



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
**FLORIDA CROP PROGRESS &
CONDITION REPORT**



In Cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751 · (407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

Released: January 23, 2012 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: January 22, 2012

Dry Weather Continued!

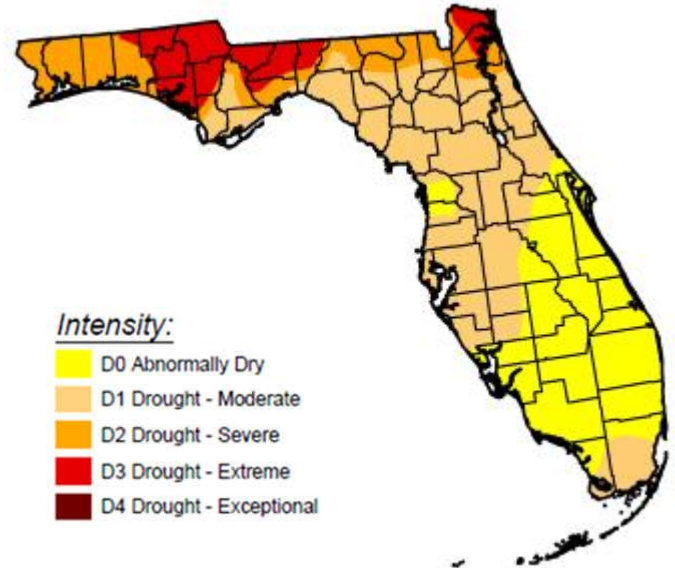
Weather Summary: It was another dry week across much of Florida with little rainfall recorded at most of Florida's Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations. Late week showers provided some relief and resulted in improved soil moisture ratings from the previous week. Eight of the 36 FAWN stations reported more than an inch of rain with the extreme being 6.05 inches reported at Alachua. Last week's dry weather was typical for Florida's winter, but producers hoped for more rain to improve pastures, reduce the need for irrigation, and increase soil moisture for vegetable plantings. Topsoil moisture ratings were rated about equally as either adequate or short. The latest report from the U.S. Drought Monitor showed that all of Florida's landscape had a drought rating compared to 92 percent a week earlier and 61 percent at the beginning of 2012. Temperatures averaged near normal for the week at major cities with the exception of Pensacola recording eight degrees above normal. High temperatures reported at the FAWN stations were mostly in the high 70s and the lows were mostly in the 30s to low 40s. Dry conditions and days of low humidity increased the risk of wildfires. Fire incidents have been most prevalent across central Florida.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	9	6	3
Short	57	30	47
Adequate	33	63	46
Surplus	1	1	4

Field Crops: The sugarcane harvest continued without interruption. Producers were preparing fields for spring crop plantings, attending commodity meetings, and pesticide-use training. Many producers commented on

U.S. Drought Monitor: January 17, 2012



the need for rain and welcomed even spotty showers. In Jefferson County, subsoil moisture remained short and surface water in ponds appeared to be the lowest in memory.

Vegetables: Late blight was confirmed in tomato fields in Collier and Manatee counties and potato fields in Lee and Hendry counties. An assessment of the previous week's cold temperatures and frost showed only minor damage to even the most sensitive vegetable crops. Vegetable producers were busy planting watermelons and other spring crops in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties. In Miami-Dade County, harvesting and replanting of green beans, eggplant, okra, sweet corn, and other winter vegetables continued. In St. Lucie County, growers were starting to plant vegetables despite that surface soil moisture was mostly depleted. Producers marketed bell peppers, cabbage, eggplant, radishes, snap beans, and tomatoes. Also marketed were light supplies of celery, endive, escarole, radishes, squash, and sweet corn.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, pasture condition was mostly unchanged from the previous week; however, drought and seasonal cold restricted forage growth. Hay and supplements were being fed. The cattle condition was mostly good. In the **Panhandle** and **northern** areas, most pasture was in poor condition. Operations with ryegrass pastures were doing better. In Jefferson County, warm temperatures and rain combined to improve pasture growth during the week. In Washington County, some areas received good rain, but it will take a few days to see recovery in small grain crop grazing. Hay stocks were short. Most cattle were in fair to good condition. In the **central** areas, pasture condition ranged from mostly poor to fair. Poor pasture conditions required feeding of hay in Seminole County. The condition of the cattle varied from very poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the **southwestern** areas, most pastures were in fair condition. The condition of the cattle ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition. In Brevard County, warm season grasses were frost damaged and cool season forage growth was hampered by drought. Hay supplies were short. However, generally mild temperatures helped keep up the livestock condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	0	10	8
Poor.....	7	3	35	34
Fair.....	55	35	45	45
Good.....	35	60	9	13
Excellent.....	2	2	1	0

Citrus: Temperatures remained above seasonal norms, reaching nearly 80 degrees in all citrus growing localities. Rainfall was infrequent with total precipitation less than one-quarter of an inch in all areas except the most northwestern citrus growing region. Trees were beginning to show slight tree wilt after several weeks of limited rainfall and warm temperatures. Early and midseason harvesting was over two-thirds complete. Weekly harvest of the early and midseason orange crop dropped significantly after reaching its highest level this season of over seven million boxes the week prior. Harvesting of Honey tangerines was picking up, as early tangerines were about done for the season. Cultural practices included irrigation, young tree care, and limited hedging and topping.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	January 2-8, 2012	January 9-15, 2012	January 16-22, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	5,239	7,363	4,556
Valencia.....	0	56	148
Navel oranges.....	36	45	43
Temples.....	12	21	79
Grapefruit.....	630	899	692
Tangelos.....	121	85	66
Tangerines.....	160	184	141
Total.....	6,198	8,653	5,725

To subscribe to this report, at no cost, go to the NASS website at http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp. Complete the *Subscribe to FL Reports* form, select Florida Crop-Weather and enter your first and last name and your e-mail. The drought monitor map used in this report is from the U.S. Drought Monitor website at <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu> maintained by the National Drought Mitigation Center. The precipitation and temperature data is from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) at <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.