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 7, 2015 (4 PM EST) Week Ending: December 6, 2015

## Harvesting Resumes in the North

**Weather Summary:** According to Florida's Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall ranged from no rain to 8.43 inches of rain in Homestead (Miami-Dade County). Fort Lauderdale (Broward County) received 5.88 inches of rain, Wellington (West Palm Beach County) received 3.75 inches of rain, and Okeechobee (Okeechobee County) received 2.76 inches of rain. All other FAWN locations received under three inches of rain. As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated December 1, 2015, Florida was 83 percent drought free.

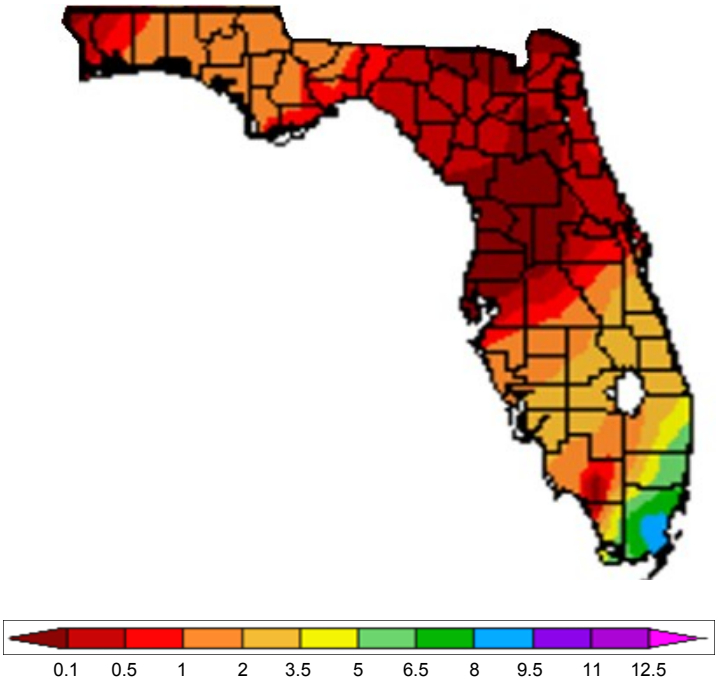
Temperatures ranged from 35 degrees for nighttime lows to 88 degrees for daytime highs. The daytime high temperatures ranged from 76 degrees in Carrabelle (Franklin County) to 88 degrees in Sebring (Highlands County) and Joshua (De Soto County). The lowest temperature in the State was 35 degrees in Jay (Santa Rosa County).

### Soil Moisture Ratings

| Moisture Rating | Topsoil | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Current Week | Previous week | Previous year |
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Short | 14 | 19 | 17 |
| Adequate | 79 | 75 | 74 |
| Surplus | 7 | 6 | 9 |

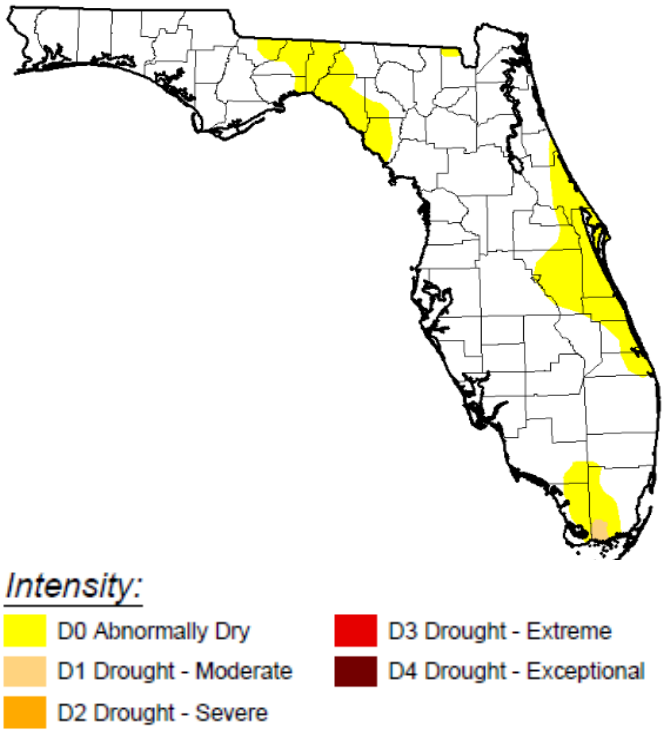
**Field Crops:** There was an average of 6.0 days suitable for field work this past week, down slightly from the previous week. Harvesting of crops in the Panhandle and north Florida improved again this week with little to no rain received. Jackson County cotton harvesting was 80 percent complete. But in Walton County, farmers were defoliating cotton again, no harvesting yet. Peanut harvesting completion rate was at 98 percent, behind last year and the five-year average. Soybean harvest was completed in Walton County. Farmers in Gilchrist County were planting rye and Orange and Seminole County farmers were planting more rye than usual.

### Precipitation (in)–Florida: Nov. 30 – Dec. 6, 2015




Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

### U.S. Drought Monitor–Florida: Dec. 1, 2015



## Peanut Progress

| Progress | Current week | Previous year | 5-year average |
|---|---|---|---|
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Harvested | 98 | 100 | 100 |

**Fruit and Vegetables:** Strawberries were being picked already in Bradford County. In south Florida a cold front with rain and wind battered sensitive vegetable crops. Vegetable growers began planting spring crops and were harvesting cantaloupe, eggplant, herbs, peppers, squash, tomatoes, watermelon, and specialty items. Miami-Dade County received large amounts of rain resulting in several fields flooding.

**Livestock and Pastures:** In Holmes County, cattle started grazing winter pastures and a majority of the herds had started calving. Statewide, the cattle condition was mostly good and 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 | 2 |
| Poor | 2 | 2 | 9 | 7 |
| Fair | 19 | 17 | 34 | 32 |
| Good | 63 | 65 | 45 | 46 |
| Excellent | 16 | 16 | 10 | 13 |

**Citrus**: Rainfall was the heaviest in the Indian River District and the southern area. Okeechobee (Okeechobee County) had the most rainfall at 2.76 inches followed by St. Lucie West (St. Lucie County) at 2.32 inches. Immokalee (Collier County), in the far south, had 1.40 inches of rainfall. Daily high temperatures throughout the citrus growing region were in the lower to mid-80s in all areas. The U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated December 1, 2015, was showing the eastern edge of Orange County, nearly all of Osceola County, and the entire Indian River District as abnormally dry. The remainder of the citrus region was drought free.

Owners and grove managers were still harvesting fresh citrus for the Holiday Season and for fundraising programs. Many were spot picking red grapefruit and tangerines in order to get larger sizes. A couple processing plants were opening and accepting early season oranges harvested for field run. Mowing, the application of herbicides, and fertilizing was observed in many citrus groves throughout the State. Canals and ditches were full in most areas to be used for irrigation.

## Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

| Crop | For week ending: | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Nov 22, 2015 | Nov 29, 2015 | Dec 6, 2015 |
| | (boxes) | (boxes) | (boxes) |
| Early and Mid Oranges | 133 | 109 | 962 |
| Ambersweet | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Navel oranges | 89 | 74 | 153 |
| White Grapefruit | 28 | 14 | 42 |
| Red Grapefruit | 197 | 259 | 229 |
| Sunburst Tangerines | 67 | 37 | 66 |
| Tangelos | 8 | 18 | 72 |
| **Total** | **523** | **511** | **1,524** |

This report is available, at no cost, on the NASS web site: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/. To set-up this free subscription, send e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type ***"subscribe to Florida crop weather."*** The drought monitor index used in this report originates from the U.S. Drought Monitor website. Visit **http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu** maintained by the National Drought Mitigation Center. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Visit **http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu** maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.