



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 21, 2015 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: December 20, 2015

Cold Front brought Coolest Weather this Season

Weather Summary: According to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall ranged from 0.01 inch in Fort Lauderdale (Broward County) to 2.27 inches in Citra (Marion County). Average rainfall statewide was 0.54 inch of rain. As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated December 15, 2015, Florida was 88 percent drought free. Twelve percent was rated abnormally dry.

Temperatures ranged from 29 degrees Fahrenheit for nighttime lows to 89 degrees for daytime highs. The daytime high temperatures ranged from 74 degrees in Defuniak (Walton County) to 89 degrees in Sebring (Highlands County). The lowest temperature in the State was 29 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	2
Short	16	17	21
Adequate.....	78	75	69
Surplus.....	6	8	8

Field Crops: There was an average of 6.1 days suitable for field work this past week, down slightly from the previous week. Harvesting of peanuts, cotton, and soybeans was near completion in the Panhandle and north Florida except for low fields too wet for harvest equipment in Washington County. Jackson County cotton harvesting was 95 percent complete. In Walton County, farmers were 85 percent complete with cotton harvest. Peanut harvesting completion rate 100 percent, slightly ahead last year and same as the five-year average. Winter grazing was being planted in Taylor County. Sugarcane harvesting continued in Hendry County on schedule while harvest activities continued in Glades, Palm Beach, Broward, and western St. Lucie counties.

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. All monitored stations showed two-tenths of an inch to eight-tenths of an inch. The U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated December 15, 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:		
	Dec 6, 2015	Dec 13, 2015	Dec 20, 2015
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid Oranges.....	962	2,488	3,243
Temples	0	4	5
Ambersweet	0	1	1
Navel oranges	153	142	1
White Grapefruit.....	42	37	76
Red Grapefruit.....	229	209	83
Sunburst Tangerines	66	58	46
Tangelos	72	54	35
Total	1,524	2,993	2,806

Fruit and Vegetables: Warm and wet weather conditions in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties lowered vegetable yields and quality. Vegetable growers harvested a wide variety of crops for the holiday market including beans, collards, corn, cucumber, eggplant, herbs, kale, lettuce, peppers, squash, Swiss chard, tomatoes, watermelons, and a number of specialty items. Some potato fields were planted along with harvesting and planting cabbage/leafy greens occurred in Flagler County.

Sweet corn, green and pole beans, yellow squash, zucchini, okra, eggplant, peppers, boniata , Malanga, and herbs were planted in Miami-Dade County.

Livestock and Pastures: Recent rains greened up pastures in St. Lucie County. Dry but warm conditions prevailed as pasture grasses still showed growth in Marion County. Winter pastures in Brevard County was growing with early plantings almost ready for livestock grazing. Warm season grasses are seasonally poor and cool season forages were mostly fair in Washington County.

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	3	4	10	12
Fair.....	20	17	33	31
Good.....	68	63	49	45
Excellent	9	16	6	10

Florida's Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall by station

		Monday Dec 14 to Sunday Dec 20, 2015				
FAWN Station	County	District	Minimum Temp.	Maximum Temp.	Rainfall (inches)	
Citra	Marion	50	40.47	84.51	2.27	
Lecanto	Citrus	50	37.84	85.73	1.52	
Defuniak	Walton	10	29.39	73.38	1.47	
Marianna	Jackson	10	31.09	73.83	1.37	
Putnam Hall	Putnam	50	38.47	82.65	1.33	
Bronson	Levy	50	38.04	84.15	1.26	
Alachua	Alachua	50	35.83	83.14	1.16	
Jay	Santa Rosa	10	28.91	73.58	0.99	
Monticello	Jefferson	10	29.41	79.39	0.90	
North Port	Sarasota	80	47.50	85.30	0.82	
Ocklawaha	Marion	50	41.80	85.01	0.80	
Mayo	Lafayette	30	29.83	79.61	0.74	
Hastings	St. Johns	50	40.90	84.33	0.68	
MacClenny	Baker	30	31.78	82.78	0.63	
Quincy	Gadsden	10	30.64	76.15	0.47	
Balm	Hillsborough	50	45.01	84.67	0.42	
Dover	Hillsborough	50	44.69	86.94	0.42	
Okeechobee	Okeechobee	80	48.85	85.37	0.42	
Ona	Hardee	80	44.51	83.75	0.41	
Dade City	Pasco	50	43.38	84.51	0.38	
Umatilla	Lake	50	41.91	85.33	0.38	
Indian River	Indian River	80	50.31	86.25	0.38	
Live Oak	Suwannee	30	31.88	79.47	0.34	
Avalon	Orange	50	47.82	86.95	0.31	
Belle Glade	Palm Beach	80	55.90	85.57	0.31	
Arcadia	De Soto	80	45.70	85.73	0.29	
Joshua	De Soto	80	42.66	84.72	0.28	
Carrabelle	Franklin	10	34.51	81.66	0.27	
Clewiston	Hendry	80	52.29	85.91	0.23	
Pierson	Volusia	50	43.47	85.39	0.21	
Immokalee	Collier	80	50.76	86.59	0.20	
St. Lucie West	St Lucie	80	49.23	85.77	0.20	
Sebring	Highlands	80	47.84	88.61	0.14	
Lake Alfred	Polk	50	48.11	87.15	0.12	
Wellington	West Palm Beach	80	56.57	85.96	0.11	
Frostproof	Polk	50	49.08	85.73	0.09	
Kenansville	Osceola	50	48.99	85.96	0.09	
Palmdale	Glades	80	52.90	87.17	0.08	
Okahumpka	Lake	50	42.60	85.26	0.07	
Apopka	Orange	50	41.96	85.59	0.06	
Homestead	Miami-Dade	80	64.42	85.06	0.06	
Fort Lauderdale	Broward	80	63.88	86.54	0.01	

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. Precipitation maps are found at http://www.sercc.com/climateinfo/precip_maps.