



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1222 Woodward St., Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

Week ending November 30, 2008

CROP GROWTH AIDED BY RECENT RAIN

WEATHER SUMMARY: Scattered showers aided crop growth last week with two to four inches reported in the Panhandle. Central Florida received between one to two inches of rainfall and less than an inch was recorded in other areas around the State. Daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s; lows in the 20s, 30s, and 40s. Major cities averaged temperatures in the high 60s, 70s, and 80s with lows in the 30s, 40s, and 50s.

FIELD CROPS: Mostly all field crops were complete. Late cotton harvest was reported in Washington, Escambia, and Jackson counties. Jefferson County reported good conditions for small grains. Sugarcane harvest continued in Glades County. Topsoil moisture was mostly adequate in all areas. Subsoil moisture was mostly adequate in the Panhandle and southern Peninsula but 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	5	7	18	9	9	15
Short	40	50	40	31	36	51
Adequate	53	42	41	58	52	34
Surplus	2	1	1	2	3	0

VEGETABLES: Vegetables looked good in the fields but frost conditions slowed the growth of cabbage, squash, eggplants, and tomatoes. Over sixty percent of cabbage was planted in Flagler County. Strawberries were in good condition in Bradford County. Sweet corn was harvested in Hernando County and expected to be complete this week. Other vegetables marketed were beans, cucumbers, endive, escarole, okra, peppers, and radishes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle area, pasture condition was poor to good. Growing conditions were good for small grains, clover, and ryegrass grown for grazing. The growth of forage was slow due to the cool, dry conditions. Some feeding of hay was necessary until winter graze is available in a few weeks. Cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the northern areas, the condition of pasture was poor to good with most in poor condition as some pasture was again damaged by frost. There has been very slow development of cool season forages due to dry soils. Most cool season forage has been planted and was emerging. The summer grass was mostly gone. In the central area, pasture condition was very poor to good due to drought and cold temperatures. In Gilchrist County, frost damaged some pasture; however, drizzle over the weekend was beneficial for winter wheat and rye pastures. In Marion County, the permanent grass has gone dormant. Most cows have calved and the poor pasture was pulling down the condition of nursing cows. Cattlemen were feeding supplemental hay. In the southwest area, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in good condition. The pasture condition has deteriorated due to seasonal cool weather. Also, less pasture was fertilized this fall due to the high cost of fertilizer. Statewide, cattle condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	0	5	5
Poor	4	15	25	30
Fair	25	25	40	40
Good	65	55	30	25
Excellent	5	5	0	0

CITRUS: Cool evenings and moderately warm afternoons brought typical weather in citrus producing areas. Rainfall was nominal until Sunday when heavy thunderstorms passed quickly over the State bringing an inch of rainfall to the west coast and a half an inch to the center of the State. Fresh fruit harvested included Navel and Ambersweet oranges, white and colored grapefruit, and Sunburst tangerines. Over half of the juice plants were open the first half of the week and ran early oranges and received packinghouse eliminations. Some of the plants reopened on Friday and continued processing fruit; by early December the remaining plants should be open. Maturity levels were being reported higher than average on most orange varieties. In some cases, thin skin and high ratios was causing poor quality. Caretakers continued to apply limited 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 16	Nov 23	Nov 30
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges including Ambersweet)	1,042	1,693	1,766
Navel oranges	227	194	164
Grapefruit	587	548	351
Fallglo tangerines	4	1	0
Sunburst tangerines	170	187	107
Tangelos	14	25	33

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