



# WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending December 4, 2011

## Cotton and Peanut Harvesting Completed

**Weather Summary:** It was a dry week across Florida with mild temperatures. Only four of the 36 Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations reported more than a half inch of precipitation. The most rainfall was recorded at North Port with 0.91 inches. High temperatures were mostly in the 70s and low 80s. Low temperatures were mostly in the mid 30s to mid 40s. Below freezing temperatures were reported at Alachua, Carrabelle, Jay, Live Oak, Marianna, Monticello, and Quincy. Topsoil moisture ratings at week’s end were 6 percent very short, 27 percent short, 65 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture ratings were 4 percent very short, 28 percent short, 64 percent adequate, and 4 percent 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 .....	3	13	6	4	14	4
Short .....	28	35	27	26	35	28
Adequate .....	65	51	65	64	50	64
Surplus .....	4	1	2	6	1	4

**Field Crops:** Clear weather allowed producers to progress with field activities without interruption. The cotton and peanut harvesting was virtually completed with only a few late-planted fields remaining. Sugarcane harvesting progressed in the Everglades region.

**Fruit & Vegetables:** Mostly clear weather allowed fieldwork to progress on schedule. The vegetable harvest continued with a wide variety of crops coming to market including specialty vegetables. The green bean harvest was in full swing in Miami-Dade County. Producers were replanting okra as the earlier season harvesting of okra had virtually ended. Vegetables shipped included snap beans, cucumbers, eggplant, bell peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes. Light supplies of sweet corn, endive, and escarole were available.

**Livestock and Pastures: Statewide**, the pasture conditions ranged from very poor to excellent and overall slightly lower than the previous week. Drought and cold temperatures limited winter forage growth. Summer pasture was dormant. The cattle conditions ranged from very poor to excellent, with 60 percent in good condition. In the **Panhandle** and **northern areas**, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in poor to fair condition. Drought limited forage growth and livestock were fed hay and supplements. Pastures in Jefferson County improved after rainfall. Cattle were in poor to excellent condition with most fair to good. In Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, some herds had been reduced due to a continuation of poor pasture and shortages of hay. In the **central** areas, the pasture conditions ranged from very poor to good with most in fair condition. Some frost lowered the pasture condition. Some winter forage of ryegrass was being planted. The conditions of the cattle ranged from very poor to excellent with most in good condition. Supplemental hay was fed. In the **southern** areas, the pasture conditions ranged from poor to excellent with most fair to good. The conditions of the cattle ranged from 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.....	4	4	15	16
Fair.....	35	30	45	45
Good.....	55	60	37	35
Excellent.....	5	5	2	3

**Citrus:** Highs this week remained in the mid-80s, while lows dropped to the upper 40s. All but two of the FAWN stations recorded some precipitation, but they all received less than an inch. Growers continued to irrigate regularly to maintain groves and good fruit condition. Early citrus harvest increased with specialty citrus (tangelos and tangerines), grapefruit, and early oranges being picked. Forty packinghouses and 15 processors have opened.

### Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	November 20, 2011	November 27, 2011	December 4, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	1,997	2,146	4,130
Ambersweet.....	68	30	31
Navel oranges.....	169	113	263
Grapefruit.....	440	326	541
Tangelos.....	23	28	94
Tangerines.....	244	135	180
Total.....	2,941	2,778	5,239

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.