



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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Week Ending: December 27, 2015

Unseasonably Warm Weather

Weather Summary: According to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall ranged from no measurable rainfall to 3.86 inches in Jay (Santa Rosa County) as scattered showers were common. Average rainfall statewide was 0.51 inch of rain. As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated December 22, 2015, Florida was 88 percent drought free.

Temperatures ranged from 47 degrees Fahrenheit 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 Lake Alfred (Polk County). The lowest temperature in the State was 47 degrees in Mayo (Lafayette County).

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Current Week	Previous week	Previous year
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	0	0	2
Short	17	16	19
Adequate.....	77	78	72
Surplus.....	6	6	7

Field Crops: There was an average of 6.3 days suitable for field work this past week, up slightly from the previous week. Many Washington County fields were still too wet for field work. Stressed plants were generally limited to low spots in south Florida fields. Rains received on sugarcane fields are being managed with lateral canals and raised beds. Sugarcane harvest activities continued with no noted delays.

Fruit and Vegetables: Irish potatoes were observed being planted in Flagler and Putnam Counties. Leafy greens and cabbage were planted and harvested in Putnam County. Warm conditions accelerated maturity in vegetable crops along with negatively affecting yields and quality. Vegetables received to market included cabbage, cantaloupe, collards, cucumbers, eggplants, herbs, kale, lettuce, peppers, sun flowers, squash, Swiss chard, tomatoes, watermelons, and specialty items.

Citrus: Temperatures throughout the citrus growing region were unseasonably warm for this time of the year, reaching the mid to upper 80s several days in all areas. Rainfall for the most part was very light. Only Joshua (De Soto County) and St. Lucie West (St. Lucie County) recorded a half an inch of rainfall. More than half of the monitored stations recorded less than one-tenth of an inch of rainfall. Even with the lack of precipitation, the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated December 22, 2015, was showing only the eastern edge of Orange and Volusia County, most of Osceola County, and Brevard County as abnormally dry. The remainder of the citrus region was drought free.

Harvest was in full swing on early variety oranges and grapefruit. Growers were conducting their own maturity test on Hamlins, and other early variety oranges, so they can get them off the trees as quickly as possible and to the processing plants. Navels and early tangerine fresh shipments were winding down with the ending of fundraising programs. Honey tangerines were still several weeks away. Grapefruit harvest was still going strong, being distributed about equally between fresh and processed markets. Other grove activity was relatively slow this time of the year. Growers were irrigating as needed and spraying for psyllids. Mowing was being reduced to an as needed basis, mostly before harvest.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	Dec 13, 2015	Dec 20, 2015	Dec 27, 2015
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid Oranges.....	2,488	3,243	1,960
Temples	4	5	1
Ambersweet	1	1	0
Navel oranges	142	1	8
White Grapefruit.....	37	76	28
Red Grapefruit.....	209	83	144
Sunburst Tangerines.....	58	46	7
Tangelos	54	35	10
Total	2,993	2,806	2,158

Livestock and Pastures: Warm and wet weather conditions helped winter grazing recover in Jefferson County, but plant diseases are more prevalent than usual for this time of the year. Received rains kept pastures green and growing. Newborn calves were spotted in Okeechobee and St. Lucie Counties. Pastures appeared green with abundant new forage growth. Cattle and pasture conditions ratings continued to be mostly good to excellent due to mild weather.

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	3	10	10
Fair.....	20	20	34	33
Good.....	68	68	48	49
Excellent	8	9	6	6

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

Monday Dec 21, 2015 to Sunday Dec 27, 2015					
FAWN Station	County	District	Minimum Temp.	Maximum Temp.	Rainfall (inches)
Carrabelle	Franklin	10	53.71	75.87	1.98
De Funiak	Walton	10	48.83	80.15	2.89
Jay	Santa Rosa	10	48.81	78.30	3.86
Marianna	Jackson	10	48.74	82.85	1.43
Monticello	Jefferson	10	48.40	82.81	1.03
Quincy	Gadsden	10	50.50	79.90	1.19
Live Oak	Suwannee	30	50.61	84.85	0.49
MacClenny	Baker	30	48.47	84.00	0.47
Mayo	Lafayette	30	46.98	83.77	0.75
Alachua	Alachua	50	50.59	83.86	0.02
Apopka	Orange	50	56.73	86.77	0.02
Avalon	Orange	50	58.08	86.38	0.00
Balm	Hillsborough	50	59.14	85.57	0.00
Bronson	Levy	50	51.94	86.52	0.00
Citra	Marion	50	49.96	84.00	0.34
Dade City	Pasco	50	54.57	84.07	0.02
Dover	Hillsborough	50	56.82	87.31	0.16
Frostproof	Polk	50	61.30	85.75	0.00
Hastings	St. Johns	50	52.11	84.60	0.01
Kenansville	Osceola	50	54.30	84.81	0.07
Lake Alfred	Polk	50	59.45	87.91	0.02
Lecanto	Citrus	50	54.16	86.22	0.02
Ocklawaha	Marion	50	53.60	86.38	0.01
Okahumpka	Lake	50	53.74	85.71	0.01
Pierson	Volusia	50	53.46	84.69	0.02
Putnam Hall	Putnam	50	49.53	84.29	0.13
Umatilla	Lake	50	54.88	86.36	0.01
Arcadia	De Soto	80	59.43	86.34	0.03
Belle Glade	Palm Beach	80	64.98	84.34	0.29
Clewiston	Hendry	80	65.43	85.33	0.19
Fort Lauderdale	Broward	80	73.09	84.63	0.66
Homestead	Miami-Dade	80	71.47	83.52	2.57
Immokalee	Collier	80	65.05	87.55	0.02
Indian River	Indian River	80	65.84	84.65	0.23
Joshua	De Soto	80	57.54	84.70	0.49
North Port	Sarasota	80	59.50	86.99	0.25
Okeechobee	Okeechobee	80	58.50	86.16	0.15
Ona	Hardee	80	57.11	85.14	0.03
Palmdale	Glades	80	63.00	86.20	0.02
Sebring	Highlands	80	59.77	87.55	0.00
St. Lucie West	St Lucie	80	59.29	85.57	0.49
Wellington	W.Palm Beach	80	69.85	84.43	0.96

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