



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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Released: December 10, 2012 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: December 9, 2012

**Foggy Mornings, Dry Days**

There were only scattered showers during the week. Precipitation continued to be slightly below normal. The U.S. Drought Monitor reported the State to be 47 percent abnormally dry compared to 29 percent the previous week and 36 percent last year. Temperatures have been above normal, ranging from the low 30s to the high 80s. Minimum temperatures ranged from 33 degrees in Putnam Hall to 54 degrees in Fort Lauderdale. Maximum temperatures ranged from 80 degrees in Carrabelle to 87 degrees in Bronson.

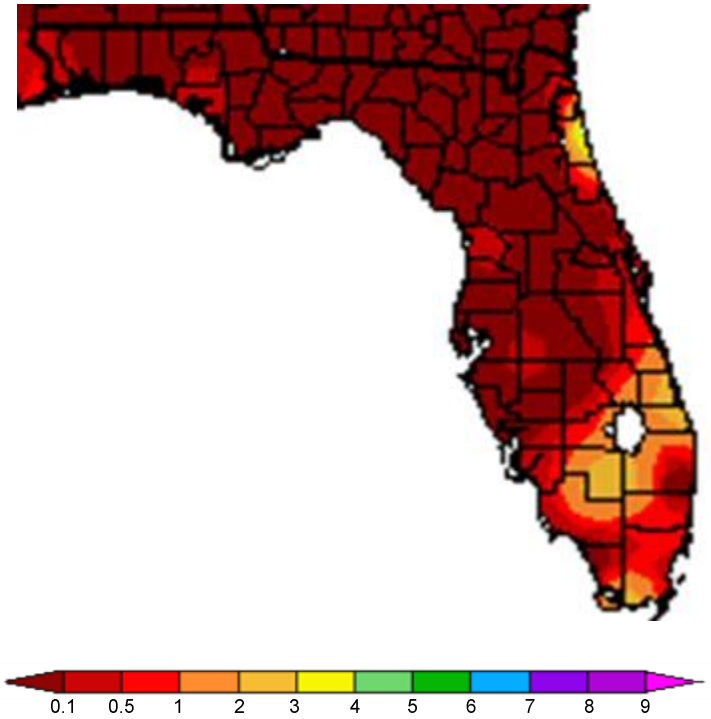
**Soil Moisture Ratings**

| Moisture Rating  | Topsoil       |               |              |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
|                  | Previous week | Previous year | Current week |
|                  | (percent)     | (percent)     | (percent)    |
| Very short ..... | 12            | 5             | 10           |
| Short .....      | 45            | 36            | 51           |
| Adequate .....   | 43            | 57            | 38           |
| Surplus .....    | 0             | 2             | 1            |

**Field Crops:** In most northern areas, winter field crops were struggling due to lack of moisture. In Gadsden County, cotton harvesting continued and winter forages continued to be planted. Harvesting of sugarcane continued.

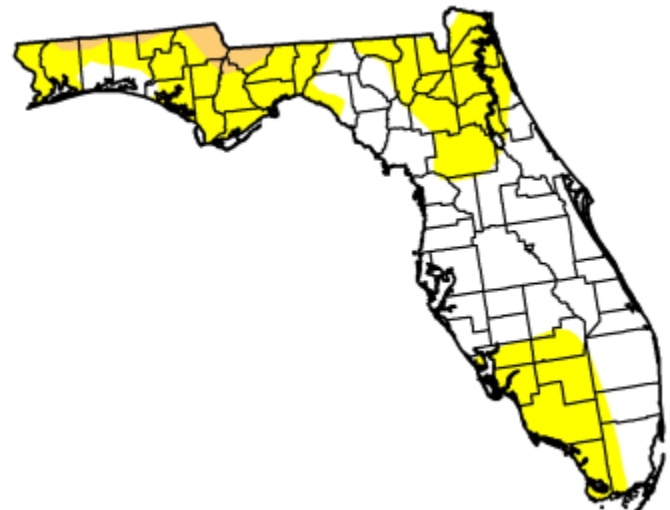
**Fruits & Vegetables:** Vegetable growers were irrigating to keep moisture levels up. Above normal temperatures for this time of year resulted in good growing conditions for vegetables. Tomato harvest ended in Gadsden County. Vegetables marketed included corn, cucumbers, green beans, eggplant, lettuce, peppers, radishes, and tomatoes. Early marketing of strawberries has also been reported.

**Precipitation (in) –Florida: Dec 3 – 9, 2012**



Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

**U.S. Drought Monitor – Florida: Dec 4, 2012**



Intensity:

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

**Livestock and Pastures: Statewide**, the pasture condition was very poor to excellent, with most in fair condition. Drought was the first limit to forage growth, but disease and cold were also problems. Winter forage was being planted in the Panhandle and northern areas. The condition of the cattle ranged from very poor to excellent, with most in good condition. In the **Panhandle**, the pasture condition was very poor to excellent, with most poor to fair. Drought and seasonal cool temperatures continued to hurt pasture. Winter grazing in Washington County had not come in yet. Frost browned the summer pasture. Cattlemen were feeding hay. Winter forages were being planted. Most cattle were in fair to good condition. In the **northern** area, the pasture condition was poor to good, with most in fair condition. The cattle were in poor to excellent condition with most in fair condition. In the **central** area, the pasture condition was very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Most cattle were in fair to good condition. In the **southwest** area, the pastures were poor to excellent, with most in fair condition. Pastures in Highland County received some precipitation. In St. Lucie County, above-normal, seasonal temperatures promoted growing of pasture grasses. The condition of the cattle was very poor to good with most in good condition.

**Citrus:** Seasonal daily high temperatures ranged from the mid-70s to the lower 80s. The drought which returned to the citrus area the previous week worsened, spreading to include much of the southern area as well as two northern counties. The return of the drought last week marked the first instance of drought in the citrus growing area since August. Drought measurements were per the U.S. Drought Monitor; last updated December 2, 2012. All but seven of the 24 FAWN stations recorded some precipitation last week. Six stations recorded more than a half-inch, with Belle Glade recording the most at 1.66 inches. Trees in some areas were struggling to keep the abundant fruit set healthy and growing this season. Growers were irrigating one to two times a week to keep moisture in the ground and on the trees. Harvest of early and midseason varieties continued at a heavy pace. Other grove activities included mowing and other general grove maintenance. Most juice plants were open and fruit being processed will begin to increase weekly. Shipment of fresh fruit was moderate, but was expected to increase with fundraising programs ramping up before Christmas. Varieties being packed primarily include early oranges (mostly Navels), colored grapefruit, and Sunburst tangerines.

### 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.....      | 4             | 3            | 16            | 19           |
| Fair.....      | 35            | 35           | 55            | 55           |
| Good.....      | 55            | 56           | 25            | 20           |
| Excellent..... | 5             | 5            | 3             | 5            |

### Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

| Crop                     | For week ending: |             |             |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                          | Nov 25, 2012     | Dec 2, 2012 | Dec 9, 2012 |
|                          | (boxes)          | (boxes)     | (boxes)     |
| Early & mid oranges..... | 940              | 3,378       | 4,621       |
| Ambersweet.....          | 4                | 24          | 4           |
| Navel oranges.....       | 97               | 243         | 263         |
| White grapefruit.....    | 50               | 57          | 43          |
| Red grapefruit.....      | 256              | 439         | 426         |
| Tangelos.....            | 13               | 72          | 90          |
| Sunburst tangerines..... | 132              | 197         | 143         |
| Honey tangerines         | 0                | 0           | 3           |
| Fallglo tangerines.....  | 5                | 17          | 0           |
| Total.....               | 1,497            | 4,427       | 5,593       |

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