



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
**Florida Crop Progress
and Condition Report**



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the UF/IFAS Extension Service
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January 2, 2018

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General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, December 31, 2017. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 1.23 inches in Miami (Miami-Dade County). The average mean temperature ranged from 43.4°F in Bloxham (Leon County) to 75.2°F in Curry Hammock State Park (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were variable in the citrus region last week as cooler weather began to enter the Peninsula. Lows were in the 50s and high 40s, while highs ranged from the mid 60s to a maximum of 80 degrees, as reported in Arcadia (DeSoto County). No significant rainfall was recorded during the week. According to the December 28, 2017, U.S. Drought Monitor, the complete citrus region remained drought free.

Grove operations included fertilizing, mowing, topping and hedging, herbiciding, spraying, and harvesting. All growers were irrigating regularly due to the dryer than normal weather. Field staff reported more instances of sporadic bloom, especially in Navel orange groves.

Tangerines and tangelos being harvested for the fresh market included midseason cultivars (Autumn Honey, Orri, Osceola, Robinson and Tango tangerines, and Orlando tangelos were the main varieties at the packinghouses). According to the Market News Bulletin dated December 27, 2017, “Honey (Murcott) tangerine harvest is not expected until mid-January, depending on maturity.” Early orange harvest for the fresh market was mostly Hamlins and Navels. The majority of white grapefruit went to the export market, while red grapefruit was equally distributed between domestic use and export.

Processing plants were closed several days for the holidays. Most plants are expected to be up and running at normal capacity on January 2nd and accepting field run fruit and packinghouse eliminations.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Dec 17, 2017	Dec 24, 2017	Dec 31, 2017	Jan 01, 2017
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	2,281	1,798	2,196	2,768
Navel oranges	40	14	11	23
White grapefruit	72	44	48	31
Red grapefruit	122	144	124	216
Tangerines and Tangelos	37	26	7	41
Total	2,552	2,026	2,386	3,079

www.citrusadministrativecommittee.org

Fruits and Vegetables

Persistent dry conditions caused continued irrigation usage in Palm Beach County. Foggy conditions remained in several southern counties, increasing disease pressures in some vegetable crops. Growers continue to plant cool season crops and are harvesting a wide variety of crops, including avocado, beans, eggplant, herbs, peppers, radishes, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and zucchini.

Livestock and Pastures

Hard freezes in Holmes County has winter grazing at a standstill. In Washington County, forages are beginning to improve as moisture conditions remain favorable. Pasture quality continues to decline as a result of cold weather. Producers in several counties are feeding supplements as necessary. Cattle remain in mostly good condition throughout the state.

Field Crops

Some cover crops, such as millet and rye, are being planted in Dixie and Volusia Counties. Sugarcane harvest is ongoing in Glades and Hendry Counties.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 12/31/17

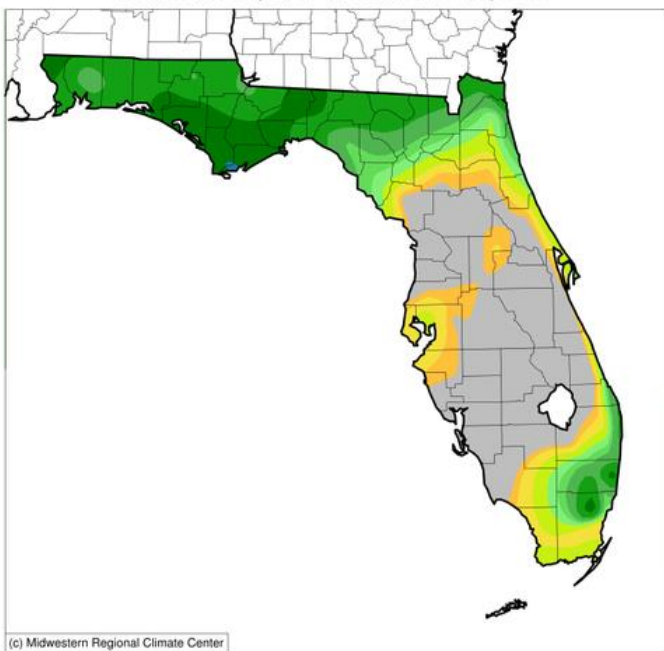
Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	5	1	8
Short.....	23	29	21
Adequate.....	57	50	65
Surplus.....	15	20	6

Condition for Week Ending 12/31/17

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	1	7	28	53	11
Pasture & range....	3	19	45	26	7

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

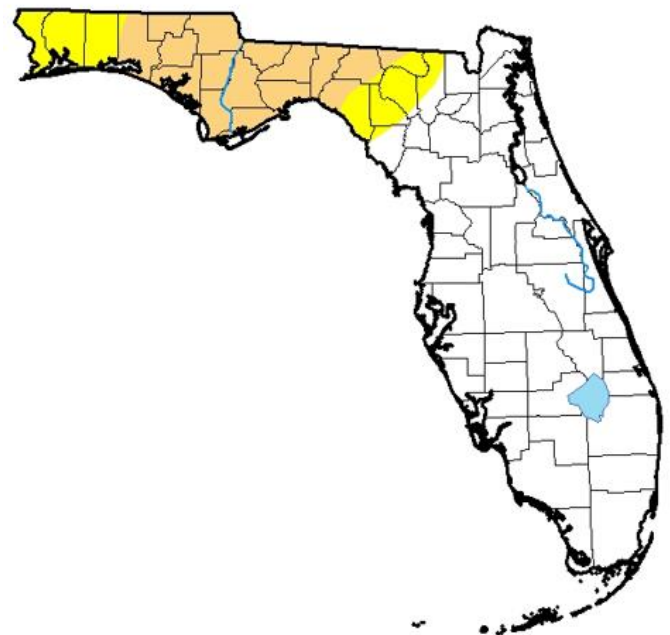
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
December 25, 2017 to December 31, 2017



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



0.01 0.02 0.05 0.1 0.15 0.2 0.3 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 1.5 1.75
Mrc.c.isws.illinois.edu/CLIMATE



Intensity:

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

December 26, 2017 (Released Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>