



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
**FLORIDA CROP PROGRESS &
CONDITION REPORT**



In Cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week Ending: January 8, 2012

Mid-Week Freezing Temperatures Impact Crops

Weather Summary: Temperatures across Florida dipped below freezing during the middle of the week, but warmed up by the week’s end. The Florida Automated Weather Network Stations (FAWN) recorded temperatures below freezing for all of the 36 stations except at Fort Lauderdale, Fort Pierce, Homestead, and Sebring. High temperatures were mostly in the high 70s during the week. There was no significant rain across Florida. Rain is needed to reduce the generally dry conditions and improve pastures and winter grasses. Producers observed problems with spider mites and other issues associated with dry weather conditions.

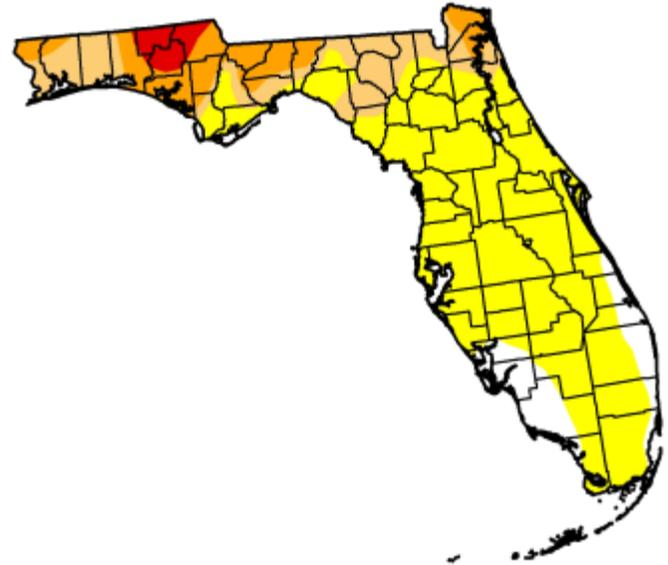
Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	5	12	8
Short	34	31	49
Adequate	59	52	42
Surplus	2	5	1

Field Crops: The sugarcane harvest continued with some damage due to the cold temperatures that dipped into the mid-20s in the production area. It appeared that there was more damage in the colder interior region of the State’s growing area. In Palm Beach County, it was too early to assess the extent of damage to both the young sugarcane shoots and the older mature sugarcane crop. The frequent rainfall in October 2011 prevented the sugarcane from being planted earlier. This made the young sugarcane shoots more vulnerable to the cold temperatures. In northern Florida, a few cotton bales were still in fields waiting to be transported to the gins.

Fruits & Vegetables: In Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties, temperatures reached the mid-20s and caused damage to both edible and ornamental vegetables. It was too early to make a complete

U.S. Drought Monitor: January 3, 2012



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

assessment of damage to crops. The frost affected mostly the upper leaves and crops such as snap beans and squash that were flowering. Hardier, leafy green crops survived the freeze fairly well, but wind damaged several layers of outer leaves. Growers with smaller acreages were able to cover the crops to prevent damage. Many producers reported that although there was damage, they were thankful that the damage was very light compared to the damage from the hard freezes a year ago. In the Miami-Dade area, it was observed that the sweet potato crop was hit hard. In Palm Beach County, green beans at all stages of development suffered significantly. It was estimated that more than half of the crop was destroyed. Harvesting and replanting of winter vegetables continued in southern Miami-Dade County. Market movement included snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, egg plant, endive, escarole, bell peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with 85 percent in poor to fair condition. Drought was the first limiting factor to forage availability and seasonal cold temperatures lowered quality. Hay and supplements were being fed. The cattle conditions ranged from poor to excellent with 50 percent in good condition. In the **Panhandle**, most pastures were in poor condition. Low soil moisture was a major problem for the growth of winter grazing. The limited winter pasture ready for grazing was not damaged much from the below freezing temperatures. Summer pastures were dormant. The poor conditions of pastures were partly due to over grazing earlier in the year. Hay stocks were short. In the **northern** areas, pasture conditions were mostly poor. The limited winter pastures were doing well. Hay and supplements were being fed. In the **central** areas, pasture conditions were mostly poor to fair. Temperatures down to 24 degrees in some locations reduced available forage. The condition of the cattle varied from mostly poor to fair. Supplemental hay was being fed in full scale. In the **southern** areas, pasture conditions ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. A heavy frost in the western areas burned some pasture grasses. The condition of the cattle ranged from fair to excellent with most in fair condition.

Citrus: Highs this week reached the upper 70s, while evening and morning lows were in the 20s and 30s. Rainfall was extremely light and scattered in most of the citrus-growing region. The highest recorded total was in Sebring at 0.06 inches. Abnormally dry conditions existed in most of the citrus-growing areas, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated January 3, 2012. Early and mid-season orange harvests were in full swing. Cultural practices included young tree care and limited hedging and topping.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	Dec 19-25, 2011	Dec 26, 2011-Jan 1, 2012	Jan 2-8, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	4,677	6,045	5,239
Ambersweet.....	4	1	0
Navel oranges.....	81	87	36
Temples.....	0	3	12
Grapefruit.....	524	562	630
Tangelos.....	54	91	121
Tangerines.....	133	113	160
Total.....	5,473	6,902	6,198

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	2	5
Poor.....	1	4	20	40
Fair.....	50	42	50	45
Good.....	45	50	23	9
Excellent.....	3	3	5	1

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