



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
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751 · (407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

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Week Ending: December 23, 2012

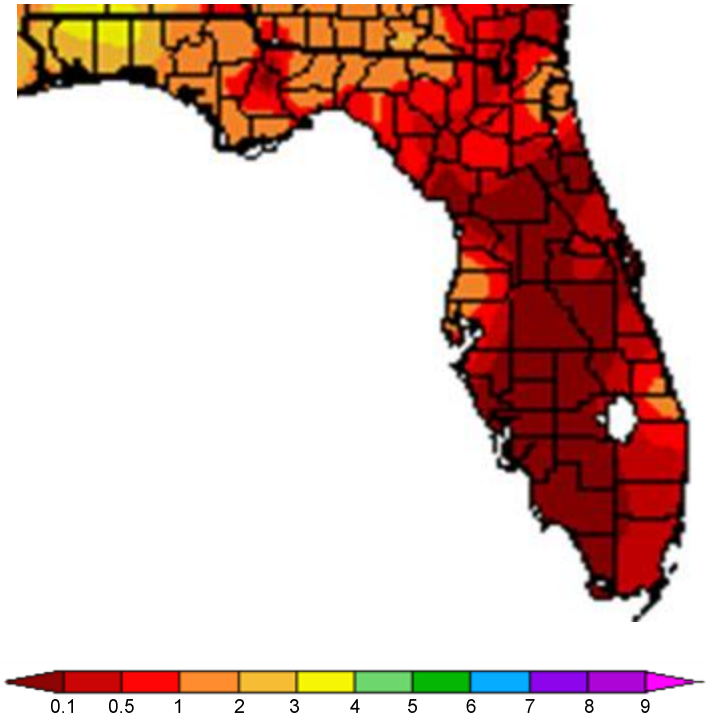
Cold Temperatures Arrive

Weather Summary: The arrival of winter brought a cold front to Florida with the coldest temperatures so far. Average low temperatures ranged from the mid-20s, mainly in north Florida, to the mid-40s. Alachua recorded the lowest at 25 degrees and Fort Lauderdale the highest at 46 degrees. Average high daytime temperatures ranged from the 70s to the 80s with Marianna recording the lowest at 74 degrees and Immokalee the highest at 84 degrees. Rainfall varied from no rainfall to almost two inches mainly in the northwest.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	5	4	14
Short	45	40	42
Adequate	49	53	43
Surplus	1	2	1

Precipitation (in) –Florida: Dec 14 – 20, 2012

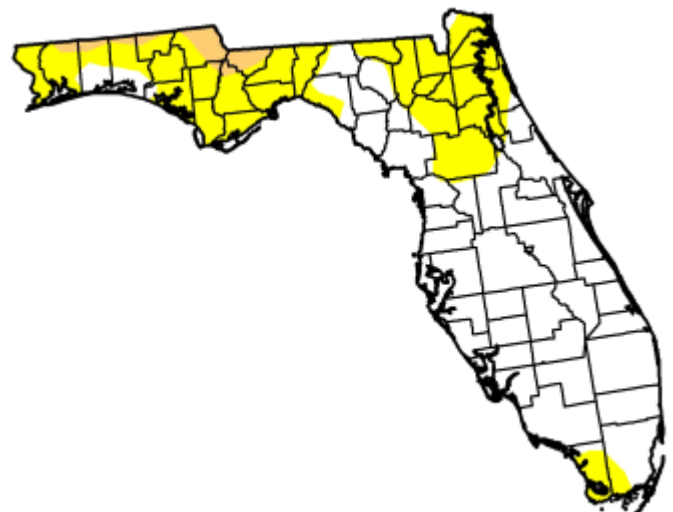


Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

Field Crops: Warm weather helped grasses grow slowly. Cool season plantings were in need of rain.

Fruits & Vegetables: It was too early to determine if there was any significant damage to fruits and vegetables from cold temperatures and dry winds. Vegetables marketed included green beans, squash, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, sweet corn, and specialty items.

U.S. Drought Monitor – Florida: Dec 18, 2012



Intensity:

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

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, the pasture condition ranged very poor to excellent with most in poor to fair condition. Cold temperatures followed by drought limited forage growth. Cattlemen were feeding hay. The condition of the cattle ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair to good condition. In the **Panhandle**, the pasture condition was poor to good with most poor to fair. Cattlemen were feeding hay. Most cattle were in fair to good condition. In the **northern** areas, the pasture condition was very poor to good. The cattle were in fair to good condition. In the **central** area, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most in poor to fair condition. Most cattle were in fair to good condition. In the **southwest** area, the pasture condition varied from very poor to excellent with most in fair to good condition. The condition of the cattle was very poor to good with most in good condition. More cattlemen were feeding hay.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	1	5
Poor.....	4	5	24	30
Fair.....	45	38	42	35
Good.....	45	51	30	28
Excellent.....	5	5	3	2

Citrus: Seasonal, daily high temperatures ranged from the mid-70s to the lower 80s in the citrus growing area. Rainfall was light, but widespread. All but one of the FAWN stations recorded some precipitation. Five of the 24 stations recorded at least a half-inch. Dade City recorded the most with 0.90 of an inch. The drought remained the same per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated December 18, 2012. Growers were irrigating one to two times a week to keep moisture in the ground and on the trees. Harvest of early and midseason varieties continued at a heavy pace. Other grove activity included mowing before harvest and general grove maintenance. Forty packinghouses and 16 processors were open and shipping. Shipment of fresh fruit was moderate. Varieties being packed primarily included early oranges (mostly Navels), colored grapefruit, and Sunburst tangerines.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	Dec 9, 2012	Dec 16, 2012	Dec 23, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	4,621	5,415	4,481
Ambersweet.....	4	4	4
Navel oranges.....	263	197	73
White grapefruit.....	43	44	54
Red grapefruit.....	426	335	380
Tangelos.....	90	70	56
Sunburst tangerines.....	143	80	37
Honey tangerines.....	3	22	43
Total.....	5,593	6,167	5,128

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