



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



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

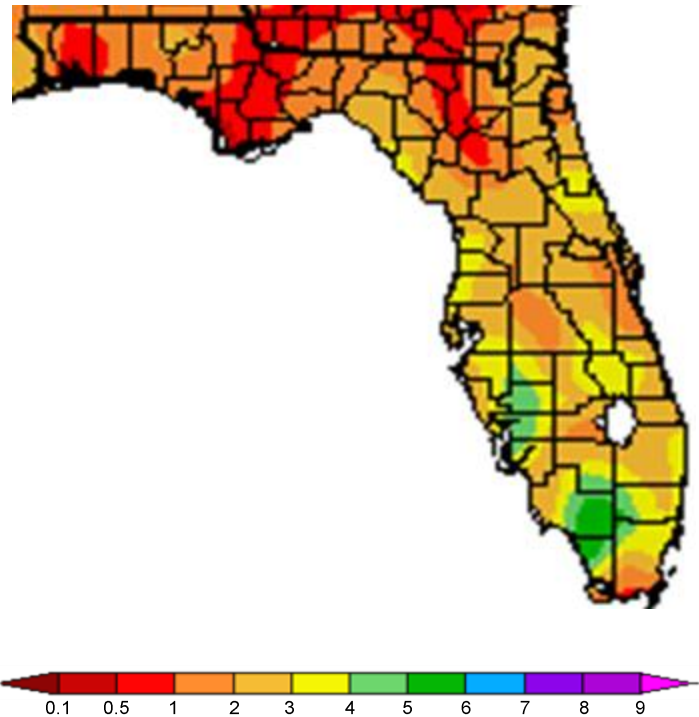
Released: October 9, 2012 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: October 7, 2012

Rainfall Interrupts Agricultural Activities

Weather Summary: Florida had pleasant, autumn weather with minimum temperatures ranging from 55 degrees in Jay to 73 degrees in Fort Lauderdale. Maximum temperatures ranged from 84 degrees in Quincy to 93 degrees in Immokalee. Most of Florida received rain, the northern areas received less than the mid-to southern region. Rain amounts varied mostly from one to three inches to 6.18 inches in MacClenny. Overall for the 2012 wet season, according to South Florida Water Management District, the region's 16 counties have seen 37.53 inches of rain. As a whole, the District experienced an average of 6.61 inches of rainfall in September, or 97 percent of the historic average for the month. Broward County experienced the wettest April through September since 1955. The largest above average rainfall totals for this year's wet season so far are Eastern Miami-Dade with 13.22 inches, Eastern Broward with 9.24 inches, and Eastern Palm Beach with 8.95 inches.

Precipitation (in) –Florida: October 1-7, 2012

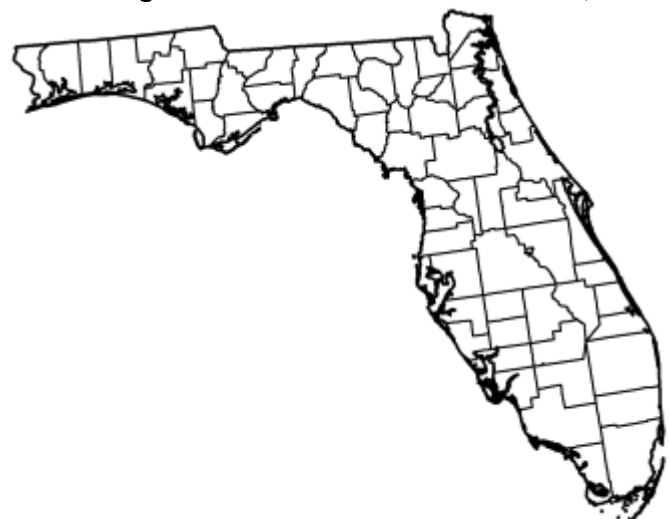


Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	1	5	1
Short.....	7	23	3
Adequate.....	80	62	66
Surplus.....	12	10	30

U.S. Drought Monitor – Florida: October 2, 2012



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Field Crops: The harvest of peanuts continued in Gadsden County. Cotton was being defoliated and picking may start around mid-week in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. In some areas, the peanut and cotton harvest was delayed due to wet soils. The peanut condition was rated at 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 32 percent excellent. In Hendry and Glades counties, the sugarcane harvest has started earlier than last year to accommodate projected high yields for this season. In Palm Beach County, wet weather caused delays in rice and sugarcane harvest, and the plantings of new sugarcane.

Peanut Progress

Stage	5-year average	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Harvested	48	50	56

Fruits & Vegetables: The fall vegetable harvest was in full swing in some areas with lots of activity at the local farmers markets. Growers were planting winter vegetables in south Miami-Dade County. Some vegetable growers were battling conditions conducive to disease development due to high soil and foliage moisture in St. Lucie County. The harvest of tomatoes continued in Gadsden County. Vegetable producers were staking, tying, spraying, and conducting cultural operations as needed in Charlotte and Collier counties.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, the condition of pasture was very poor to excellent, with most good. Drought and disease caused some very poor and poor pasture conditions. Pasture conditions continued the seasonal decline. The cattle condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the **Panhandle**, the pasture and cattle conditions were very poor to excellent. Drought and disease hurt grass growth. Pasture condition in Leon County declined due to fungal infections aided by drought-weakened plants. In Washington County, cattlemen have been exercising vigorous efforts to establish cool season forages. The cattle condition was beginning to decline with the declining quality of pasture. Late weaning was underway. Producers wanted to allow brood cows to put on weight before the winter feeding season begins. In the **northern** areas, the pasture and cattle conditions were fair to excellent with most in good condition. In the **central** areas, the pasture and cattle conditions were poor to excellent, with most in good condition. Drought limited some grass growth in some locations while other locations had flooded pastures from recent rain. However, in Pasco County, forage growth has been good following large amounts of rainfall. In the **southwestern** area, the pasture and cattle were in poor to excellent condition with standing water hurting some pasture. Most cattle were in good condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	1	1
Poor	1	1	2	3
Fair.....	13	13	20	25
Good	60	65	62	55
Excellent.....	25	20	15	16

Citrus: Daily high temperatures were in the upper 80s to low 90s across the citrus region. All of the FAWN stations in the citrus growing region recorded some precipitation this week, with Dover receiving the most at 5.51 inches. Ten stations received more than three inches. Twelve more stations received more than an inch. Sebring recorded the least, with 0.12 of an inch recorded. (It should be noted that communications with the Sebring station have been offline since October 2). The citrus region remained entirely drought free, per the U.S. Drought Monitor; last updated October 2, 2012. Application of fall miticide and herbicide, young tree care, harvest preparations for Navels and grapefruit, and general grove maintenance were the primary grove activities.

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 precipitation map used in this report is from the Southeast Regional Climate Center (SERCC) website at http://www.sercc.com/climateinfo/precip_maps maintained by the SERCC. 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.