



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 18, 2011

Vegetable Harvesting Progressed

Weather Summary: Pleasant, warm temperatures prevailed across the State during the week of December 12 through 18. Temperatures at the major stations averaged three to six degrees above normal. Enjoyable daily highs were in the 70s and 80s. Several areas experienced lows in the 30s, but most evening lows were in the 40s and 50s. Most areas received minimal traces of rainfall for the week. Jacksonville and Live Oak recorded over one inch of precipitation. Areas reporting over two inches of rain included Hastings and Monticello. Rainfall totaled over three inches in Daytona Beach and Tallahassee.

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	19	5	9	15	3
Short	39	40	36	31	38	34
Adequate	55	40	58	58	45	61
Surplus	2	1	1	2	2	2

Field Crops: Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies were mostly adequate. Sugarcane harvesting remained active around Lake Okeechobee. Cotton growers continued to harvest late-maturing cotton in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Winter crops were in good condition in Jackson County.

Fruit & Vegetables: Harvesting in central and southern Peninsula areas progressed as producers satisfy the holiday demands for fruits and vegetables. Mostly dry weather allowed harvesting to remain on schedule. Cooler temperatures aided strawberry development around Plant City. Producers marketed light supplies of cabbage, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, bell peppers, radishes, and squash. Steady shipments of avocados, snap beans, strawberries, and tomatoes were marketed also.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, the pasture condition improved to 42 percent in good condition following the general rain the previous week. However, drought still was the first limiting factor to forage growth. Hay and supplements were being fed to livestock. The cattle conditions ranged from very poor to excellent, with 55 percent in good condition, a slight improvement over the previous week. In the **Panhandle** and **northern areas**, pasture conditions ranged from very poor to excellent with most in poor to fair condition. All producers were actively feeding hay. Cattle ranged from poor to excellent condition with most fair to good. In the **central** areas, pasture conditions ranged from very poor to good with most in fair condition. Unusually warm temperatures helped forage to grow. However, some ranchers did not plant ryegrass due to dry conditions earlier in the season and this is causing a forage shortage. Stock pond water levels were down. The conditions of the cattle ranged from very poor to excellent with most in good condition. Supplemental hay was being fed. In the **southern** areas, pasture conditions ranged from poor to excellent with most fair to good. More ranchers started feeding supplemental hay. The warmer weather has helped the cattle condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	2	1
Poor.....	2	1	16	15
Fair.....	50	40	55	40
Good.....	44	55	25	42
Excellent.....	3	3	2	2

Citrus: Temperature highs this week reached the 80s, while evening and morning lows were in the 40s and 50s. Rainfall was sparse in most of the citrus-growing region with only two of the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations receiving more than a half inch of precipitation. The highest recorded total was in Fort Pierce at 0.68 inches. Harvesting of early and midseason oranges remained over five million boxes for the second week in a row, not including Navels. Maturity tests revealed much higher ratios than last season on all orange varieties and on colored and white grapefruit. Fresh specialty citrus (tangelos and tangerines combined) shipments have been between 150,000 and 200,000 boxes weekly, slightly less than last season.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	December 4, 2011	December 11, 2011	December 18, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	4,130	5,087	5,850
Ambersweet.....	31	6	3
Navel oranges.....	263	311	181
Grapefruit.....	541	602	510
Tangelos.....	94	99	90
Tangerines.....	180	235	229
Total.....	5,239	6,340	6,863

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.