



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 22, 2014 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: December 21, 2014

Welcome Moisture

Weather Summary: According to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall ranged from none to 8.67 inches across the State. Dade City (Pasco County) received the most rain with 8.67 inches. Per the U.S. Drought Monitor, Florida was 88 percent drought free this past week. Temperatures ranged from 20 degrees for night time lows to 89 degrees for day time highs, across the State. The highest temperature was 89 degrees in Belle Glade (Palm Beach County), Clewiston (Hendry County), and Immokalee (Collier County). The majority of the State recorded temperatures in the 80s this past week. The lowest temperature in the State was 20 degrees in Defuniak Springs (Walton County).

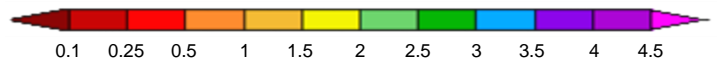
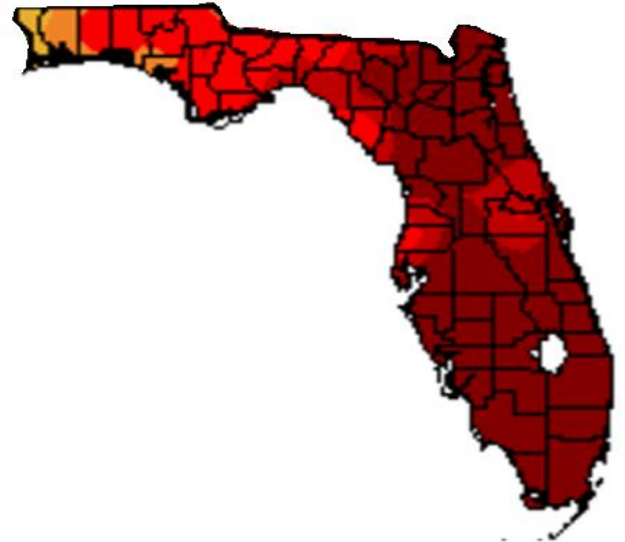
Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	2	1	20
Short	21	18	20
Adequate	69	72	56
Surplus	8	9	4

Field Crops: There was an average of 6.6 days suitable for field work this past week, slightly below the previous week. Almost all field crops were harvested. Winter wheat and rye for grazing was rated in excellent growing condition. In Glades and Hendry counties sugarcane harvest continued.

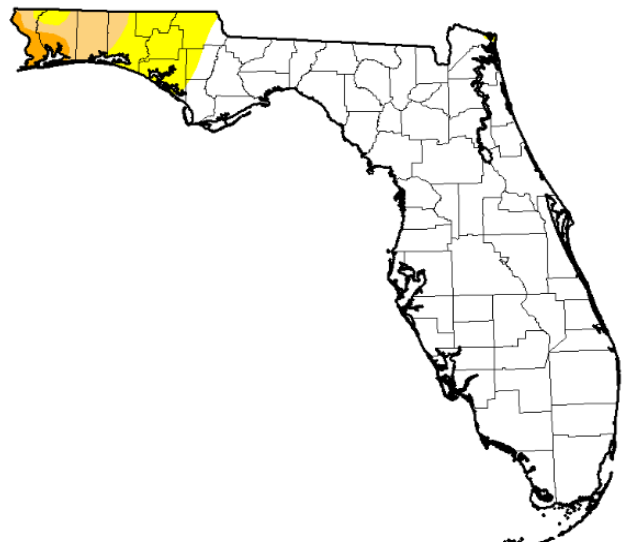
Fruit and Vegetables: In southwest Florida, vegetable harvesting continued of green beans, beets, cucumbers, eggplant, herbs, kale, peppers, squash, tomatoes, and watermelon. Cool weather reduced yield on cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, and squash in southwest Florida. Spring season vegetable crop planting also has begun. Farms in Palm Beach County used ditches, canals, and equipment to irrigate. Crops harvested in Miami-Dade County were green beans, pole beans, yellow squash, zucchini, tomato, peppers, eggplant, boniato, malanga, and avocado.

Precipitation (in)–Florida: December 15-21, 2014



Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

U.S. Drought Monitor–Florida: Dec. 16, 2014



Intensity:



Livestock and Pastures: In the Panhandle, cattlemen reported cattle in better condition at this time of year than normal. In southwest Florida, cattlemen were providing supplemental feed to compensate for declining pasture. 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	2	3
Poor.....	2	2	13	11
Fair	24	24	40	38
Good.....	70	70	44	47
Excellent.....	4	4	1	1

Citrus: Temperatures were higher than average compared to last week. Daytime highs reached the mid to upper 80s, with early morning temperatures dropping down to the 30s and low 40s. Clewiston (Hendry County) was the warmest county in the State at 89 degrees and Alachua (Alachua County) recorded the lowest temperature at 24 degrees. Dade City (Pasco County) had the most rain while Palmdale (Glades County) had barely a trace. As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated December 16, 2014, no drought or abnormally dry conditions exist in any citrus producing area.

The early orange, white and colored grapefruit harvest was running at a strong pace as harvesting managers steadily move fruit from the groves to the processing plants and packinghouses.

Sunburst tangerines and Navel orange harvest continued at a steady rate. Honey Tangerines began their harvest season last week. Overall the fruit quality going to the fresh market was 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:		
	Dec 7, 2014	Dec 14, 2014	Dec 21, 2014
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges	1,701	2,174	3,797
Ambersweet	0	5	4
Navel oranges	155	160	91
White grapefruit	20	18	52
Colored grapefruit.....	328	265	379
Sunburst tangerines	136	130	126
Honey Tangerines	0	0	3
Tangelos	67	60	45
Total	2,407	2,812	4,497

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