



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 18, 2017

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General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, December 17, 2017. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 0.79 inches in Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (Palm Beach County). The average mean temperatures ranged from 44.9°F in Chipley (Washington County) to 66.6°F in Key West (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were ideal in the citrus region over the past week. Lows on most morning were in the 40s and 50s; afternoon highs were in the 60s and 70s. No significant rainfall was recorded during the week. Only traces of rain were observed in a few of the monitored citrus counties. According to the December 14, 2017, U.S. Drought Monitor, the complete citrus region remains drought free.

The main emphasis in the groves was on harvesting, mowing before harvest, and irrigating. Limited spraying was observed by field employees.

Harvesting of early tangerines, Fallglo and Sunburst, is winding down. Other tangerine varieties being harvested include Aroema, Osceola, Orri, Roe, Autumn Honey and Robinson. It is expected that Honey (Murcott) tangerine harvest will start around the beginning of January. Early orange harvest for the fresh market was mostly Hamlins and Navels. A few midseason oranges were also harvested.

All but one processing plant was open and accepting field run early and midseason oranges and grapefruits and packing house eliminations of all varieties.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Dec 3, 2017	Dec 10, 2017	Dec 17, 2017	Dec 18, 2016
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	652	1,289	2,281	2,862
Navel oranges	43	67	40	81
White grapefruit	44	37	72	39
Red grapefruit	110	250	122	226
Tangerines and Tangelos	31	64	37	96
Total	880	1,707	2,552	3,304

www.citrusadministrativecommittee.org

Fruits and Vegetables

Strawberry volumes continue to increase in Hillsborough County. A cold front hit most vegetable growers this week, but only minimal damage was reported to beans and corn foliage in Palm Beach County. Growers continue to plant cool season crops and are harvesting a wide variety of crops, including beans, cabbage, cucumber, eggplant, peppers, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and zucchini.

Livestock and Pastures

Pasture quality continues seasonal decline. Reporters in Holmes County noted that winter grazing came up and then died this week due to the lack of rain. Winter grazing looks good so far in Lafayette County. Cattle remain in mostly good condition throughout the state.

Field Crops

Cotton harvest is complete. Some soybean and peanut harvesting activities were reported in Suwannee County. Rye was planted this week in Osceola and Volusia Counties. Some hay cutting was also reported in Osceola County. Sugarcane harvest is ongoing in Glades, Hendry, and Palm Beach Counties.

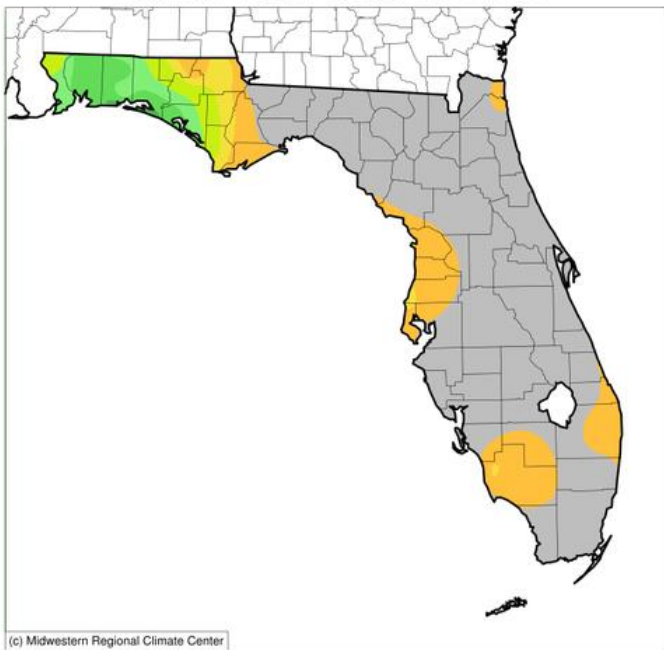
Soil Moisture for Week Ending 12/17/17

Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	2	2	10
Short.....	24	17	26
Adequate.....	56	59	59
Surplus.....	18	22	5

Condition for Week Ending 12/17/17

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	1	5	35	46	13
Pasture & range....	3	17	50	26	4

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
December 11, 2017 to December 17, 2017

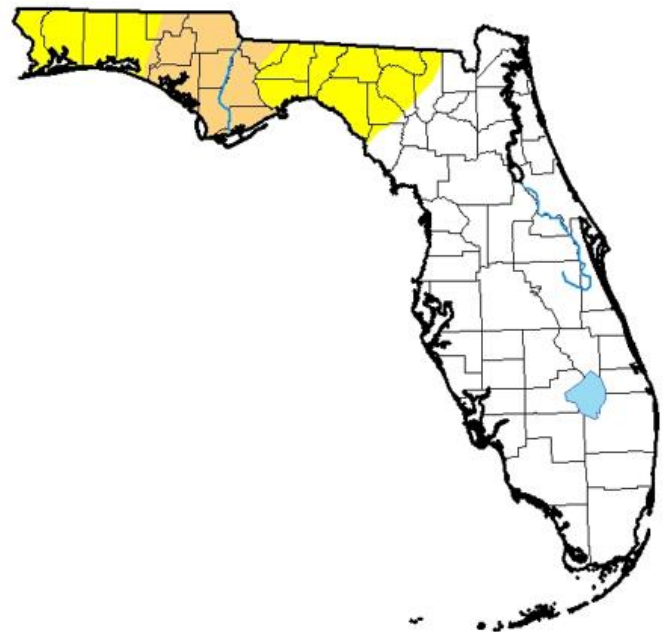


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0.01 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.5 0.75 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 4
Mrccl.isws.illinois.edu/CLIMATE

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



Intensity:

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

December 12, 2017 (Released Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>