



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
**Florida Crop Progress
and Condition Report**



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the UF/IFAS Extension Service
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December 19, 2016

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General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, December 18, 2016. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in several locations including Alachua (Alachua County), Dade City (Pasco County), and Umatilla (Lake County) to 2.88 inches in Jay (Santa Rosa County). The average mean temperatures ranged from 59.7°F in DeFuniak Springs (Walton County) to 76.6°F in Ft. Lauderdale (Broward County). Although rain fell this week across many parts of the state, counties across the Panhandle and Northern Florida remain under drought and abnormally dry conditions.

Citrus

Temperatures were very warm in the citrus growing region. Daily highs were in the 80s on most afternoons. Only two of eighteen monitored stations had significant rainfall. Sebring (Highlands County) recorded 0.64 inches of rainfall, and Joshua (Desoto County) recorded 0.45 inches of rainfall. Canals and ditches in most areas are at low levels due of the lack of rainfall over the past couple of months. Growers are irrigating regularly to keep moisture in the ground and on the trees. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor last updated December 13th, 2016, abnormally dry and drought conditions are prevalent in northern Florida, but have not yet reached the citrus growing region.

Field run fruit has picked up significantly over the past two weeks. Early and mid-season orange harvest is in full swing. Grapefruit is being harvested for both the fresh and processed market. White grapefruit harvest is ahead of last season, while red grapefruit harvest is still lagging behind. Fruit harvested primarily for the fresh market include Sunburst tangerines, Navel oranges, red grapefruit, and tangelos.

Growers continue to spray in order to lower the psyllid population. Mowing is mostly before harvest. Primarily, growers are performing general grove maintenance in well-kept groves.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Dec 4, 2016	Dec 11, 2016	Dec 18, 2016	Dec 20, 2015
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges.....	447	2,146	2,729	3,532
Ambersweet	0	0	1	0
Navel oranges.....	90	104	90	52
White grapefruit.....	32	29	38	84
Red grapefruit	239	221	218	328
Tangelos.....	23	34	31	34
Sunburst tangerines	80	75	75	44
Fallglo tangerines...	3	0	0	0
Total	914	2,609	3,182	4,074

Fruits and Vegetables

Growers in Flagler and Putnam Counties reported planting and harvesting leafy greens, cabbage, and broccoli. Foggy mornings in several southern counties are presenting some vegetable disease pressures. Crops coming to market this week include avocado, bitter melon, boniato, collards, eggplant, green beans, kale, malanga, pepper, squash, tomato, zucchini, and other tropical fruits.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle condition remains mostly good, despite pasture quality deteriorating across the state. Many cattle operators are using supplemental feeding. Cattle in Brevard, Indian River, and St. Lucie Counties are all feeding on hay.

Field Crops

Although some rainfall has been received, there are still many fields that need more. Some farmers in Walton County are attempting to plant rye as a cover crop. Reporters in Dixie, Flagler, Putnam, and Jackson Counties indicate that it is still too dry to plant any cover crops. Some winter forages are starting to germinate and grow in Okaloosa County. Sugarcane harvest is ongoing in Glades, Hendry, Martin, and Palm Beach Counties.

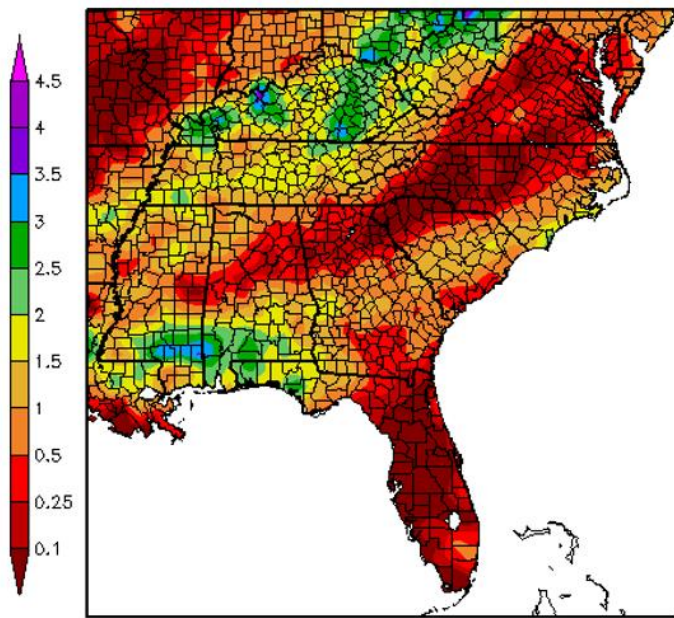
Soil Moisture for Week Ending 12/18/16

Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	15	24	8
Short	31	25	27
Adequate	48	46	61
Surplus.....	6	5	4

Condition for week ending 12/18/16

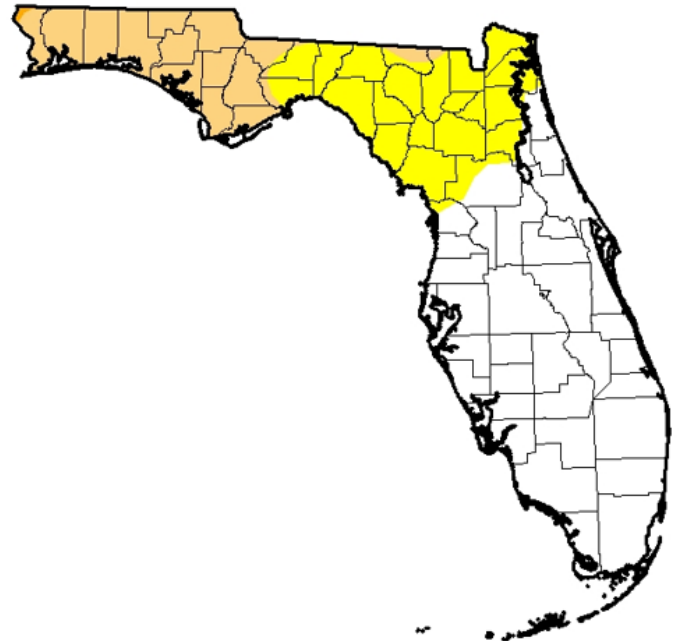
Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	1	7	38	49	5
Pasture & Range...	9	22	44	22	3

Precipitation (in)
12/12/2016 - 12/18/2016



Generated 12/19/16 at HPRCC using provisional data. Regional Climate Centers.
<http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



Intensity:

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

December 13, 2016 (Released Thursday Dec. 15, 2016)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>