



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 14, 2015 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: December 13, 2015

Dry Week, Row Crop Harvesting Behind Average

Weather Summary: According to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall ranged from no rain to 0.56 of an inch of rain in Frostproof (Polk County). All FAWN locations received under one inch of rain. As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated December 8, 2015, Florida was 92 percent drought free.

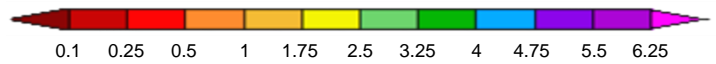
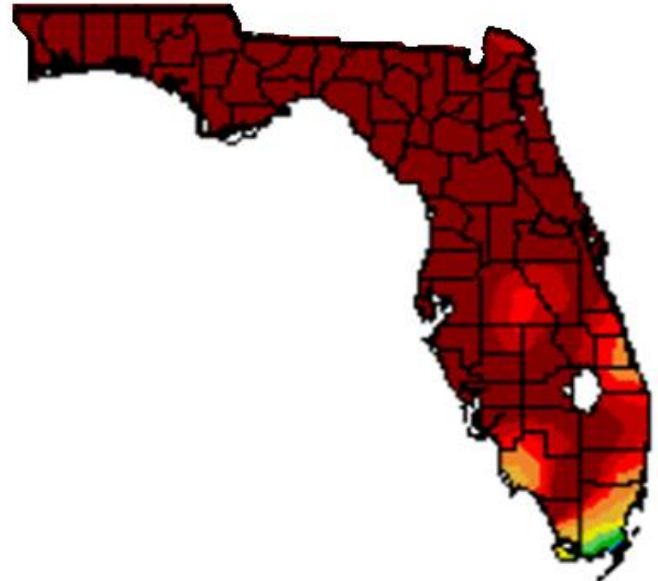
Temperatures ranged from 36 degrees for nighttime lows to 87 degrees for daytime highs. The daytime high temperatures ranged from 75 degrees in Carrabelle (Franklin County) to 87 degrees in Sebring (Highlands County). The lowest temperature in the State was 36 degrees in Lecanto (Citrus County).

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Current Week	Previous week	Previous year
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	0	0	1
Short	17	14	18
Adequate.....	75	79	72
Surplus.....	8	7	9

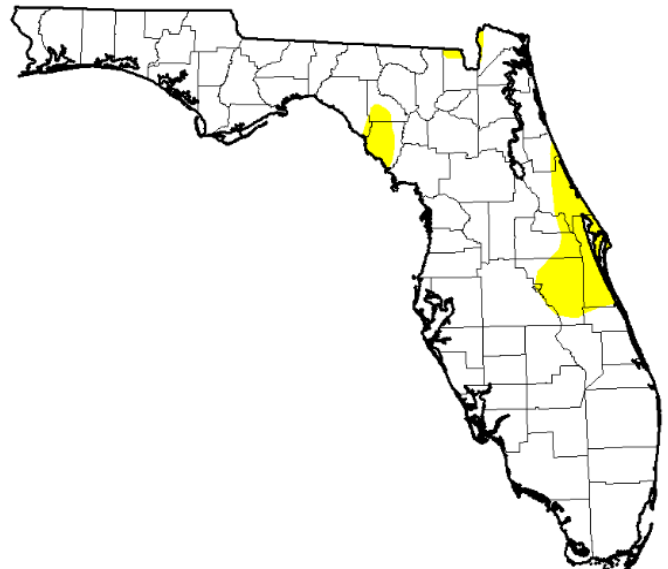
Field Crops: There was an average of 6.5 days suitable for field work this past week, up slightly from the previous week. Harvesting of peanuts, cotton, and soybeans was near completion in the Panhandle and north Florida as little to no rain was received. Jackson County cotton harvesting was 90 percent complete. In Walton County, farmers were 80 percent complete with cotton harvest. Washington County farmers neared completion of cotton harvest where fields were dry enough to access but some fields were still too wet to harvest. Peanut harvesting completion rate was at 99 percent, behind last year and the five-year average. Winter grazing was being planted in Taylor County. Sugarcane harvesting continued in Glades County.

Precipitation (in)—Florida: Dec. 7-13, 2015



Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

U.S. Drought Monitor—Florida: Dec. 8, 2015



Intensity:

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

Peanut Progress

Progress	Current week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Harvested	99	100	100

Fruit and Vegetables: Flagler and Putnam county farmers were planting and harvesting cabbage and greens. They were also preparing fields to plant potatoes. In south Florida, a warm week permitted growers to start planting spring crops and harvesting vegetables for Christmas. Harvesting cantaloupe, cucumbers, collards, eggplant, herbs, kale, lettuce, peppers, squash, tomatoes, watermelon, and specialty items. Farmers in Palm Beach County planted vegetable crops on raised beds and used lateral canal system to help minimize damage from standing water of recent rains. Bacteria soft rot on tomatoes and peppers and Rhizoctonia root rot on beans was evident due to warm and humid conditions. Miami-Dade County farmers reported 50 percent of vegetable crops in the ground was flooded, damaged, or totally lost due to heavy rainfall in the previous week. Limited planting occurred during the past week.

Livestock and Pastures: In Holmes County, heat and rain reduced winter forage condition to poor. Many farmers are fertilizing pastures again. Washington County pasture conditions showed some signs of disease due to high temperatures. 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	4	2	12	9
Fair.....	17	19	31	34
Good	63	63	45	45
Excellent	16	16	10	10

Citrus: Daily high temperatures throughout the citrus growing region were above average for this time of year, reaching the lower to mid-80s in all areas. Rainfall was very light. Only Frostproof (Polk County) had more than a half an inch of rainfall. All other monitored stations showed two-tenths of an inch or less. The U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated December 8, 2015, was showing the eastern edge of Orange and Volusia County, most of Osceola County, and all of Brevard County as abnormally dry. The remainder of the citrus region is drought free.

Owners and grove managers were still harvesting fresh citrus for the holiday season and fundraising programs. Many were spot picking red grapefruit and tangerines in order to get larger sizes. Almost all processing plants are now open 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 are still 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 29, 2015	Dec 6, 2015	Dec 13, 2015
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid Oranges.....	109	962	2,488
Temples	0	0	4
Ambersweet	0	0	1
Navel oranges	74	153	142
White Grapefruit.....	14	42	37
Red Grapefruit.....	259	229	209
Sunburst Tangerines.....	37	66	58
Tangelos	18	72	54
Total	511	1,524	2,993

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/](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.