



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 9, 2024

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.9 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, December 8, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to trace amounts of rain at Whiting Field Naval Air Station (Santa Rosa County). The average mean temperature ranged from 44.9°F in Chipley (Washington County) to 68.5°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

Citrus

Cooler than normal temperatures were consistent in the citrus growing region over the reporting period. Daily lows were mostly in the 30s and 40s, with highs primarily in the mid-60s to the mid-70s.

More dry weather inundated the citrus region. Precipitation amounts in all stations was less than one tenth of an inch for the period, with most counties reporting no rainfall. According to the December 05, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, short-term precipitation shortfalls led to an expansion of abnormally dry conditions into several southern counties of the citrus growing region, however, the remaining portion of the citrus region continued to be drought free.

Grove operations included fertilizing, minimal spraying, mowing after harvest, applying herbicides and continued pushing of abandoned groves and dead trees. Irrigation was being run on a robust schedule statewide. Field personnel reported next season's fruit from tennis ball to baseball size. According to the [Market News Bulletin](#) dated December 2, 2024, "Red grapefruit continue to be on the small size."

Harvest for the fresh market included Navel and early oranges, red and white grapefruit and several varieties of early tangerines. Processing plants are now open and receiving early season fruit. Lemon harvest is in full stride, primarily for the processed market.

Crops

The state experienced mostly dry and cold temperatures with light localized rainfall. Many producers reported the freezing temperatures did not harm crops. Cotton harvest was winding down. In Jackson County, the late planted cotton acres were the only remaining acres left to be harvested. In Palm Beach County, producers continued planting leafy vegetables and harvesting sugarcane. Other crops planted and harvested included strawberries, eggplant, squash, peppers, tomato, sweet corn, 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. Many livestock producers were supplementing cattle with hay and ensuring water was accessible given the dry, cold conditions.

Crop Progress for Week Ending 12/8/24

Crop	Prev year	Prev week	This week	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Harvested	95	82	93	91

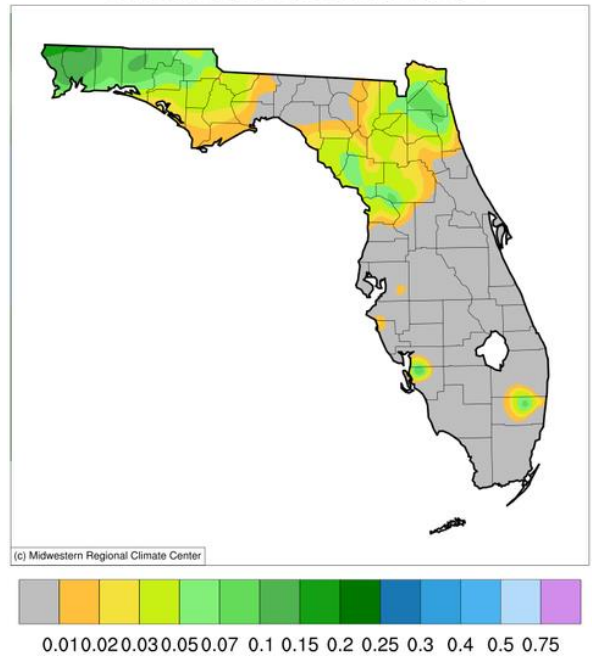
Conditions for Week Ending 12/8/24

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	1	2	33	48	16
Pasture and range.....	6	17	39	29	9

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 12/8/24

Topsoil	Previous week	This week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very Short.....	9	14
Short.....	34	43
Adequate.....	56	43
Surplus.....	1	0

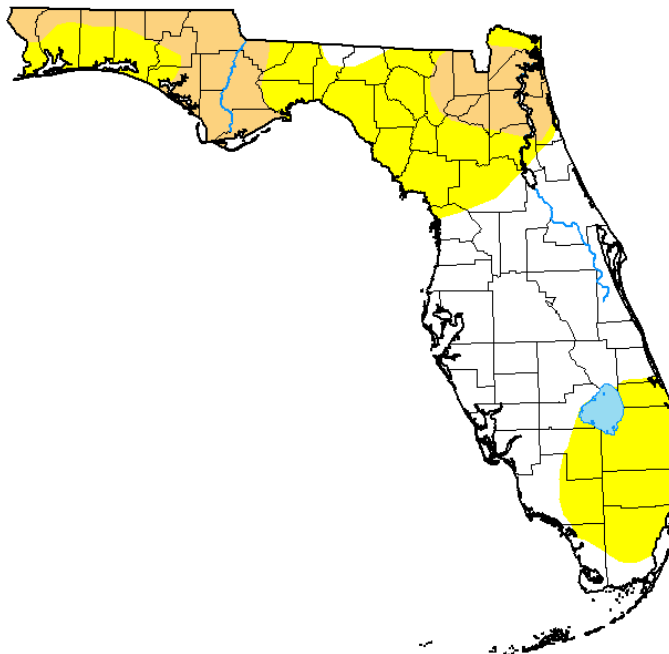
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
December 02, 2024 to December 08, 2024



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

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

December 3, 2024
(Released Thursday, Dec. 5, 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