



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  
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Week Ending: December 2, 2012

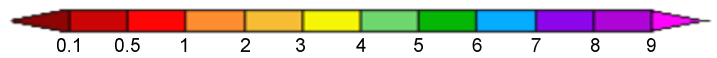
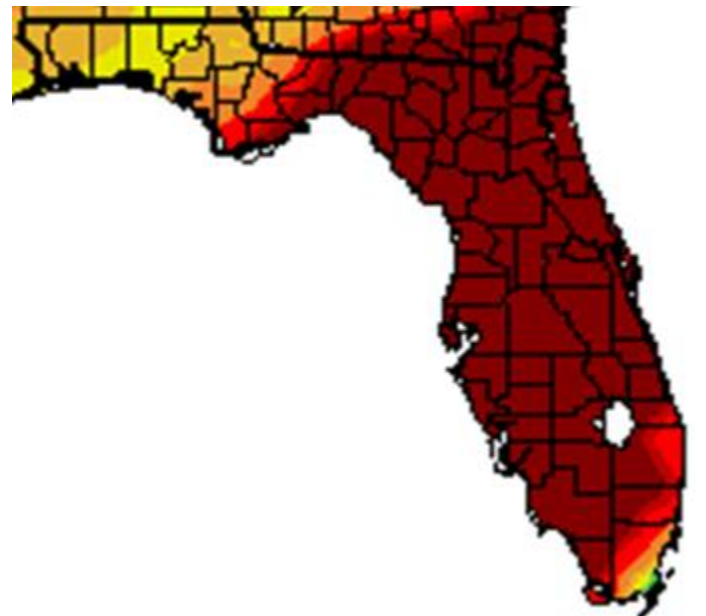
**Dry Season Limits Livestock Forages**

**Weather Summary:** Dryness and drought increased across Florida; the U.S. Drought Monitor reported the State was 29 percent abnormally dry and 3 percent with a drought rating. Only a few spotty showers were recorded. Mariana had the most with 0.98 of an inch of rain. Water levels continued to decline in most areas. Minimum temperatures ranged from 28 degrees in Quincy to 57 degrees in Fort Lauderdale. Maximum temperatures were mainly in the 70s to 80s. Jay recorded the lowest high temperature at 74 degrees and Immokalee the highest at 83 degrees.

**Soil Moisture Ratings**

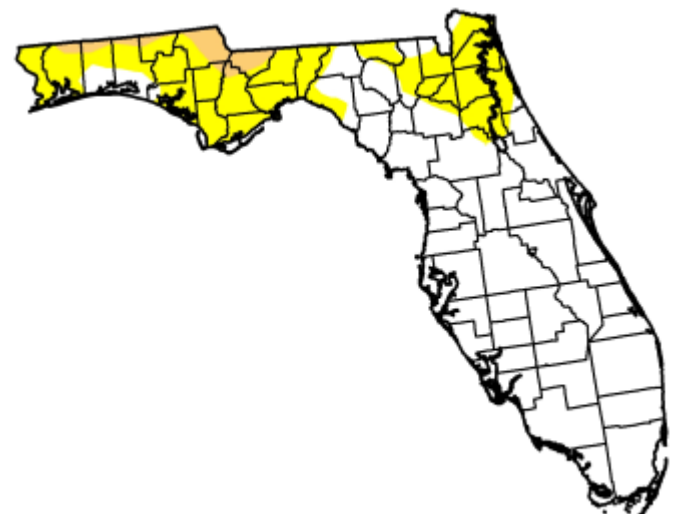
Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	6	5	12
Short .....	32	27	45
Adequate .....	60	65	43
Surplus .....	2	3	0

**Precipitation (in) –Florida: Nov 25 - Dec 1, 2012**



Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

**U.S. Drought Monitor – Florida: Nov 27, 2012**



Intensity:

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

**Field Crops:** Many of the State’s cattle producers were feeding hay due to continued dry weather and cool nights. Sugarcane harvest continued on schedule. Cotton harvest continued in Gadsden County and was 85 percent complete in Santa Rosa County. Some areas were planting winter forages and cover crops. Emerged forages were stressed by dry conditions.

**Fruits & Vegetables:** Vegetable harvest has been slowed by cool temperatures over the past few weeks. Irrigation was necessary due to seasonable, dry soil moisture conditions. In Miami-Dade County, harvesting and replanting of winter vegetable continued. In Glades and Hendry counties, growers were harvesting tomatoes, sweet corn, green beans, squash, cucumbers, and peppers.

**Livestock and Pastures: Statewide**, pasture condition was mostly fair, down slightly from the previous week as dry weather and cooler temperatures reduced forage growth. Most cattle were in good condition about the same as the previous week. Feeding of hay and/or supplements has started in much of the State. In the **Panhandle**, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most in poor to fair condition. Pastures continued to deteriorate from dry conditions, with some locations impacted by a hard frost. Feeding of hay was ongoing as the winter forage had not reached grazing height. In the **northern** area, the pasture conditions ranged from poor to good with most in fair condition. The cattle were in fair to excellent condition with most in fair condition. In the **central** area, the pasture conditions ranged from very poor to excellent with most in poor to good condition. Most cattle were in fair to good condition. In the **southwest** area, the pasture ranged from poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Shorter days, dry soils, and cool nights have stopped the growth of warm season grasses in Brevard County. Stock pond water levels continued to decline. The condition of the cattle was poor to excellent with most 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	4	14	16
Fair.....	33	35	55	55
Good.....	60	55	25	25
Excellent.....	5	5	5	3

**Citrus:** Seasonal, daily high temperatures ranged from the mid-70s to the lower 80s. For the past several weeks there has been very little rain recorded in the citrus growing areas. Only the east coast had measureable rainfall this week at just under one-half of an inch. Trees in some areas were struggling to keep the abundant fruit set healthy and growing. Growers irrigated one to two times a week to keep moisture in the ground and on the trees. Other than mowing before harvest and general grove maintenance, there was little grove activity. Most juice plants were open and fruit being processed continue to increase. Shipment of fresh fruit was moderate, but expected to increase with fundraising programs ramping up before Christmas. Varieties being packed included early oranges (mostly Navels), colored grapefruit, and Sunburst tangerines.

### Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	Nov 18, 2012	Nov 25, 2012	Dec 2, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	1,064	940	3,378
Ambersweet.....	4	4	24
Navel oranges.....	144	97	243
White grapefruit.....	64	50	57
Red grapefruit.....	326	256	439
Tangelos.....	11	13	72
Sunburst tangerines.....	181	132	197
Fallglo tangerines.....	8	5	17
Total.....	1,802	1,497	4,427

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