



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 23, 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 22, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 4.4 inches of rain in Port Saint Lucie (Saint Lucie County). The average mean temperature ranged from 54.3°F in Crestview Airport (Okaloosa County) to 73.4°F in Miami (Miami-Dade County).

Citrus

Midweek showers, followed by a cool-down, dropped temperatures to below normal in the citrus region. Lows over the weekend were in the 40s in all reporting stations. Overall, the cooler weather is beneficial to the citrus crop this time of the year, giving it hardiness to withstand potential freezing weather later in the season.

Significant rainfall was seen for the first time in over a month. Totals were the highest in the Indian River Area, but noteworthy in many areas. Ft. Pierce (St. Lucie County) had 5.09 inches of rainfall. In the heart of the citrus belt, Frostproof (Polk County), had 0.96 inches of rainfall, and Sebring (Highland County), had 0.56 inches. According to the December 19, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, soil conditions remained status quo, waiting for the rain to fully saturate the dry ground. The complete citrus region remained under abnormally dry conditions, observing that the beginning of the week, impacts were minimal.

Filed personnel noticed grove operations included speed spraying, mowing, and taking out dead and less productive trees after harvest. Replanting was seen frequently in several areas. Irrigation was being run statewide. Field personnel reported next season's fruit showing good growth on early oranges and grapefruit.

Owners were harvesting early oranges as soon as they were meeting standards, to get the fruit off the trees before it hit the ground. Grapefruit was being spot picked, and in some cases where the fruit set was light due to the hurricane at the beginning of the season was completely picked. Color break was seen on some of the earlier Valencia varieties. Harvest for the fresh market included Navels, early oranges, grapefruit and several varieties of early tangerines.

Crops

The state experienced mostly dry conditions with localized rain in the Peninsula. Producers in the Panhandle reported the cold temperatures and dry conditions caused some crops to suffer. Cotton harvest was nearly completed. In Palm Beach County sugarcane planting and harvest continued normally. Vegetable and sweet corn crops also progressed as expected. Other crops planted and harvested included strawberries, eggplant, squash, peppers, tomato, snap beans, 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.

Crop Progress for Week Ending 12/22/24

Crop	Prev year	Prev week	This week	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Harvested	99	94	96	98

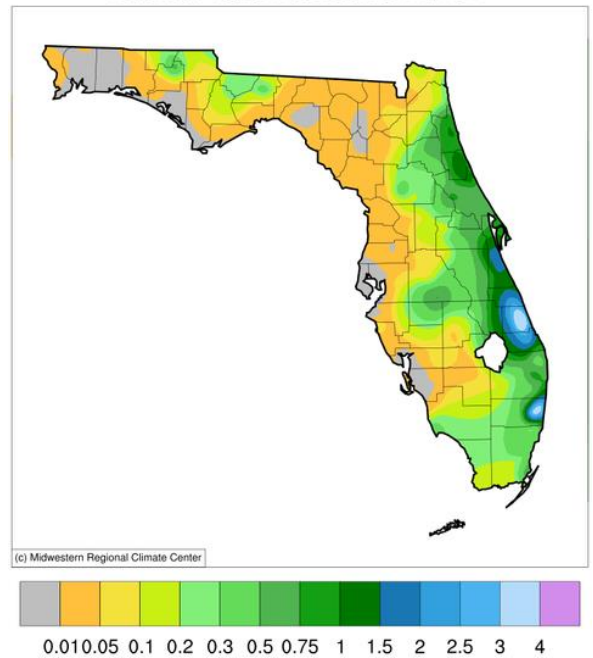
Conditions for Week Ending 12/22/24

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	3	6	33	48	10
Pasture and range.....	8	14	44	28	6

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 12/22/24

Topsoil	Previous week	This week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very Short.....	23	15
Short.....	41	34
Adequate.....	36	51
Surplus.....	0	0

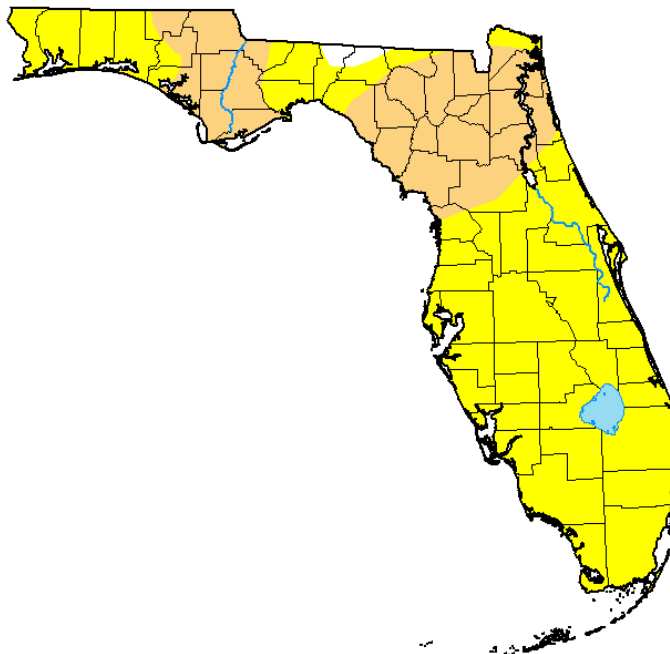
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
December 16, 2024 to December 22, 2024



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

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

December 17, 2024
(Released Thursday, Dec. 19, 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