Grapefruit | 522 | 532 | 717 |
| Sunburst tangerines | 115 | 135 | 149 |
| Honey tangerines | 0 | 6 | 16 |
| Tangelos | 58 | 100 | 127 |

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