



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 16, 2024

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, December 15, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 1.8 inches of rain in Stuart (Martin County). The average mean temperature ranged from 54.4°F in Chipley (Washington County) to 74.5°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

Citrus

After a light rainfall on Wednesday and a cold front, temperatures were cooler than usual, ranging mostly from 10-15 degrees below normal. Over the weekend, warmer weather pushed daily highs to the lower to mid-80s in the complete citrus growing region.

Weather across Florida's citrus region, aside from moderate rainfall on one or two days, was relatively dry. In the primary growing area, Sebring (Highlands County) and Ruskin (Hillsborough County), both had 0.42 inches for the reporting period. According to the December 12, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, significant short-term precipitation deficits continued to build across the Florida Peninsula, leading to widespread expansion of short-term abnormal dryness and moderate drought. The complete citrus region is now under abnormally dry conditions.

Grove operations included fertilizing, minimal spraying, mowing after harvest, applying minimal herbicides and continued pushing of abandoned groves and dead trees. Irrigation was being run statewide. Field personnel reported next season's fruit smaller than normal on early oranges, but average to above average size on grapefruit. According to the Market News Bulletin dated December 9, 2024, "Tangerine varieties will continue to jump in and out of the market as they mature and finish quickly."

Harvest for the fresh market included Navels, early oranges, grapefruit and several varieties of early tangerines. With a shorter crop this season, and anticipated high fruit drop, processing plants are now open and readily receiving any fruit that is meeting Brix (sugars) standards and ratios.

Crops

The state experienced mostly dry conditions with periodic light, localized rain. In the Panhandle, the freezing temperatures killed warm season grasses. Producers reported the dry conditions and limited rainfall had delayed planting preparations and had also slowed the growth of crops already in the ground. Cotton harvest neared completion. Other crops planted and harvested included strawberries, eggplant, squash, peppers, tomato, sweet corn, snap beans, boniato, ethnic vegetables and tropical fruits.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle were in mostly good to fair condition, while pastures were in mostly fair to good condition. Many livestock producers continued feeding cattle hay and ensuring water was accessible given the dry, cold conditions.

Crop Progress for Week Ending 12/15/24

Crop	Prev year	Prev week	This week	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Harvested	98	93	94	95

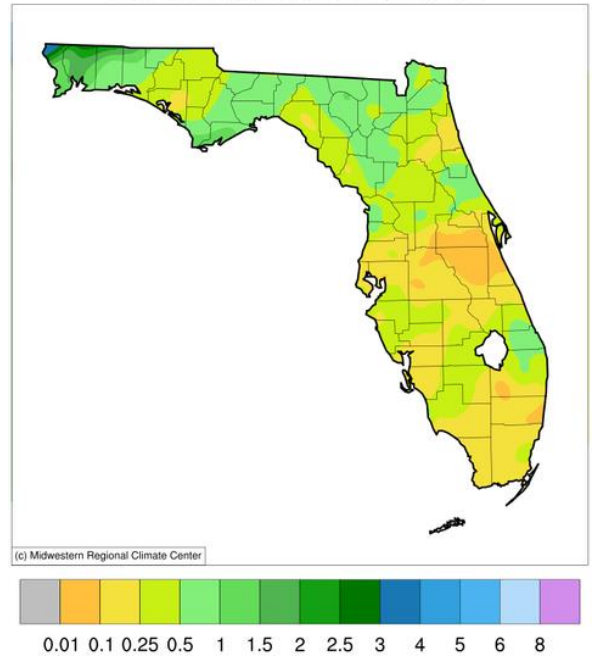
Conditions for Week Ending 12/15/24

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	1	3	35	51	10
Pasture and range.....	5	13	46	30	6

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 12/15/24

Topsoil	Previous week	This week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very Short.....	14	23
Short.....	43	41
Adequate.....	43	36
Surplus.....	0	0

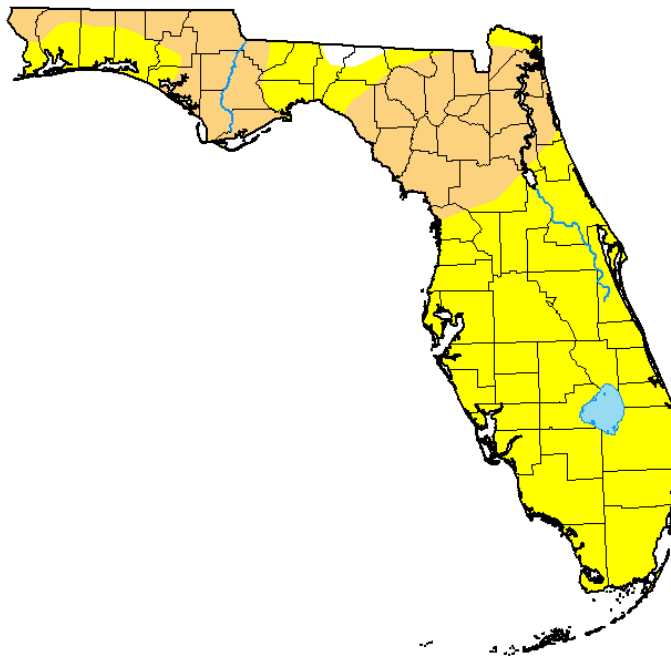
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
December 09, 2024 to December 15, 2024



<https://mrcc.purdue.edu/CLIMATE/>

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

December 10, 2024
(Released Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024)
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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droughtmonitor.unl.edu