



**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: December 17, 2012 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: December 16, 2012

**Above Normal Temperatures**

**Weather Summary:** Foggy mornings were accompanied by scattered showers across Florida although the Panhandle still reported abnormally dry conditions. Rainfall ranged from 0.05 of an inch to 4.82 inches reported at Putnam Hall. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 36 percent of the State was abnormally dry and 3 percent were in moderate drought compared to 46 percent and 30 percent a year ago, respectively. Most major cities reported temperatures 4 to 6 degrees above normal. Minimum temperatures were in the mid-30s to low 60s and unusually warm maximum temperatures in the low 70s to mid-80s. Fort Lauderdale area had the highest temperature of 86 degrees on December 11, which tied a record set in 1997.

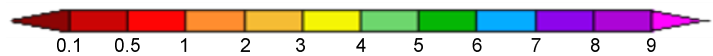
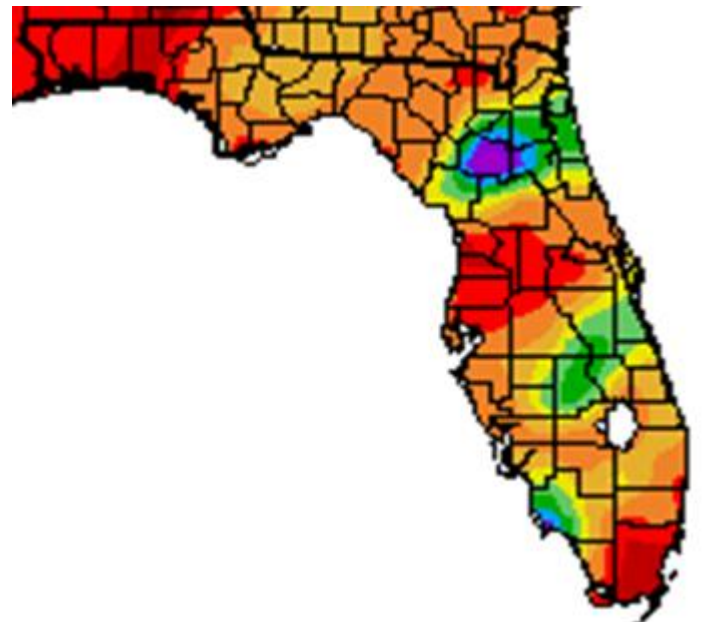
**Soil Moisture Ratings**

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	10	5	5
Short.....	51	37	45
Adequate.....	38	57	49
Surplus.....	1	1	1

**Field Crops:** Some cotton harvesting and winter forage planting continued in Gadsden County. Sugarcane harvest continued. In some northern areas, almost all crops were harvested.

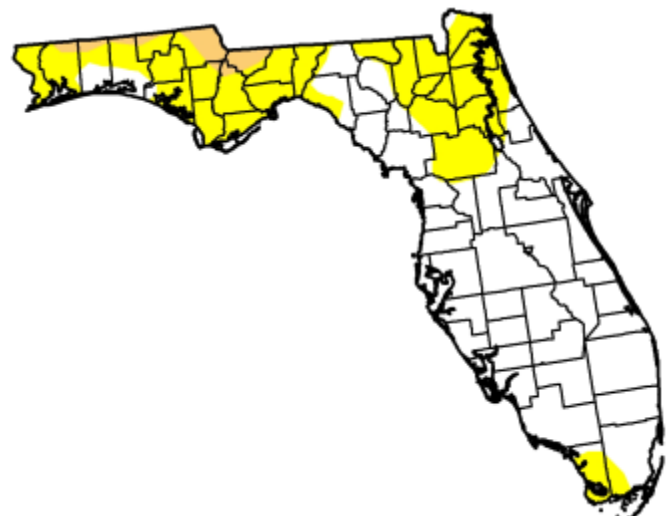
**Fruits & Vegetables:** Peaches in St. Johns County were already blooming. Growers were about to start harvesting broccoli. In St. Lucie County, avocados, peaches, and mangoes were also blooming. In southern Florida, vegetables were behind schedule due to cool weather in November. Vegetables being marketed were tomatoes, peppers, green beans, squash, cucumbers, sweet corn, and various specialty items.

**Precipitation (in) –Florida: Dec 10 – 16, 2012**



Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

**U.S. Drought Monitor – Florida: Dec 11, 2012**



Intensity:

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

**Livestock and Pastures: Statewide**, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Winter forage was being planted. Drought limited forage growth, though rain in several counties gave some relief. Seasonal cold temperatures also limited forage growth. The condition of the cattle ranged from very poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the **Panhandle**, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most poor to fair. Drought and cool temperatures slowed forage growth. However, the first significant rain since early October gave some relief to pastures in Jefferson County. Warmer weather also helped green up pastures in Gulf County. Cattlemen were feeding hay. Winter forage was planted in Gadsden County. Winter grazing was not yet available in Jackson County. Most cattle were in fair to good condition. In the **northern** area, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most in poor condition. The cattle were in poor to excellent condition with most in fair to good condition. In the **central** area, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair to good condition. Limited rainfall over several days eased dry conditions in Marion County. Most cattle were in fair to good condition. In the **southwest** area, the pasture condition varied from very poor to excellent with most in fair to good condition. Rain helped pastures green up. The condition of the cattle was poor to good with most in good condition. More cattlemen started feeding hay.

### 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.....	3	4	19	24
Fair.....	35	45	55	42
Good.....	56	45	20	30
Excellent.....	5	5	5	3

**Citrus:** Seasonal, daily high temperatures ranged from the mid-70s to the lower 80s. All of the FAWN stations recorded some precipitation last week. Fifteen of the 24 stations recorded at least a half-inch. Eight stations recorded more than an inch and three recorded more than two inches. Putnam Hall recorded the most with 4.83 inches. The drought lessened this week, clearing in all of the southern area as well as lessening in the northern counties. Drought measurements were per the U.S. Drought Monitor; last updated December 11, 2012. Trees in some areas were struggling to keep the abundant fruit set healthy and growing. Growers were irrigating one or two times a week to keep moisture in the ground and on the trees. Harvest of early and midseason varieties continues at a heavy pace. Other than mowing before harvest and general grove maintenance, there was little grove activity. Forty packinghouses and sixteen processors were shipping. Shipment of fresh fruit was moderate. Varieties packed primarily 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:		
	Dec 2, 2012	Dec 9, 2012	Dec 16, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	3,378	4,621	5,415
Ambersweet.....	24	4	4
Navel oranges.....	243	263	197
White grapefruit.....	57	43	44
Red grapefruit.....	439	426	335
Tangelos.....	72	90	70
Sunburst tangerines.....	197	143	80
Honey tangerines.....	0	3	22
Fallglo.....	17	0	0
Total.....	4,427	5,593	6,167

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](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](http://www.sercc.com/climateinfo/precip_maps). 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.