



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 27, 2016

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General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, December 25, 2016. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in several locations including Arcadia (DeSoto County), Dade City (Pasco County), and Palmdale (Glades County) to 3.49 inches in Lake Alfred (Polk County). The average mean temperatures ranged from 59.9°F in DeFuniak Springs (Walton County) to 75.38°F in Ft. Lauderdale (Broward County). Most of the state has been abnormally dry, with several counties in the Panhandle entering drought conditions.

Citrus

Temperatures continued to be unseasonably warm in the citrus growing region. Daily highs were in the mid to upper 80s on most afternoons. Rainfall varied widely across the citrus belt, with several of the eighteen monitored stations reporting no measurable precipitation. By far the most rain fell in Polk County, with the Lake Alfred station recording 3.49 inches of rain. Canals and ditches remain at low levels due of the lack of widespread rainfall over the past couple months. Growers are irrigating frequently to keep moisture in the ground and on the trees. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor last updated December 20th, 2016, abnormally dry conditions are present throughout the citrus growing region.

Early varieties of fresh fruit have nearly finished packing, with houses transitioning to later maturing varieties where applicable. Grapefruit harvest is in full swing, with internal quality holding well. Most processing plants are now open and accepting fruit.

Growers are continuing 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 11, 2016	Dec 18, 2016	Dec 25, 2016	Dec 27, 2015
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges.....	2,146	2,729	2,467	2,019
Ambersweet	0	1	0	0
Navel oranges.....	104	90	52	9
White grapefruit.....	29	38	43	41
Red grapefruit	221	218	217	196
Tangelos.....	34	31	16	11
Sunburst tangerines.....	75	75	37	10
Fallglo tangerines.....	0	0	0	0
Total	2,609	3,182	2,832	2,286

Fruits and Vegetables

Growers in Orange County reported planting and harvesting collard greens, cabbage, and broccoli. Plenty of crops were harvested for the holiday market including avocado, bitter melon, boniato, eggplant, herbs, green beans, kale, malanga, peppers, squash, tomato, zucchini, and sweet corn. A few growers have also begun planting spring watermelons.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle condition remains mostly good, despite pasture quality deteriorating across the state with lack of rain. Cattle are on supplemental hay in Brevard, Indian River, and St. Lucie Counties.

Field Crops

Most of the state is experiencing dry conditions, affecting the planting of small grain cover crops. Some winter forages are starting to germinate and grow in Okaloosa County with a small amount of moisture. Sugarcane harvest continues in south Florida.

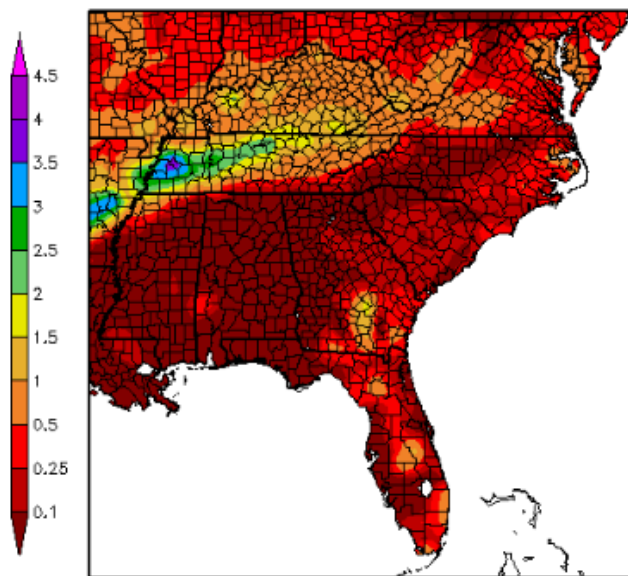
Soil Moisture for Week Ending 12/25/16

Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	15	15	3
Short	33	31	28
Adequate	47	48	64
Surplus.....	5	6	5

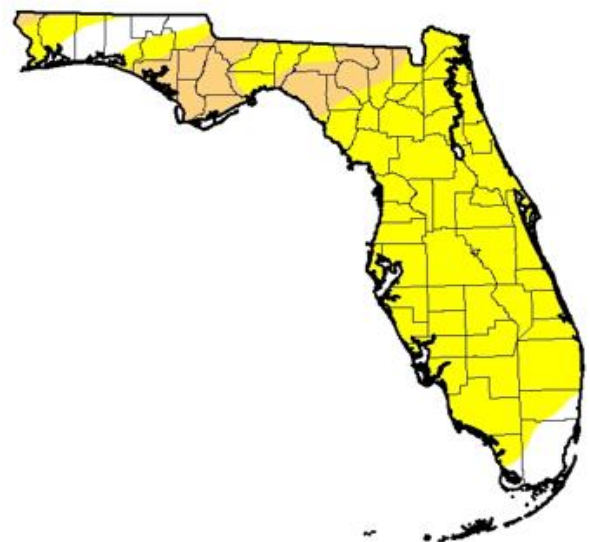
Condition for week ending 12/25/16

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	1	6	40	48	5
Pasture & Range...	9	22	45	21	3

Precipitation (in)
12/20/2016 – 12/26/2016



U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



Intensity



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

December 20, 2016 (Released Thursday Dec. 22, 2016)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>