



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751  
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

Week ending December 12, 2010

## Some Freeze Damage to Vegetables

**Weather Summary:** Drought and freezing temperatures materialized within the past week. According to the U.S. drought monitor as of December 7, 2010, drought conditions were present in all parts of the State and extreme compared to the moisture conditions the year prior. Dry conditions were most severe in the northeast. Precipitation was light and less than half an inch in any region. Temperatures were 12 to 14 degrees below normal with highs in the 60s and 70s and lows in the 20s and 30s.

## 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 .....	14	2	19	14	2	19
Short .....	34	7	40	35	16	35
Adequate .....	51	79	40	50	71	45
Surplus .....	1	12	1	1	11	1

**Field Crops:** The majority of field crops were finished for the season, thus unaffected by the cold weather. The effect of low temperatures on sugarcane was still being assessed. In the Panhandle, some wheat and oats were being planted. Cotton harvest is nearly complete.

**Vegetables:** Highway truck restrictions were eased to allow vulnerable crops to be transported quickly to processors. Farmers were protecting crops from frost. Cold weather reduced strawberry harvesting. In Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties, tomatoes and bell peppers appear to have incurred freeze damage. In Palm Beach County, green beans, sweet corn, and leafy vegetables sustained variable damage. In Miami-Dade County, farmers were busy harvesting squash and boniatos and planting winter vegetables. Light harvesting of celery and cabbage will begin within the next few weeks. The season for okra and avocados was drawing to a close. Market movement consisted of sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, okra, bell peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, strawberries, and avocados.

**Livestock and Pastures:** The pasture condition decreased this past week throughout the State due to freezing temperatures and continued drought. Most pasture in the Panhandle and northern areas was in poor condition due to cold and freezing temperatures. Freezing weather has stopped winter forage from growing. Small grains for forage were being planted. Some grazing was started on small grain forage. The cattle condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. More cattlemen were feeding hay and supplements. In the central areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most in poor to fair condition. Heavy frost and temperatures as low as 22 degrees, greatly decreased pasture condition. Winter small grain forage did not meet expectations due to limited rain. The condition of most of the cattle was fair to good. In the southwestern areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most in poor condition. Heavy frost December 6 and 7 damaged pasture grasses that were already stressed from lack of rainfall. More cattle were being fed hay and molasses. The cattle condition ranged from poor to good with most in good condition. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was very 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.....	5	4	5	15
Poor.....	5	10	25	45
Fair.....	30	35	40	25
Good.....	55	50	25	15
Excellent.....	5	1	5	0

**Citrus:** Highs were in the 60s and 70s, with early morning lows in the upper 20s and lower 30s the first few days of the week, rising to the 40s and 50s in the latter portion. Twenty-four of the 25 stations recorded some precipitation. The stations reporting the most precipitation were Palmdale and Clewiston, each reporting 0.25 inch of recorded rainfall. Overall, there were moderate drought conditions in most of the citrus area according to the U.S. drought monitor, last updated on December 7. Indian River, Brevard, and St Lucie counties are experiencing extreme drought conditions, while surrounding counties are experiencing severe conditions. Moderate to extreme drought conditions extend over most of the citrus area. Forty-four packinghouses and 14 processors have opened, with a few more scheduled to open. Cultural practices included application of lime and irrigation.

### Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	November 28, 2010	December 5, 2010	December 12, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	289	2,462	3,856
Ambersweet.....	4	17	8
Navel oranges.....	96	277	301
Grapefruit.....	238	457	431
Tangelos.....	21	91	96
Tangerines.....	113	214	269
Total.....	761	3,518	4,961

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](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.