



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 November 23, 2008

## COOL TEMPERATURES; RAIN SCARCE

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Rainfall totals were between zero and 0.02 inches for all reporting stations throughout the State. High temperatures were in the 60s and 70s, while lows ranged from the 20s to the 40s. Major cities averaged temperatures 8 to 15 degrees below normal. Several locations in the northern and central Peninsulas reported frost.

**FIELD CROPS:** Nearly all peanuts have been harvested for the season. Soybeans, cotton, and corn were approximately 90% harvested. Winter grains emerged in the Panhandle, but needed rain. Hay was in short supply. Sugarcane harvest continued in Glades County. Soil moisture levels were reported as adequate in the Panhandle and southern Peninsula, but mostly short in the Big Bend and central Peninsula.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	7	4	24	9	6	14
Short	50	36	37	36	30	49
Adequate	42	56	39	52	60	37
Surplus	1	4	0	3	4	0

**VEGETABLES AND NURSERY CROPS:** Recent cold temperatures in Jefferson County put nursery crops into dormancy, which was the desired condition for this part of the growing season. Broccoli and cabbage were planted in St. Johns County. The production of cucumbers, melons, and squash in the central Peninsula slowed due to cold weather. Charlotte County producers began preparing land for watermelons. Tomatoes were harvested in Manatee County. Hendry County producers were irrigating their recently planted greens and turnips. Other vegetables marketed were snap beans, sweet corn, eggplant, okra, peppers, and avocados.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** Below freezing temperatures has slowed or stopped forage growth. Late-planted small grain winter forage was emerging. Fertilizing of winter forage was being delayed until farmers see where grain prices go; then they will decide whether to fertilize the grain for harvest or leave as a cover crop. Supplemental hay feeding was active. In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was poor to good with most in poor condition. Winter forage needed rain, but its condition was also poor due to lack of fertilizer. Cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in fair condition. In the central area, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in poor condition due to drought and cold. Permanent pasture was not growing and the nutritional value of grass is declining. Cattle were being fed supplemental hay which was a month earlier than normal. In the southwest areas, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in good condition. Statewide, cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	1	5	3
Poor	15	2	30	14
Fair	25	33	40	39
Good	55	59	25	43
Excellent	5	5	0	1

**CITRUS:** Temperatures this week were the coolest of the new citrus season. No rainfall was reported in any of the citrus-producing counties. New tree growth slowed due to cooler nighttime temperatures and decreased weekly rainfall. Surface soil moisture was getting short in most areas, therefore growers were irrigating to prevent wilt and also to help maintain good fruit sizes at harvest. New crop fruit continues to show excellent on-tree color. Maturity levels were running ahead of last season. Fresh fruit harvesting crews were actively moving Navels and finishing Ambersweet oranges. White and colored grapefruit and Sunburst tangerines were also being taken to the packinghouses. Hamlin and other early oranges were being harvested mostly for processing. About half of the juice plants were open and running mostly early oranges and receiving packinghouse eliminations. Caretakers continue to apply supplemental sprays and fertilizers to the trees. Other activities included limited mowing and general grove maintenance. Cutting down trees infected with greening was part of the regular grove management.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Nov 09	Nov 16	Nov 23
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges (Including Ambersweet)	302	1,042	1,693
Navel oranges	125	227	194
Grapefruit	422	587	548
Fallglo tangerines	45	4	1
Sunburst tangerines	150	170	187
Tangelos	4	14	25

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