



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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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 26, 2023

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

## General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 5.9 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, December 24, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 1.7 inches at Woodruff Dam (Gadsden County). The average mean temperature ranged from 49.7°F in Chipley (Washington County) to 71.9°F at Key West Nas (Monroe County).

## Citrus

Temperatures were seasonable in the citrus growing region last week, with highs from the upper 60's to the low 70's. The warmest readings were recorded in Sebring (Highlands County) hitting 72 degrees, followed by Clermont (Lake County) reaching 71 degrees, and Winter Haven (Polk County) reading 70 degrees. The citrus belt received little to no rainfall during the reporting period. The most rain fell in Lake Placid (Highlands County), reporting 0.22 inches of precipitation. According to the December 21, 2023, U.S. Drought Monitor, aside from a small reduction in abnormal dryness toward the north of the affected area, 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 nutritional, laying 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 several groves. Harvest of Bingo, Orri, SugarBelle, and Tango tangerines; Navel, early, and midseason oranges; and red and white grapefruit for the fresh market was in full swing. Thirteen 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 no rain to light showers. The light showers boosted cool season crops and forages for many farmers. The parts of the state that experienced light showers were muddy which limited the use of heavy machinery in the fields. Crops that were planted last week include green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, boniato, bitter melon and other Asian vegetables. Crops that were harvested last week include sugarcane, green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, eggplant, peppers, boniato, bitter melon, other Asian vegetables, avocado, and other tropical fruits.

## Livestock and Pastures

Cattle were reported to be in mostly fair to excellent condition. Pastures were reported to be in mostly fair to excellent condition as well.

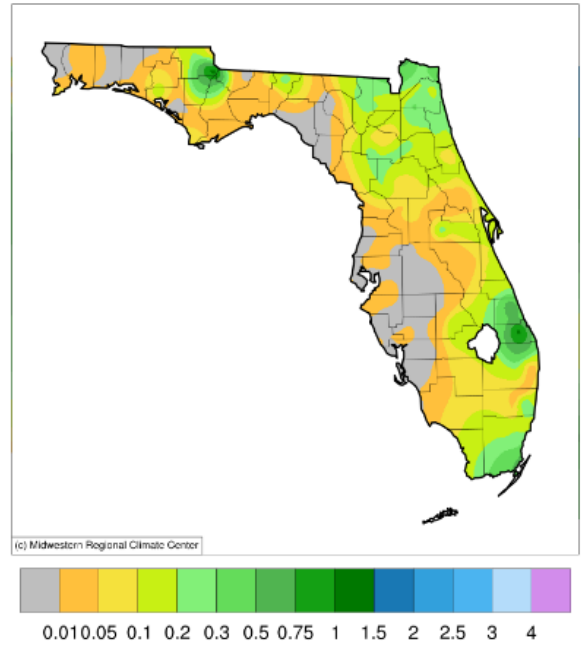
**Conditions for Week Ending 12/24/23**

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	1	4	28	42	25
Pasture & range....	5	12	33	24	26

**Soil Moisture for Week Ending 12/24/23**

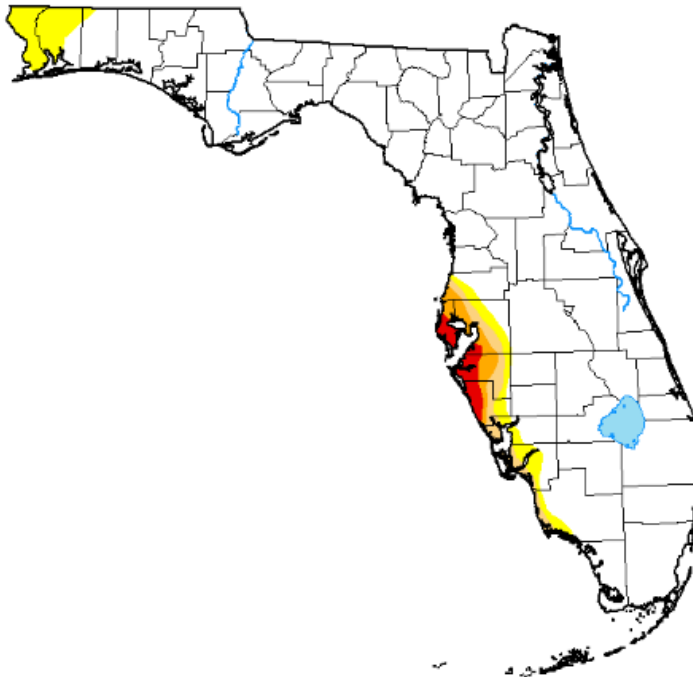
Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very short.....	2	2
Short.....	9	10
Adequate.....	78	68
Surplus.....	11	20

**Accumulated Precipitation (in)**  
December 18, 2023 to December 24, 2023



**U.S. Drought Monitor  
Florida**

**December 19, 2023**  
(Released Thursday, Dec. 21, 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>*

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