



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.

September 5, 2023

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, September 3, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 9.5 inches at Bartow (Polk County). The average mean temperature ranged from 80.8°F in Olustee (Baker County) to 88.3°F at Naval Air Station Key West (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures remained above average in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs in the low 90's. The hottest reading was recorded in Clermont (Lake County) reaching 93 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread heavy rainfall during the reporting period with the passage of Hurricane Idalia, making landfall north of the citrus growing area on August 30, 2023 as a Category 3 Hurricane, after raking the western citrus counties with bands of wind and rain on its journey northward. The most rain fell across Polk County, with Bartow, Frostproof, and Winter Haven all registering significant precipitation totals, measuring 7.2, 6.3, and 5.3 inches, respectively.

According to the August 31, 2023, U.S. Drought Monitor, no improvements to drought conditions were realized along the west coast of the peninsula. Abnormal dryness and levels of drought maintained previous coverage in the citrus cultivating western counties. As the hydrologic impact of Hurricane Idalia becomes clearer over the next week, it is hoped some drought effects will be mitigated. The remainder of the citrus region is drought free.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, fertilizing, spraying herbicides, mowing, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, installation of individual protective tree covers, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run as needed. Field personnel reported next year's fruit sizing well, with oranges approximately golf ball to baseball size, while grapefruit were about baseball to softball size. Color break on Fallglo tangerines was also observed in some groves.

Crops

Hurricane Idalia made landfall near Keaton Beach early on Wednesday, August 30, 2023. The hurricane brought strong winds and heavy rainfall to the northern part of the state in the Big Bend along with the western part of the peninsula. Damage to crops, agricultural infrastructure, and livestock among other items were noted in impacted areas and damage will continue to be assessed as more information becomes available.

Much of the state experienced a hot week with rainfall from the hurricane. Peanut digging continued, ahead of historical averages, while some producers began harvesting activities. The hot conditions were noted to cause damage to the peanut crop in dry portions of the Panhandle. Cotton bolls were set across the state as more began to open. Fall vegetable and strawberry land preparation continued. Crops that were harvested last week included rice, okra, mango, avocado, bitter melon, longan, and other tropical fruits. Reporters noted that fields continued to be prepared for sugarcane planting which will start in the coming week.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle and pastures were reportedly in mostly good to fair condition. High temperatures resulted in some producers to start feeding hay to cattle.

Crop Progress for Week Ending 09/03/23

Crop	Prev year	Prev week	This week	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Setting Bolls.....	100	98	99	98
Cotton - Bolls Opening...	19	21	28	23
Peanuts - Dug.....	10	14	21	11
Peanuts - Harvested.....	5	4	7	6

Conditions for Week Ending 09/03/23

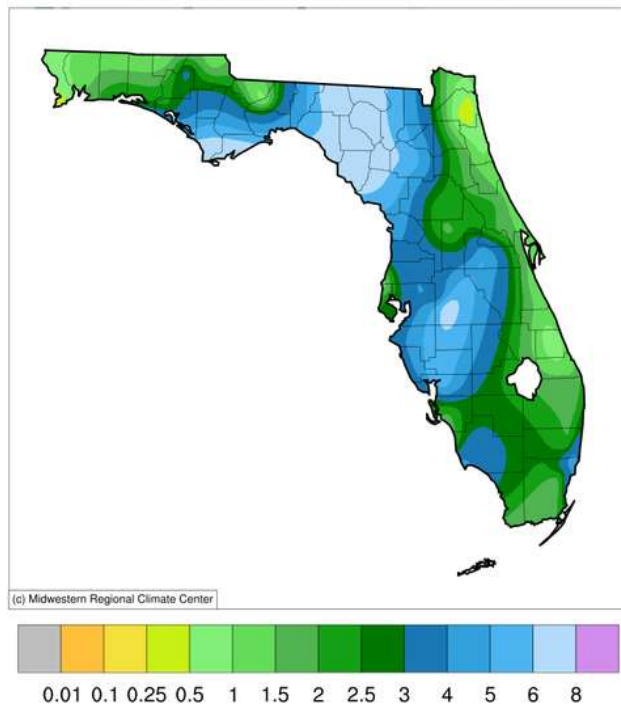
Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	1	2	25	59	13
Cotton.....	9	20	39	30	2
Pasture & range....	2	7	29	34	28
Peanuts.....	1	18	32	48	1

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 09/03/23

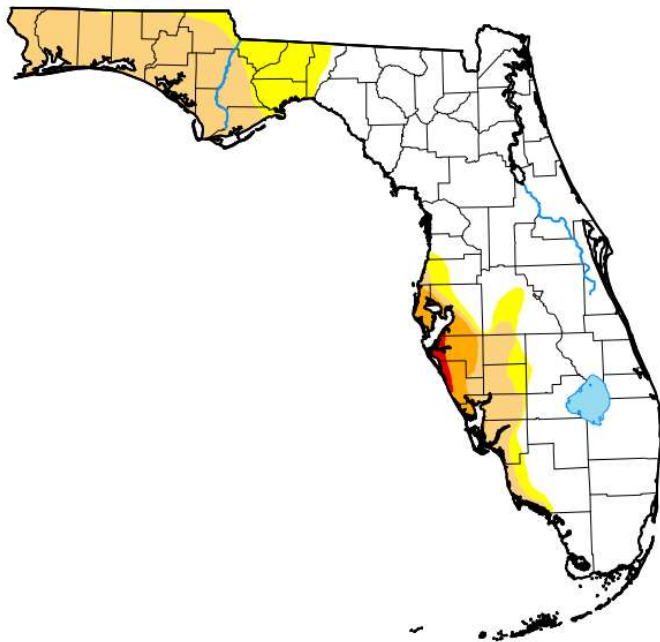
Topsoil	Previous week	This week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	16	7
Short.....	17	11
Adequate.....	62	68
Surplus.....	5	14

Accumulated Precipitation (in)

August 28, 2023 to September 03, 2023



U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



August 29, 2023

(Released Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	68.29	31.71	23.00	3.19	0.48	0.00
Last Week 08-22-2023	68.31	31.69	22.86	3.17	0.48	0.00
3 Months Ago 05-30-2023	73.96	26.04	14.03	8.01	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	56.61	43.39	30.80	19.77	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	91.16	8.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 08-30-2022	79.50	20.50	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate 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:

David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu