



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



In cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the UF/IFAS Extension Service
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Released: December 15, 2014 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: December 14, 2014

Cool, Dry Week

Weather Summary: According to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall was less than one inch across the State. Dover (Hillsborough County) received the most rain with 0.33 of an inch. Per the U.S. Drought Monitor, Florida was 90 percent drought free this past week. Temperatures ranged from 26 degrees for night time lows to 76 degrees for day time highs, across the State. The highest temperature was 76 degrees in Fort Lauderdale (Broward County), Homestead (Miami-Dade County), and Palmdale (Glades County). The majority of the State recorded temperatures in the 70s this past week. The lowest temperature in the State was 26 degrees in Lecanto (Citrus County).

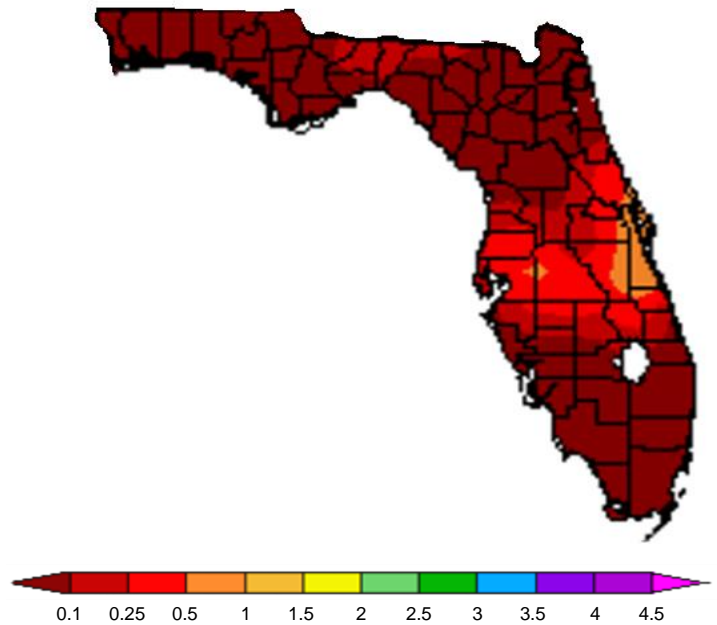
Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	1	0	11
Short	18	17	28
Adequate	72	75	55
Surplus	9	8	6

Field Crops: There was an average of 6.5 days suitable for field work this past week, above the previous week. Almost all crops were harvested. Small grain winter forage and wheat for grain was being planted. Small pines were being planted. There was less haying in Brevard County this fall due to wet weather. In Glades and Hendry counties sugarcane harvest continued.

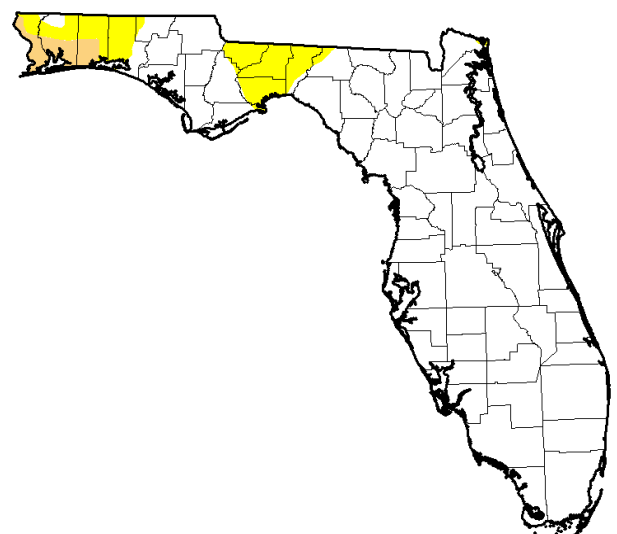
Fruit and Vegetables: Flagler and Putnam county farmers were planting cabbage and cold crops, and preparing fields to plant potatoes. Spring season vegetable crops planting began. Some u-pick strawberry fields opened in Orange County. Vegetable harvesting in southwest Florida continued where farmers harvested green beans, beets, cucumbers, eggplant, herbs, kale, peppers, squash, tomatoes, and watermelon. Planting in Miami-Dade County continued on green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, peppers, tomato, eggplant, sweet corn, boniato, bitter melon, and malanga. Harvested were green beans, pole beans, yellow squash, zucchini, okra, boniato, malanga, and avocado.

Precipitation (in)–Florida: December 8-14, 2014



Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

U.S. Drought Monitor–Florida: Dec. 9, 2014



Intensity:

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

Livestock and Pastures: Cattle and horse owners were feeding hay. Frost on three mornings left all pasture brown. Light rainfall, small amounts of rain, and warmer temperatures improved winter forage and reduced livestock stress in the Panhandle and north Florida. Hardee County reported standing water in low lying areas but flooding was not an issue. Statewide, the cattle condition was mostly good while pasture condition was fair to good.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Current week	Previous week	Current week	Previous week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	0	0	3	3
Poor.....	2	1	11	9
Fair.....	24	24	38	37
Good.....	70	70	47	49
Excellent.....	4	5	1	2

Citrus: Temperatures were slightly lower than average for this time of the year, with daytime highs barely getting into the 70s on most days, and morning lows dropping down to the mid 30s. Only Kenansville (Osceola County) and Dade City (Pasco County) recorded more than a quarter of an inch of rainfall. As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated December 9, 2014, no drought or abnormally dry conditions exist in any citrus producing area.

Early orange harvest is in full swing, primarily for juice. Thirteen of fifteen processing plants have opened and are beginning to run fruit. Field work surveys showed early orange sizes are running extremely small this season, and ratios are lower than normal.

White and colored grapefruit harvest is picking up with a majority of white grapefruit going to the plants for processing, while colored grapefruit is being harvested primarily for the fresh market.

Sunburst tangerines and Navel oranges are being harvested at peak amounts from now until the end of their seasons. Fresh fruit quality is overall good, but much of it is still coming in very small.

Grove activity included irrigation, mowing in preparation for harvest, aerial spraying and fertilizing. Field workers across the citrus growing region reported resets being planted, and old non-productive trees being pushed.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	Nov 30, 2014	Dec 7, 2014	Dec 14, 2014
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges	298	1,701	2,174
Ambersweet	0	0	5
Navel oranges	91	155	160
White grapefruit.....	10	20	18
Colored grapefruit.....	218	328	265
Sunburst tangerines	89	136	130
Tangelos	23	67	60
Total	729	2,407	2,812

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