



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 20, 2008

## FIELD ACTIVITIES RESUMED AFTER FROST, SCATTERED SHOWERS

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Warm days with mild to cool nights allowed growers to get back in the fields to harvest and pack their produce. Overnight frost reported in some areas. Scattered showers throughout the State at the end of last week provided much needed rain. Areas of the Panhandle received two to four inches and parts of the Big Bend received one to three inches. Other areas of the central and southern Peninsula received half an inch to two inches. Daily temperatures for the major cities averaged in the high 60s, 70s, and 80s; lows in the 40s, 50s, and 60s. Daytime temperatures for all areas warmed up to the 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s with low temperatures ranging from the 20s to the 60s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Although the long drought was interrupted by heavy rain in areas across the State, water levels were still very low. Growers continued to plant potatoes in Palatka. Hay supplies and quality were suffering due to the early morning frost, cold temperatures and insufficient rain. The Panhandle's topsoil moisture was short to very short; Big Bend was adequate; central Peninsula was very short to short; southern Peninsula was short. Subsoil moisture was mostly adequate across the State.

| Moisture Rating | Topsoil        |           |           | Subsoil   |           |           |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                 | This week      | Last week | Last year | This week | Last week | Last Year |
|                 | <i>Percent</i> |           |           |           |           |           |
| Very short      | 15             | 24        | 12        | 18        | 33        | 11        |
| Short           | 28             | 37        | 38        | 37        | 20        | 42        |
| Adequate        | 56             | 38        | 49        | 44        | 47        | 47        |
| Surplus         | 1              | 1         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 0         |

**VEGETABLES:** The vegetable crop looked good last week with cabbage, broccoli and a variety of mixed greens being harvested in the tri-county agricultural area (Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns). Tomatoes and peppers continued to move through the market in Plant City and surrounding areas. A few strawberries were being harvested and packed in Starke and Wauchula, respectively. Tomatoes, squash, peppers, eggplant, cucumbers, beans, celery, sweet corn, endive, escarole, and radishes remained on the market.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in poor condition. Grazing potential is better due to recent rains, but cold weather prevented any real improvement in forage volume or quality. There was a very limited stock of hay and the quality was low and the cost of supplemental feed was high. Moisture was barely adequate for sustaining grass growth in many locations and cattle pond water levels remained low. The condition of the cattle was poor to fair. In central areas, pasture was very poor to good with most in fair condition. Freezing temperatures have held back forage growth. In the southwestern areas, pasture was poor to good with most in fair condition. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to good with most in good condition.

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

**CITRUS:** Late afternoon and early evening rainfall the latter half of the week was beneficial to citrus-producing areas. The western citrus-producing area had the most rainfall at over two inches followed by the central area at over an inch and a half. All areas recorded at least a half inch of rainfall for the week. Cool mornings on several days were beneficial to the trees and fruit. Early and midseason orange weekly harvest has been between five and a half and six million boxes for the past three weeks. Navel oranges and Sunburst tangerines continued to come in. Honey tangerines harvest was picking up rapidly and it was expected to do so for the next couple of weeks. Grove owners applied early fertilizer, irrigated, and conducted some hedging and topping. Grove owners were implementing various strategies to deal with and control greening. Overall, trees and fruit were in good condition. Fruit sets on all varieties were above average. Varieties being harvested included early, midseason, Navel, and Temple oranges; grapefruit; Sunburst and Honey tangerines; and tangelos.

| ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED |   |        |        |
|--|---|--------|--------|
| Crop                                   | Jan 06                                    | Jan 13 | Jan 20 |
|  | <i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i> |        |        |
| Early and Mid oranges                  | 5,682                                     | 5,941  | 5,800  |
| Navel oranges                          | 68  | 53     | 38     |
| Temples                                | 0   | 5      | 19     |
| Grapefruit                             | 512                                       | 717    | 781    |
| Sunburst tangerines                    | 139                                       | 149    | 101    |
| Honey tangerines                       | 4   | 16     | 47     |
| Tangelos                               | 96  | 127    | 122    |

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