



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending November 20, 2011

Light Frost Affected Pastures and Vegetable Crops

Weather Summary: Clear skies and amiable weather was the norm for this past week. Temperatures averaged two to five degrees above average. Evening lows ranged between the mid 30s and high 60s with some areas experiencing frost. Comfortable highs were between the 70s and 80s. Precipitation was negligible with the exception of areas around the Fort Pierce and Homestead Florida Automated Network Stations which both recorded over an inch of rain. The U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated November 15, reported no significant difference in moisture from the previous week with 37 percent of the State experiencing some level of drought; however, 88 percent of the State experienced drought the year prior. Approximately 70 percent of the topsoil and 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	4	12	7	3	11	7
Short	18	37	23	21	37	24
Adequate	68	50	60	64	50	60
Surplus	10	1	10	12	2	9

Field Crops: Patchy frost was seen in fields and pastures in North Florida. Peanut harvesting 99 percent complete. The cotton and soybean harvests were nearing completion as well. Sugarcane harvesting continued in the Everglades region.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending:

Stage	2010	5-year average	2011
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Harvested	100	98	99

Vegetables: Vegetable farmers were trying to meet holiday demands and scheduled harvesting accordingly. In Washington County, some fall vegetable plants including tomatoes, squash, and watermelons, died due to frost. Vegetables in Columbia County received some frost damage. In Polk County, strawberry fields required irrigation. In St. Lucie County and counties southwest of Lake Okeechobee, rains have caused disease problems in vegetable crops. Market movement according to the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service included: avocados, snap beans, cucumbers, okra, bell peppers, squash, and tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, the pasture condition was very poor to excellent, with 60 percent in good condition. Forage growth was limited mostly by drought and cold temperatures. The cattle condition was poor to excellent, with 69 percent in good condition. In the **Panhandle** and **northern areas**, pasture condition was very poor to excellent condition, with most poor to fair. Some locations received rain showers which greatly improved conditions on cool-season grazing crops. However, freezing conditions stopped the growth of warm season annual and perennial grasses. Hay is in short supply due to reduced production from the drought. The cattle were in poor to excellent condition, with most fair to good. Cattle were being fed hay and supplements. In the **central** area, pasture condition was poor to good, with most in good condition. Summer pasture grass was dormant. The first frost of the fall did minimal damage. The condition of the cattle was fair to excellent, with most in good condition. In the **southwestern** area, pasture condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. Some low lying pasture acreage had standing water. 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.....	0	0	1	1
Poor.....	1	1	11	12
Fair.....	25	25	35	35
Good.....	69	69	50	50
Excellent.....	5	5	3	2

Citrus: Typical seasonal weather occurred throughout the citrus region, with highs in the mid-80s and lows in the upper 50s. Little rainfall was recorded in the citrus growing region, with only one station (Ft. Pierce) receiving more than an inch (1.49"). Growers continued to irrigate regularly to maintain the groves and fruit condition. Early citrus harvest increased with specialty citrus (tangelos, tangerines), grapefruit, and early oranges being picked. Thirty-nine packinghouses and 12 processors have opened.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	November 6, 2011	November 13, 2011	November 20, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	66	400	1,997
Ambersweet.....	13	26	68
Navel oranges.....	111	135	169
Grapefruit.....	398	419	440
Tangelos.....	4	14	23
Tangerines.....	136	199	244
Total.....	728	1,193	2,941

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.