



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 25, 2011

## Warm Week Benefits Winter Crops

**Weather Summary:** It was a warm, dry week across Florida with most of the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) reporting little or no rain. The exceptions were 6.12 inches of rain was reported at Jay, 1.68 inches at Marianna, and 0.82 inches at Carrabelle. Temperatures averaged five to eight degrees above normal. Low temperatures ranged from the mid-30s to mid-40s, while high temperatures ranged from the high 70s to mid-80s.

## 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 .....	5	24	4	3	19	3
Short .....	36	36	42	34	33	35
Adequate .....	58	38	51	61	45	59
Surplus .....	1	2	3	2	3	3

**Field Crops:** Dry weather allowed fieldwork to progress for winter plantings. Good growth was reported on winter crops due to the mild temperatures. A small amount of cotton acreage remained to be harvested in the Panhandle. In the area surrounding Lake Okeechobee, the sugarcane harvest was active without weather delays.

**Fruit & Vegetables:** The harvesting and replanting of vegetables continued in Miami-Dade County. Dry weather allowed harvesting to remain on schedule and to meet the demands of the holiday season. **Producers** marketed beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, peppers, squash, and **tomatoes**. Light supplies of cabbage, endive, escarole, and radishes were also marketed.

**Livestock and Pastures: Statewide**, the pasture condition decreased from the previous week with 60 percent in fair condition. Drought limited winter forage growth throughout the State. Hay and supplements were fed to livestock. The cattle conditions ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. In the **Panhandle**, most pastures ranged from fair to good condition. Cool season forage recently grew with rain and mild to above average seasonal temperatures. However, much of the winter forage was not tall enough to graze, so hay and supplements were fed. In the **northern** areas, pastures condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in poor to fair condition. Dry soil moisture remained a problem for winter grazing. More small grain pastures were being grazed. However, drought severely limited winter forage in other locations. Cattlemen were feeding supplemental hay. Cattle were in poor to excellent condition with most in good condition. In the **central** areas, pasture conditions ranged from very poor to good with most in fair condition. The condition of the cattle ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Supplemental hay was being fed. In the **southern** areas, pasture conditions ranged from poor to good with most in fair condition. Above normal temperatures were beneficial for the growth of the warm season grasses. Stock pond water levels were lower. The condition of the cattle ranged from 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.....	1	1	1	2
Poor.....	1	2	15	15
Fair.....	40	55	40	60
Good.....	55	40	42	22
Excellent.....	3	2	2	1

**Citrus:** High temperatures this week reached the 80s, while evening and morning lows were in the 40s and 50s. Rainfall was nonexistent in most of the citrus-growing region with only three stations receiving even a trace amount of precipitation. The highest recorded total was in Kenansville at 0.04 inches. Abnormally dry conditions existed in Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Hardee, De Soto, Charlotte, Highlands, Glades, Hendry, and Palm Beach counties per the US Drought Monitor, last updated Dec. 20, 2011. Harvesting of early and midseason oranges continued. Specialty citrus (tangelos and tangerines combined) shipments totaled 187 thousand boxes for week ending December 25.

### Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	December 5-11, 2011	December 12-18, 2011	December 19-25, 2011
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	5,087	5,850	4,677
Ambersweet.....	6	3	4
Navel oranges.....	311	181	81
Grapefruit.....	602	510	524
Tangelos.....	99	90	54
Tangerines.....	235	229	133
Total.....	6,340	6,863	5,473

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.