



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



In cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and the UF/IFAS Extension Service  
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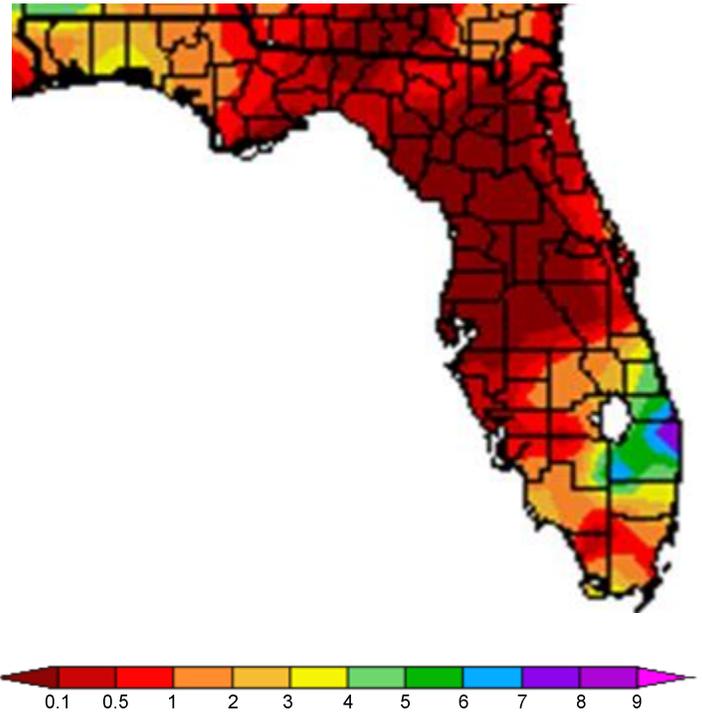
Released: October 22 , 2012 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: October 21, 2012

**Weather Benefits Harvesting**

**Weather Summary:** Florida experienced cool, dry weather this past week. Minimum temperatures ranged from the lowest at Quincy with 44 degrees to 71 degrees in Fort Lauderdale. Maximum temperatures were in the 80s with the highest at Immokalee with 91 degrees. The State was still drought-free compared to drought covering 50 percent of the State a year ago. Rainfall was scarce especially in the central and northern areas. Fort Pierce received the most with 1.67 inches of rain according to Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Officials at a joint briefing by the South Florida Water Management District and the National Weather Service commented that the southern region has experienced one of the few dry seasons with near-average rainfall in the past 14 years. Also, a historic rainfall pushed Lake Okeechobee to 15.9 feet on Friday, 0.84 inches above its historic average for this time of year. Normally, Florida receives an average of 52 inches of rainfall a year, with 70 percent falling during the five-month wet season from approximately June through October.

**Precipitation (in) – Florida: October 14-20, 2012**



Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

**Soil Moisture Ratings**

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	1	1	1
Short .....	8	17	11
Adequate .....	66	63	62
Surplus .....	25	19	26

**U.S. Drought Monitor – Florida: Oct 16, 2012**



Intensity:

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

**Field Crops:** In the Panhandle, dry conditions have been favorable to peanut and cotton harvesting after delays from rain in early October. In Santa Rosa County, very little cotton and soybeans have been picked. Sugarcane harvest continued in south Florida. All hay has being cut in Columbia County while in some areas of Bradford County there has been no growth to cut due to lack of rainfall. In Highlands and Seminole counties, hay was on the ground ready to be baled. In Suwannee and Columbia counties, producers were planting winter forage. Rain was needed to get it off to a good start.

## Peanut Progress

Stage	5-year average	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Harvested .....	71	74	78

**Fruits & Vegetables:** Growers and shippers were predicting that the heavy rains that occurred during planting could cause irregular supplies for some south Florida fall vegetables. Vegetables should see less disease pressure with the drier conditions. Tomato harvesting continued in Gadsden County. Strawberry planting was in full swing in Hillsborough County. Vegetables being marketed included tomatoes, beans, corn, cucumbers, okra, and watermelon and some light volumes of eggplants.

**Livestock and Pastures: Statewide,** the condition of pasture ranged from very poor to excellent with most in good condition. Flooded pastures in the southwest and drought in the Panhandle limited the pasture condition. Pasture condition declined seasonally. The cattle condition was mostly good, varying from very poor to excellent. In the **Panhandle**, most pastures were in fair to good condition. Cool season forage was planted and growth was helped by recent rain. More winter forage had emerged. Cattle condition was mostly good. In the **northern** areas, the pasture condition was very poor to excellent with most in good condition. Winter forage was being planted. In the **central** area, the pasture condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. Hay stocks were getting low in some locations. In the **southwest** area, the pasture was in poor to excellent condition with most in good condition. Drier weather helped dry out waterlogged and flooded pastures. Pasture condition was declining seasonally as grasses mature and growth slows.

## Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	0	1	0	1
Poor.....	2	2	3	5
Fair.....	14	15	22	25
Good.....	62	70	59	60
Excellent.....	22	12	16	9

**Citrus:** Daily high temperatures were in the mid-80s to lower 90s across the citrus region. Sixteen of the 25 FAWN stations in the citrus growing region recorded some precipitation during the week, with Fort Pierce receiving the most at 1.67 inches. Two stations received more than an inch. Nine stations reported no measurable precipitation. The citrus region remained entirely drought free, per the U.S. Drought Monitor; last updated October 16, 2012. Seven processors and 33 packinghouses were open. Application of fall miticide and herbicide, young tree care, general grove maintenance, and harvesting of grapefruit, Fallglo tangerines, and oranges were the primary grove activities.

## Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	Oct 7, 2012	Oct 14, 2012	Oct 21, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	28	35	61
Ambersweet.....	18	16	15
Navel oranges.....	31	29	84
White grapefruit.....	6	33	72
Red grapefruit.....	147	142	265
Tangelos.....	1	2	2
Sunburst.....	0	0	2
Fallglo tangerines.....	86	88	117
Total.....	317	345	618

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