



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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August 27, 2018

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General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, August 26, 2018. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 8.78 inches in Orlando (Orange County). The average mean temperature ranged from 79.9°F in Milton (Santa Rosa County) and Lake City (Columbia County) to 86.2°F in Dry Tortugas (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were seasonably warm in the citrus growing region with highs reaching the low to mid 90s on most days. Avon Park (Polk County) recorded the highest temperature at 97°F. Several stations had at least one day reaching 95 to 96°F. Most citrus producing counties received adequate to above-normal rainfall during the last week. The western and northern citrus producing areas had the most rainfall. Plant City (Hillsborough County) recorded 7.99 inches; Zephyrhills (Pasco County) recorded 7.73 inches. According to the August 23, 2018 U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire citrus region remained drought free.

Favorable conditions persisted across the citrus growing region. Caretakers maintained normal spray schedules while also conducting general grove maintenance. Also noticed was pushing of dead trees and taking care of young replants. Fieldworkers reported oranges as large as tennis balls and grapefruit almost as large as softballs. Tree condition remained good in well-cared-for groves.

Fruits and Vegetables

Vegetable growers continued to prepare land for fall vegetables. Planting of snap beans was underway in Lafayette County. Green peppers were nearly ready for harvest in St. Lucie County. Crops harvested included avocado, bitter melon, boniato, mango, malanga, and okra.

Livestock and Pastures

Surplus soil moisture in pastures declined in several counties after weeks of hit-or-miss heavy rain; however, fields in Alachua, Hernando, and Sumter counties had standing water at the week's end. The St. Johns River began receding, so ranchers were able to return their cattle to the river area for grazing. The shift in weather greatly improved pasture condition in St. Lucie County where some producers were able to bail hay from pastures. Cattle condition remained mostly good.

Field Crops

Hay was cut when conditions were dry enough in Dixie, Levy, and Suwannee counties. Corn harvesting was wrapping up in Suwannee County. Limited rain during the latter part of the week allowed the saturated peanut fields in Jackson County to dry some. Peanut harvesting began in Washington and Levy counties. Growers in Dixie County expressed concern regarding the possibility of peanut crop loss this season from excess moisture. Sugarcane continued to thrive.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 8/26/18

Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	5	2	NA
Short.....	12	6	NA
Adequate.....	69	73	NA
Surplus.....	14	19	NA

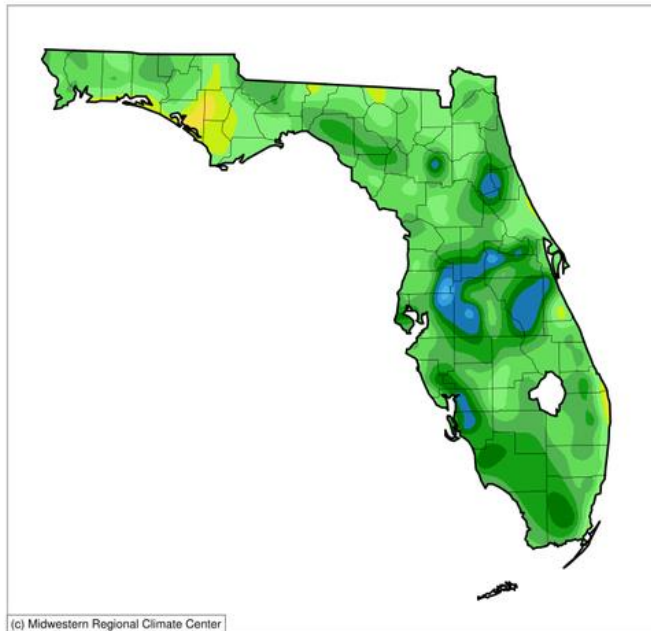
Crop Progress for Week Ending 8/26/18

Crop stage	This week	Prev week	Prev year	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Setting Bolls.....	95	93	97	NA
Cotton - Bolls Opening ...	20	13	28	NA
Peanuts - Harvested.....	2	NA	1	2

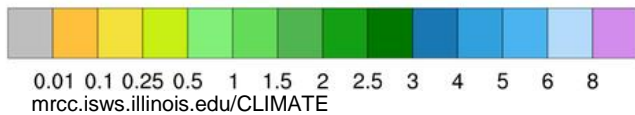
Condition for Week Ending 8/26/18

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	0	7	15	54	24
Cotton	2	2	19	46	31
Pasture & range....	0	9	17	49	25
Peanuts.....	1	3	9	61	26

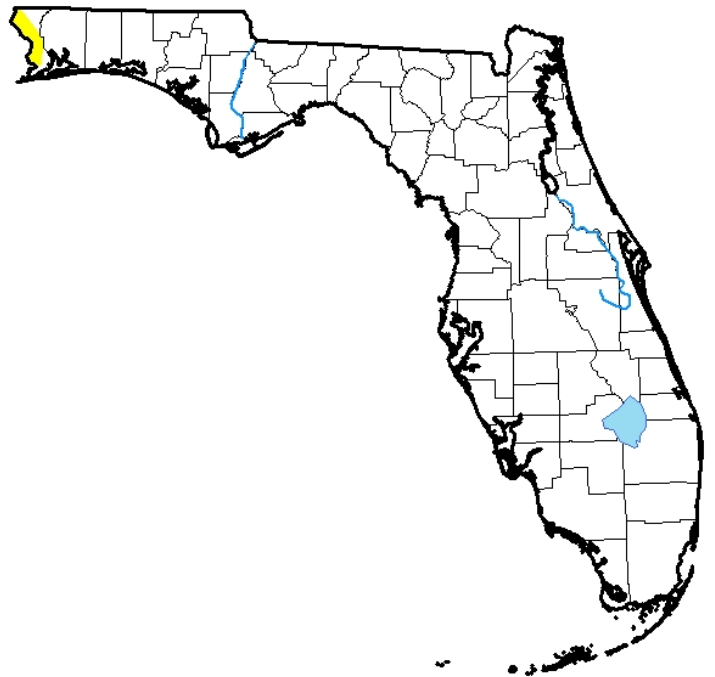
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
August 20, 2018 to August 26, 2018



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



Intensity:

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

August 21, 2018 (Released Thursday, August 23, 2018)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>