



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



In cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the UF/IFAS Extension Service
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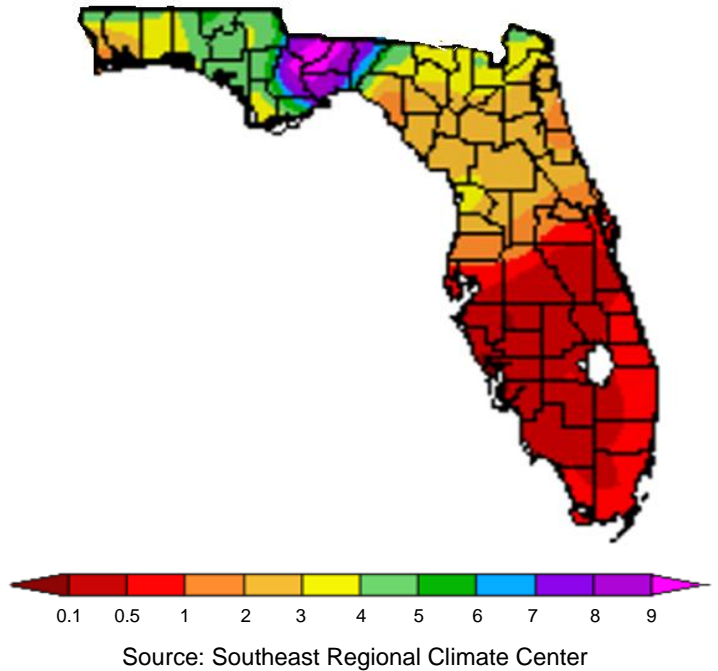
Released: December 29, 2014 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: December 28, 2014

Heavy Rains in North, Dry in South

Weather Summary: According to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall ranged from none to 9.43 inches across the State. Quincy (Gadsden County) received the most rain with 9.43 inches. Per the U.S. Drought Monitor, Florida was 89 percent drought free this past week. Temperatures ranged from 34 degrees for night time lows to 87 degrees for day time highs, across the State. The highest temperature was 87 degrees in Immokalee (Collier County). The majority of the State recorded temperatures in the 80s this past week. The lowest temperature in the State was 34 degrees in Defuniak Springs (Walton County).

Precipitation (in)–Florida: December 22-28, 2014



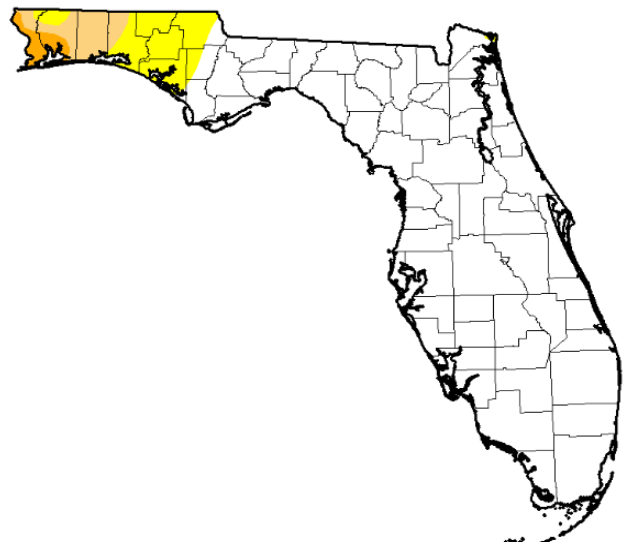
Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	2	2	6
Short	19	21	25
Adequate	72	69	59
Surplus	7	8	10

U.S. Drought Monitor–Florida: Dec. 23, 2014

Field Crops: There was an average of 6.1 days suitable for field work this past week, slightly below the previous week. Conditions in the Panhandle were too wet this past week for field work. In Glades and Hendry counties sugarcane harvest continued.

Fruit and Vegetables: Flagler and Putnam county farmers started planting potatoes. In southwest Florida, vegetable growers harvested beets, cucumbers, collards, green beans, herbs, kale, peppers, squash, Swiss chard, tomatoes, and watermelon. Crops harvested in Miami-Dade County were collards, strawberries, sweet potatoes, sweet corn, and avocado.



Intensity:

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

Livestock and Pastures: In the Panhandle, pastures had standing water in low lying areas. In Marion County, calving was well underway. Cattle across the State were being fed hay and supplements. In Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties pasture quality and quantity continued to decline seasonally. Statewide, the cattle condition was mostly good while pasture condition was fair to good.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Current week	Previous week	Current week	Previous week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor	0	0	2	2
Poor	2	2	12	13
Fair	25	24	42	40
Good	69	70	43	44
Excellent	4	4	1	1

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	Dec 14, 2014	Dec 21, 2014	Dec 28, 2014
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges	2,174	3,797	1,960
Ambersweet	5	4	0
Navel oranges	160	91	19
White grapefruit	18	52	20
Colored grapefruit	265	379	161
Sunburst tangerines	130	126	30
Honey Tangerines	0	3	14
Tangelos	60	45	7
Total	2,812	4,497	2,211

Citrus: Temperatures were seasonably warm last week, reaching the low to mid 80s in all citrus producing areas. The heaviest rainfall was in the northern citrus growing region. Umatilla (Lake County) had the most rainfall at just less than two inches and St. Lucie West (St. Lucie County) had the second most at just under an inch. As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated December 23, 2014, no drought or abnormally dry conditions exist in any citrus producing area.

Most processing plants have opened for the season. Harvesting totals for early oranges are down this week due to the small size fruit and the closing of facilities for the Christmas holidays. Navel orange harvest and white and colored grapefruit harvest is slightly lagging behind last season but overall running at a good pace.

Sunburst tangerines harvesting is almost over for the season and is slowly being replaced by Honey tangerine harvest. Orlando tangelo harvest is about over and Honey Bell harvest is soon to follow.

Grove activity included irrigation, some mowing in preparation for harvest, aerial spraying, and fertilizing.

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