



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.

September 16, 2024

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, September 15, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from trace amounts to 12.9 inches at Apalachicola Airport (Franklin County). The average mean temperature ranged from 75.7°F in Lake City (Columbia County) to 91.1°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were about average in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs from the high 80's to the low 90's. The hottest average readings were recorded in Winter Haven (Polk County), hitting 93 degrees, followed by Clermont (Lake County), Sebring (Highlands County), and Wauchula (Hardee County), all reaching 92 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread moderate to heavy, and in some cases locally excessive, rainfall during the reporting period resulting from the confluence of moisture from Hurricane Francine and a low-pressure system near the peninsula in the Atlantic Ocean. The most rain fell in Muse (Glades County), reporting 5.48 inches of precipitation, followed by Bartow (Polk County) registering 4.84 inches, and Lake Placid (Highlands County) measuring 4.46 inches. According to the September 12, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, the thin strip of abnormal dryness present along the Indian River shrank further this week, this time from its northernmost extent, due to beneficial rainfall. The rest of the citrus belt continued to be drought free.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, laying herbicide, fertilizing, mowing, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, bactericide trunk injection, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run on an as-needed basis statewide. Field personnel reported next season's fruit from tennis ball to larger than softball size.

Crops

Localized, heavy rainfall fell in parts of the state, while others experienced just light showers. Drought conditions persisted in the panhandle despite the rainfall and cooler temperatures. Cotton bolls continued to open and continued to progress ahead of last year and the 5-year average. The peanut crop continued to mature but at a slower rate, with peanuts being dug and harvested both behind last year's pace. In Palm Beach County, sugarcane fields were prepped for planting as weather allowed. Rice harvest was delayed slightly due to wet field conditions but continued as the weather permitted. In Miami-Dade County, farmland was disked to prepare for planting vegetables. Other crops planted and harvested included okra, long beans, boniato, bitter melon, and some tropical fruits.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle and pastures were in mostly good to excellent condition.

Crop Progress for Week Ending 09/15/24

Crop	Prev year	Prev week	This week	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Bolls Opening.....	45	37	48	38
Peanuts - Dug.....	29	12	20	30
Peanuts - Harvested.....	13	5	8	15

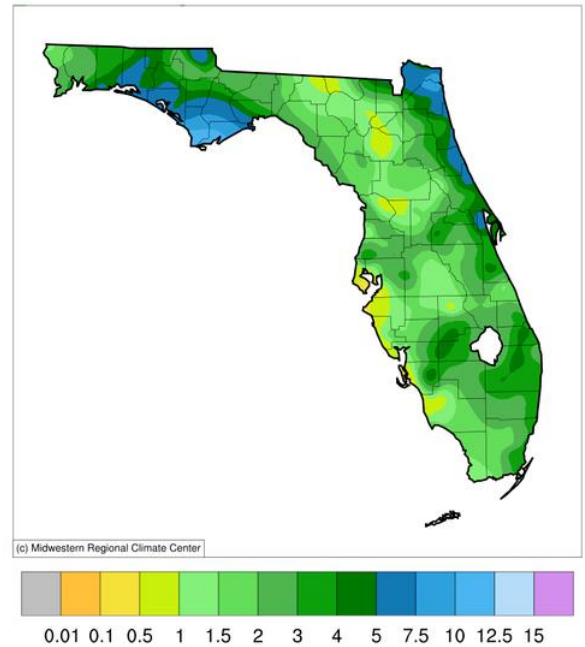
Conditions for Week Ending 09/15/24

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	0	1	11	61	27
Cotton.....	0	8	51	38	3
Pasture and range.....	0	3	15	48	34
Peanuts.....	0	5	38	55	2

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 09/15/24

Topsoil	Previous week	This week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very Short.....		2
Short.....		10
Adequate.....		66
Surplus.....		22

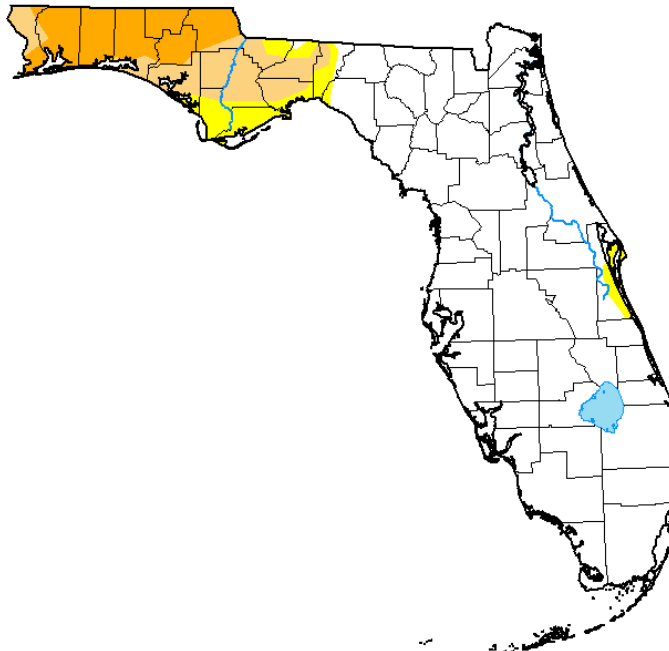
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
September 09, 2024 to September 15, 2024



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

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

September 10, 2024
(Released Thursday, Sep. 12, 2024)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



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