



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 December 27, 2009

Below Normal Temperatures, More Rain in the Panhandle

Weather Summary: High temperatures reached the 60s in the Panhandle and 70s and 80s in the rest of the State. Lows were mostly in the 30s and 40s except south Florida which were in the 50s. Rainfall was light across most of the State; however, the Panhandle received between one and two inches. Jackson, Santa Rosa, and Gadsden counties reported 1.91, 1.85, and 1.66 inches, respectively. Average highs across the State were mostly two to four degrees below normal, except for Miami which was one degree below average.

Field Crops: Wet conditions persisted in the Panhandle, fieldwork continues to be delayed. Fall plantings remain behind schedule and winter plantings were virtually halted. Hard freezes slowed forage growth. Remaining cotton and soybean harvest were behind schedule. In the Everglades area, sugarcane harvest was active except where locally, heavy showers delayed harvest by a day or two.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	1	19	0	1	17	0
Short.....	15	28	25	20	22	27
Adequate.....	70	50	67	67	58	64
Surplus.....	14	3	8	12	3	9

Vegetables: Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties reported a wide range of vegetables harvested to meet the holiday demand including tomatoes, bell peppers, squash, cucumbers, snap beans, sweet corn, herbs, and specialty items. Volume remained light on many items. Wet weather over the past few weeks caused some disease and quality issues and higher than normal culls. Cabbage and cool season vegetables were harvested in Putnam, Flagler, and St. Johns counties. Potato planting was ready to begin.

Livestock and Pastures: Pasture in the Panhandle and northern areas were fair to good. Permanent pasture was dormant. Most small grain forage already planted was a couple weeks away from being tall enough to graze. Forage planting continues. Supplemental hay was being fed. The cattle condition in the Panhandle and north ranged from fair to good. Pasture in the central areas was in poor to good condition. The cattle condition was poor to good with most in fair condition. In the Southwest, pasture condition was poor to good, with the poor condition due to cold and flooding from previous rains. Most pasture was in good condition as continued wet weather kept most pasture in good shape for this time of year. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was poor to excellent with most in good condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	0	0	1	0
Poor.....	10	15	9	15
Fair.....	30	35	45	45
Good.....	55	45	45	40
Excellent.....	5	5	0	0

Citrus: High temperatures for the week were in the upper 70s to low 80s, while lows reached the 40s and upper 30s at both the beginning and end of the week. Alachua reached the lowest, with temperatures dipping to 31 degrees on Tuesday. Rainfall was relatively light and spotty with only two stations receiving more than a half-inch (North Port at 0.53” and Apopka with 0.60”). Most of the packinghouses have opened, with only three remaining that have yet to ship. Varieties being packed included early oranges (Navel and Hamlin), white and colored grapefruit, and tangerines (predominately Sunburst, with a few Honeys and Dancys). The first of the Honey Belles hit the markets this week. Seventeen processors have opened and were accepting fruit. Early and midseason oranges and grapefruit comprise the majority of fruit going to the plants. Other than harvesting, grove activity included fertilizing, cleaning up groves, dormant spraying for psyllid control, and a small amount of hedging.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	December 13, 2009	December 20, 2009	December 27, 2009
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges	5,274	5,442	3,143
Navel oranges	279	214	55
Grapefruit	388	485	262
Tangelos	85	64	22
Tangerines	204	230	85

This report is available, at no cost, on the NASS web site: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp. To set-up this free subscription, select Florida Crop-Weather; enter your name and your email address, click on Subscribe. This report will be sent automatically each week; or call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter the subscription for you. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Data for individual reporting stations is available at: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.