



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 · 851 Trafalgar Court Suite 310 E · Maitland, FL 32751 · (800) 253-4419 · (855) 271-9801 FAX
www.nass.usda.gov

This report contains data collected each week from respondents across the state whose occupations provide them opportunities to discuss agricultural production with farmers in their counties as well as to make visual observations. We thank all who have contributed to this report.

December 18, 2023

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, December 17, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 5.8 inches at Cross City Airport (Dixie County). The average mean temperature ranged from 51.7°F in Pensacola (Escambia County) to 68.0°F at John Pennekamp State Park (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were seasonable in the citrus growing region last week, with highs in the low to mid-70s. The warmest readings were recorded in Clermont (Lake County) hitting 75 degrees, followed by Kenansville (Osceola County) and Sebring (Highlands County), both reading 73 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread moderate to heavy rainfall during the reporting period as a large area of tropical moisture passed over the peninsula. The most rain fell in Clermont (Lake County), reporting 4.95 inches of precipitation, followed by Kenansville (Osceola County) registering 2.73 inches, and Muse (Glades County) measuring 1.70 inches. According to the December 14, 2023, U.S. Drought Monitor, various levels of drought and abnormal dryness maintained previous coverage in the citrus counties along the Gulf coast. The rest of the citrus growing region continued to be drought free.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, applying herbicide, fertilizing, mowing, hedging, topping, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run on an as-needed basis statewide. Sizing on this season's fruit was as follows: oranges approximately tennis ball to larger than baseball size and grapefruit softball size or

larger. Field personnel reported most varieties coloring well across the state, with hints of color observed on Valencia oranges in some groves, also. Harvest of Bingo, Orri, SugarBelle, and Tango tangerines; Navel, early, and midseason oranges; and red and white grapefruit for the fresh market continued apace. Eleven packinghouses were active last week, and all processing plants were open to accept packinghouse eliminations and field run fruit.

Crops

Most of the state received moderate to heavy rain over the past week. The weather caused many farmers to experience wind damage which delayed planting and harvest. The temperature continued to drop this week, but it did not significantly impact crops. Despite the stormy weather, winter rye fields and strawberries are progressing well. Crops that were planted last week include cabbage, broccoli, green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, boniato, bitter melon and other Asian vegetables. Crops that were harvested last week include tomatoes, okra, green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, peppers, eggplant, boniato, bitter melon, other Asian vegetables, avocado, and other tropical fruits. Farmers have begun laying plastic to prepare for tomato planting in January. Downy mildew is mildly affecting watermelon crops.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle were reported to be in mostly good to fair condition. Most cattle sought shelter due to the heavy rain and wind throughout the week. Pastures were reported to be in mostly fair to good condition.

Crop Progress for Week Ending 12/17/23

Crop	Prev year	Prev week	This week	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Harvested.....	97	97	98	93

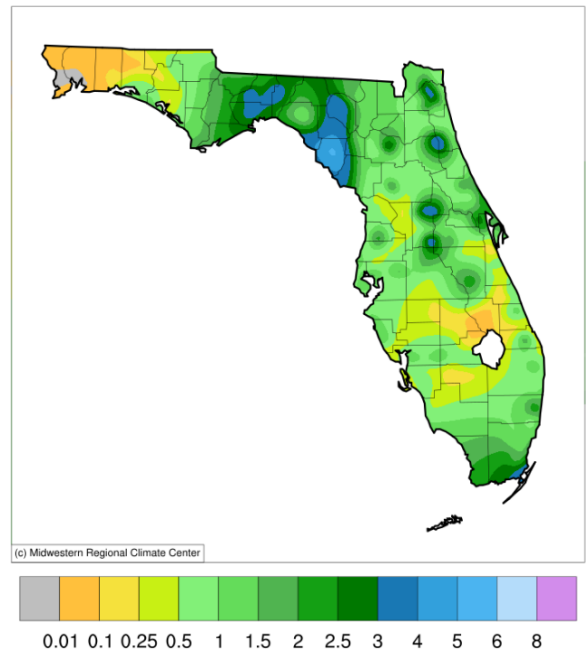
Conditions for Week Ending 12/17/23

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	2	5	27	43	23
Pasture & range....	4	14	36	26	20

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 12/17/23

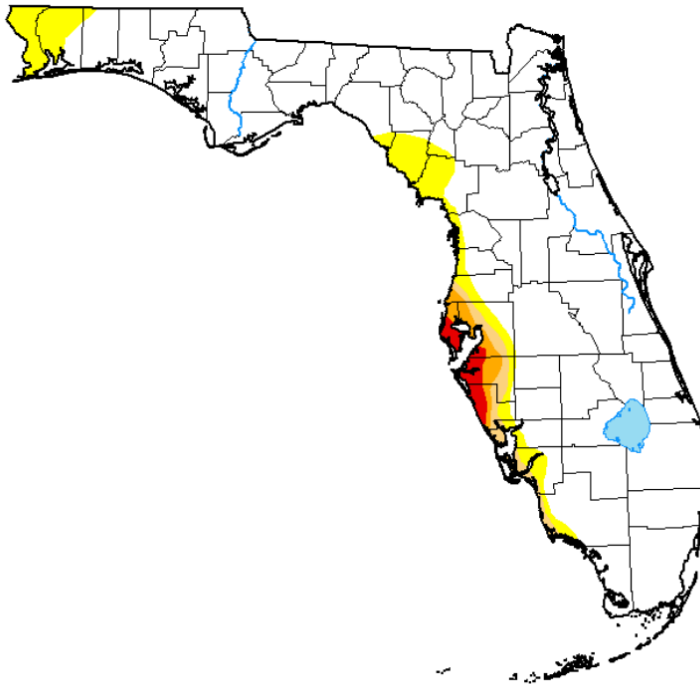
Topsoil	Previous week	This week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....		3
Short.....		11
Adequate.....		78
Surplus.....		8

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
December 11, 2023 to December 17, 2023



U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

December 12, 2023
(Released Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu