



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending December 28, 2008

## TEMPERATURES ABOVE NORMAL, VERY LITTLE RAIN

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Substantial rainfall was only reported in the far western Panhandle. Most of the State had no rain or less than a tenth of an inch. Major cities averaged high temperatures in the 70s and 80s with lows ranging in the 40s to 60s. Daytime temperatures reached highs in the mid-80s; lows from the 30s to 40s. Temperatures averaged two to three degrees above normal in the southern Peninsula and five to eight degrees above normal for the rest of the State.

**FIELD CROPS:** Pecan harvest wrapping up, yields lower than expected due to nut drop and limb breakage from Tropical Storm Fay. Winter forages looking good, most are not ready for grazing at this time. Good growth was reported on winter grains. Sugarcane harvest was underway in south Florida. Potato growers were planting in Putnam and St Johns counties. Cotton harvest was complete in Jefferson County. Topsoil moisture was mostly adequate in the Panhandle and southern Peninsula. Subsoil moisture was mostly adequate in the Panhandle and southern Peninsula but short in the Big Bend and central areas.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	20	14	40	17	14	36
Short	28	29	22	21	25	28
Adequate	49	55	38	59	56	36
Surplus	3	2	0	3	5	0

**VEGETABLES:** Cabbage and broccoli were being harvested in Putnam and St Johns counties. Warm conditions pushed vegetables in south Florida. Vegetables coming to market included cucumbers, eggplant, green beans, peppers, squash sweet, corn, tomatoes, and specialty items. Vegetable grower's activity included planting, staking, spraying, and performing other cultural needs.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** The pasture condition throughout the State was poor to good. Condition was slightly lower due to drought and cold. In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture was very poor to good with most poor to fair. Some small grain winter forage (wheat and ryegrass) was up and being grazed, but much has not grown enough to provide graze. Permanent pasture have began to green up. Winter forage growth in Jefferson County was good; therefore, grazing has begun. Hay and protein supplement was being fed. The dry weather continues to stunt pastures and impact cattle watering ponds. Cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in fair to good condition. In the central areas, pasture was poor to good with most in poor condition. In Osceola County, warm weather helped pasture conditons, but the lack of rain has limited grass growth. Cattle condition was mostly poor to good. In the southwestern areas, pasture was very poor to good. Most pasture was poor due to drought, however, some locations were still flooded from rains of several weeks ago. Statewide, cattle condition was mostly fair to good.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	0	5	5
Poor	15	5	35	25
Fair	30	45	30	50
Good	50	45	30	19
Excellent	5	5	0	1

**CITRUS:** Citrus producing areas recorded another week of warmer than average temperatures. Highs reached the low 80s at least once in all areas. Some of the southern citrus growing areas recorded 80 degrees or higher, four or five consecutive days during the week. Light, scattered rain totaled less than one tenth of an inch in the western, northern, and southern areas. Ft. Pierce had the most rain at three tenths of an inch. Moderate drought conditions continue to extend as far east as the center of the citrus-growing region. A few processing plants were shut on Wednesday and Friday; with some only shut down on Christmas Day. Even with lower prices and high juice inventories, processing of early oranges continues to be ahead of last season. Harvesting of Sunburst tangerines should continue for the next couple weeks until Honeys and Temples are ready to be harvested. Other than harvesting, grove activity included fertilizing, cleaning up groves, dormant spraying for psyllid control, and a small amount of hedging.

Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended			
Crop	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 28
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and mid oranges (including Ambersweet)	5,337	6,323	3,698
Navel oranges	344	205	57
Grapefruit	644	745	349
Sunburst tangerines	263	198	149
Tangelos	108	71	52

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