



# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending October 30, 2011

## Ideal Conditions for Harvesting Field Crops

**Weather Summary:** This past week, there were cool temperatures averaging one to four degrees below normal. Evening lows ranged between the 30s and 60s. Highs were mostly in the 80s. Overall, relatively dry conditions were present in Florida with 23 of the 36 Florida Automated Network (FAWN) stations recording less than an inch of rain. Five FAWN stations located in southern Florida had cumulative rainfall of over two inches: Fort Lauderdale (4.92), Immokalee (4.06), Belle Glade (2.40), Clewiston (2.33), and Fort Pierce (2.25). According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, drought conditions slightly improved from the previous week with 37 percent of the State experiencing some level of drought whereas last week, 41 percent had drought. Sixty seven percent of the topsoil and 69 percent of the subsoil moisture ratings were adequate or surplus.

## 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	32	6	1	19	7
Short .....	18	39	27	23	46	24
Adequate .....	63	27	57	58	33	64
Surplus .....	18	1	10	18	2	5

**Field Crops:** Weather conditions were ideal for harvesting of cotton, soybeans, and peanuts. There was a large disparity in yields based on the availability of irrigation to mitigate the effects of the drought during the growing season. In Santa Rosa and Escambia counties, peanut yields were proving to be better than expected. Peanut harvesting was approximately 89 percent complete. Field work in the Palm Beach area was delayed due to rain. Three of the four sugarcane mills were harvesting and crushing cane.

## Peanut Progress for Week Ending: October 30, 2011

Stage	2010	5-year average	2011
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Harvested .....	92	83	89

**Vegetables:** Light volumes of vegetables were marketed. Cucumber supplies were available from central and southern Florida. Tomatoes were harvested in the central, southern, and western districts. In southern Florida, there was a steady market of okra. In Miami-Dade County, land preparation for winter vegetables took place. Squash and eggplant crops in the county appeared to be in good condition. Avocado sales in the county have decreased. Planting and irrigation of strawberries took place in Plant City.

**Livestock and Pastures: Statewide**, pasture conditions were mostly fair to good. Drought was the first limiting factor to forage growth. Protein supplements were being fed. The cattle condition ranged from very poor to excellent with 55 percent in good condition. In the **Panhandle**, pastures ranged from very poor to excellent with most poor to fair due to drought and cold temperatures. Some growers continued cattle grazing after recent rains, but more moisture was needed to promote growth. Hay and supplements were being fed. In the **northern** areas, pasture condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Hay feeding began as colder temperatures stopped pastures from growing. In the **central** areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition due to drought and the seasonal decline of permanent pasture. Cattlemen provided protein supplements. In the **southwest**, pasture condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition. The condition of the cattle was fair 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.....	1	1	1	1
Poor.....	1	1	4	8
Fair.....	30	37	35	40
Good.....	60	55	55	45
Excellent.....	8	6	1	6

**Citrus:** Highs this week were in the lower to mid 80s, with early morning lows ranging from the upper 40s to upper 50s. There was widely variable rainfall this week, ranging from just over four inches to trace amounts. Immokalee received the most rainfall with 4.06 inches. Overall, there were normal moisture conditions in the citrus-producing region. Thirty-five packinghouses and seven processors have opened, with more scheduled to open this week. Varieties being packed included early oranges (Navels, Ambersweet, and Hamlins), white and colored grapefruit, and Fallglo tangerines. Cultural practices included herbicide and fertilizer applications, tree removal, new tree plantings, and irrigation.

### Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	October 16, 2011	October 23, 2011	October 30, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	44	60	65
Ambersweet.....	14	18	14
Navel oranges.....	49	85	100
Grapefruit.....	200	236	298
Tangelos.....	0	1	2
Tangerines.....	75	98	98
Total.....	382	498	577

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.