



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  
Southern Region, Florida Field Office · 2290 Lucien Way Suite 300 · Maitland, FL 32751 · (407) 648-6013  
[www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

September 17, 2018

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

### General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, September 16, 2018. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 5.3 inches in Buckingham (Lee County). The average mean temperature ranged from 79.0°F in Jasper (Hamilton County) to 86.1°F in Punta Gorda (Charlotte County).

### Citrus

Daily temperatures were above average in the citrus growing region with afternoon highs in the high 80s to mid-90s all week. Late afternoon and evening showers brought moderate amounts of rainfall to the citrus growing region. Isolated areas had as much as two inches of rain, but most totals were less than an inch. According to the September 13th, 2018 U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire citrus region remained drought free.

Caretakers were mowing, herbiciding, and spraying to combat citrus greening. Irrigation was run two to three times per week in most areas. Early oranges and early tangerines were showing slight color break in the southern citrus area. Fieldworkers reported early oranges about tennis ball size and grapefruit as large as softballs.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Southern Florida still had widespread flooding in low-lying fields, and many growers used throw-out pumps to remove excess water. Field preparations continued in several southern counties for fall and winter plantings. Green beans planting began in Dixie County. Strawberry growers in Hillsborough and Polk counties started putting down plastic and planting for the upcoming holiday markets. Growers in Broward County were preparing land for sweet corn planting. Crops harvested included avocado, bitter melon, boniato, malanga, and okra.

### Livestock and Pastures

Producers in Walton County began planting winter grazing. Pastures were beginning to dry out in Highlands County. Flooding conditions in Hernando County presented challenges to producers trying to manage pests on the livestock. Water along the St. John's River subsided some during the week in Volusia County, allowing cattle to graze along the banks again. Cattle herds were being thinned out in Brevard and Indian River counties. Cattle condition remained mostly good.

### Field Crops

Dryer weather in the northern peninsula allowed for harvesting to pick up again. Producers in Dixie County were able to cut hay this week, but believe they will be a cutting short this year due to the rain throughout the summer. Hay was also cut in Lafayette, Levy, Walton, and Washington counties. Producers dug peanuts in Levy, Suwannee, and Washington. Worms have been detected in some Suwannee County fields but the extent of the infestation is unknown at this point. In Charlotte, Glades, Hendry, and Palm Beach counties, producers continued planting sugarcane.

### Soil Moisture for Week Ending 9/16/18

Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	0	0	1
Short.....	5	2	9
Adequate.....	71	72	69
Surplus.....	24	26	21

### Crop Progress for Week Ending 9/16/18

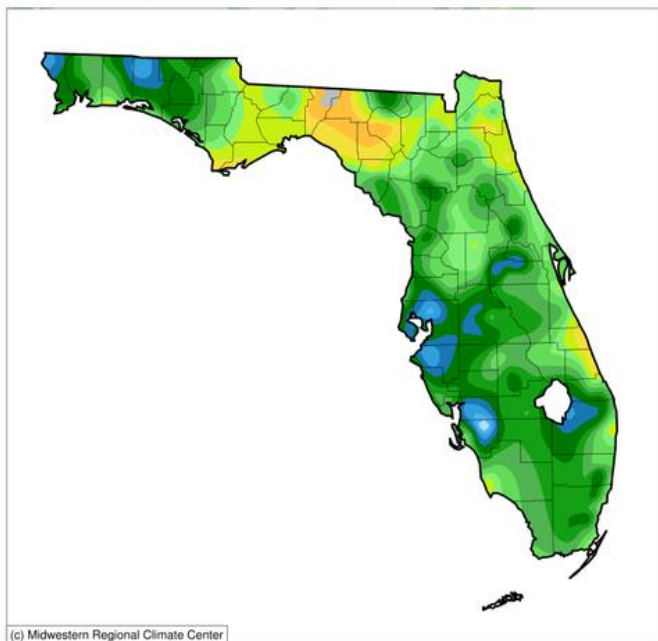
Crop stage	This week	Prev week	Prev year	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Bolls Opening ...	43	36	53	NA
Cotton - Harvested.....	0	0	1	NA
Peanuts - Dug.....	28	13	26	NA
Peanuts - Harvested.....	16	5	17	19

### Condition for Week Ending 9/16/18

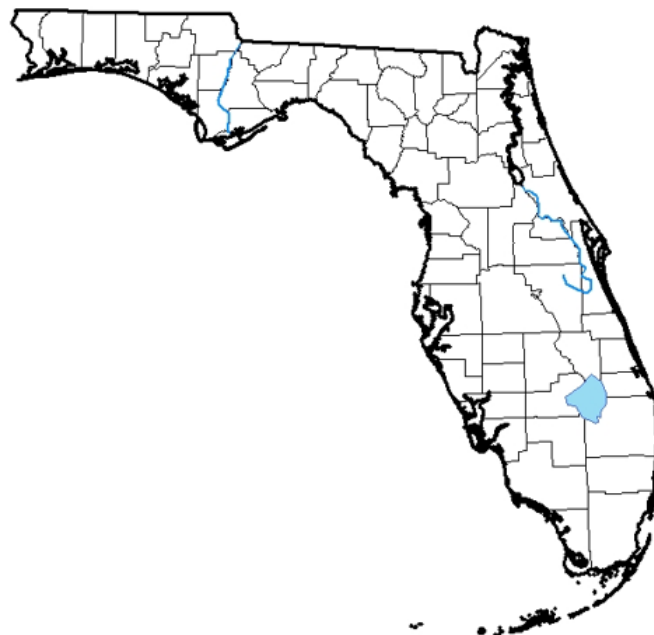
Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	0	2	16	67	15
Cotton.....	0	2	28	45	25
Pasture & range....	0	5	20	58	17
Peanuts.....	0	1	15	61	23

## U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

Accumulated Precipitation (in)  
September 10, 2018 to September 16, 2018



0.01 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.5 0.75 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 4  
mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/CLIMATE



#### Intensity:

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

September 11, 2018 (Released Thursday, September 13, 2018)  
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>