



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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September 25, 2017

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General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, September 24, 2017. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain to 4.9 inches in Miami (Miami-Dade County). The average mean temperatures ranged from 76.6°F in Jasper (Hamilton County) to 85.5°F in Key West (Monroe County).

Citrus

The citrus region had average temperatures ranging from the mid-80s to the mid-90s. Rainfall was very sporadic in the citrus region. Most stations had light rainfall totaling an inch or less for the week. Osceola County and stations in the Indian River District had significant rainfall. Kenansville (Osceola County) had 2.24 inches of rainfall. Vero Beach (Indian River County) had 1.37 inches of rainfall. According to the September 19, 2017, U.S. Drought Monitor, the complete citrus growing region is drought free.

Access to heavily flooded groves was still not possible. Normal grove operations were difficult across the citrus belt due to saturated soil and water in the groves and on the grove roads. Some caretakers in the central and western areas were able to get back to mowing groves. Growers and caretakers continued hurricane clean-up and aimed efforts at pumping excess water out of grove middles. Owners continued surveying groves to assess damage to the fruit and to the trees. Some were repairing pot holes and washouts as they had time. A couple of processing plants opened to take early season oranges before they fell to the ground.

Fruits and Vegetables

Producers in Dixie County began planting green beans. Vegetable growers pumped water off flooded fields and are beginning to replant vegetables and re-lay plastic destroyed by the hurricane. Many are still assessing the total damages from it. A bell pepper producer in St. Lucie County reported all of their peppers had fallen and are rotting on the ground. Crops coming to market this week include boniato, malanga, okra, tomato, and sweet corn.

Livestock and Pastures

There are still multiple counties reporting standing water in low lying pastures and fields. Some significant work was done this week in St. Lucie County to move a large herd from land that had been completely surrounded by water up to higher ground. There are pastures in Brevard County that have grown very tall, and are still soggy. Mosquito populations have grown significantly in many areas, aggravating animals and interfering with outdoor work. Some milk losses were reported in Lafayette County due to hurricane related power outages and the resulting inability to keep it at the proper temperatures. Some chicken farms in Lafayette County reported that the hurricane caused some chicken weight loss. Cattle remain in mostly good condition at this point.

Field Crops

Peanut producers in Dixie and Jackson Counties reported expected peanut losses from Hurricane Irma. Peanut harvesting activities in Holmes, Jackson, and Lafayette Counties continue to be delayed due to excess moisture from the hurricane and continued rains. Peanut and hay harvests are ongoing in Gilchrist County. There were reports of cotton damage and an expectation of difficulties harvesting in Lafayette County. Sugarcane that was blown over in the hurricane is starting to stand back up in Glades, Hendry, and Palm Beach Counties.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 9/24/17

Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	0	0	1
Short	9	4	8
Adequate	54	60	70
Surplus.....	37	36	21

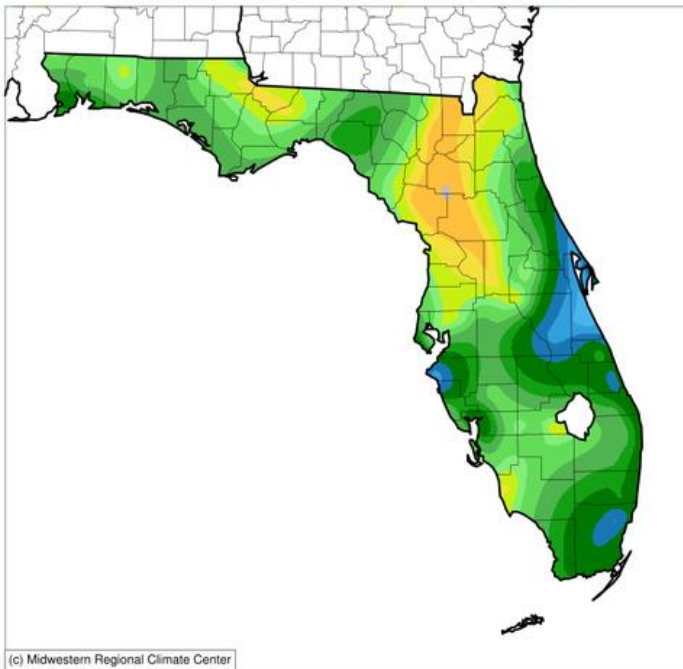
Crop Progress for Week Ending 9/24/17

Crop stage	This week	Prev week	Prev year	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Bolls Opening...	55	53	NA	NA
Cotton - Harvested.....	3	1	NA	NA
Peanuts - Dug.....	39	27	NA	NA
Peanuts - Harvested.....	28	18	37	30

Condition for Week Ending 9/24/17

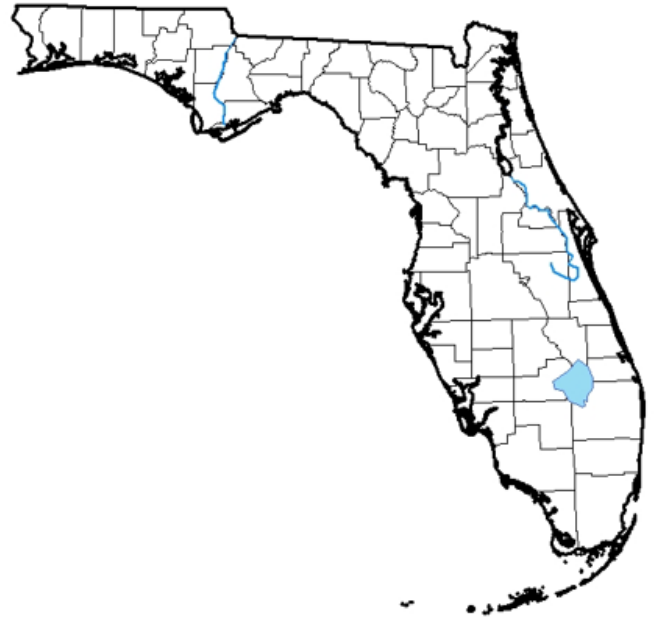
Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	0	2	20	66	12
Cotton.....	5	9	35	34	17
Pasture & range....	2	4	24	57	13
Peanuts.....	4	9	17	59	11

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
September 18, 2017 to September 24, 2017



0.01 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.5 0.75 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 4
Mrc.isws.illinois.edu/CLIMATE

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



Intensity:

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

September 19, 2017 (Released Thursday, Sep.21, 2017)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>