December 26, 2017   *Media Contact: Mark Hudson*

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, December 24, 2017. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 1.09 inches in Pensacola (Escambia County). The average mean temperature ranged from 63.6°F in Chipley (Washington County) to 75.7°F in Key West (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures warmed in the citrus region during the last week. Lows on most mornings were in the 50s and 60s; afternoon highs reached into the 70s and 80s. No significant rainfall was recorded during the week. According to the December 21, 2017, U.S. Drought Monitor, the complete citrus region remained drought free.

Grove operations included most normal production measures, with field staff observing spraying, fertilizing, topping and hedging, mowing, irrigating and harvesting. There were also reports of sporadic bloom in some locations, possibly due to the warmer temperatures.

Fundraising and gift fruit harvest is over for the season. Tangerines being harvested included several midseason cultivars (Autumn Honey, Orri, Osceola and Robinson were the main varieties at the packinghouses). Honey (Murcott) tangerine harvest will begin sometime around the beginning of January. Early orange harvest for the fresh market was mostly Hamlins and Navels. Grapefruit harvest for the fresh market has been going well. The majority of white grapefruit went to the export market, while red grapefruit was equally distributed between domestic use and export.

All processing plants except one were open and accepting field run fruit for early and midseason varieties of oranges and also grapefruit. Packinghouse eliminations were accepted for all varieties.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Dec 10, 2017	Dec 17, 2017	Dec 24, 2017*	Dec 25, 2016
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	1,289	2,281	--	2,363
Navel oranges	67	40	--	51
White grapefruit........	37	72	--	42
Red grapefruit	250	122	--	211
Tangerines and Tangelos…..….……	64	37	--	55
Total	**1,707**	**2,552**	**--**	**2,722**

*Data not available at time of publication.
www.citrusadministrativecommittee.org

Fruits and Vegetables

Dry conditions caused increased irrigation use in Palm Beach County. Foggy conditions in several southern counties favored disease development in some vegetable crops. Producers have been preparing melon land in Gilchrist County. Growers continue to plant cool season crops and are harvesting a wide variety of crops, including avocado, beans, celery, eggplant, herbs, peppers, radishes, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and zucchini.

Livestock and Pastures

Winter forages in some northern counties are doing well, but a lack of rain for the past week in some southern counties has resulted in dry pastures, ditches, and retention ponds. Producers in several counties are beginning to feed supplements as necessary. Cattle remain in mostly good condition throughout the state.

Field Crops

Sugarcane harvest is ongoing in Glades County and planting continues in areas where planting was delayed by flooding from Hurricane Irma.
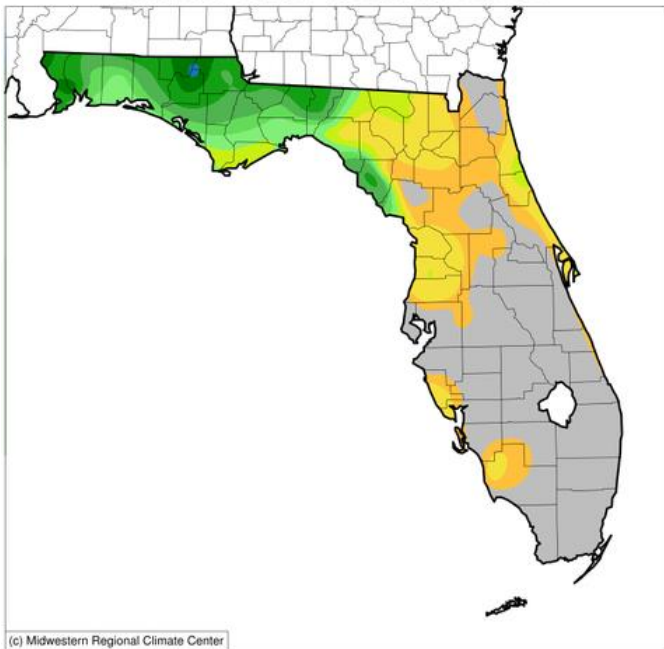
Soil Moisture for Week Ending 12/24/17

Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short..........	1	2	5
Short..................	29	24	26
Adequate..........	50	56	63
Surplus	20	18	6

Condition for Week Ending 12/24/17

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.................	0	2	30	56	12
Pasture & range....	2	7	54	28	9

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
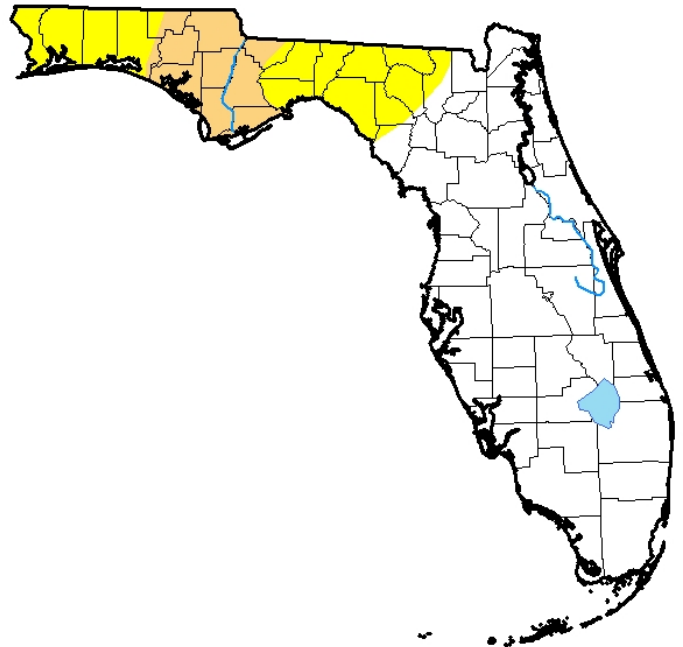#### December 18, 2017 to December 24, 2017

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0.01 0.02 0.05 0.1 0.15 0.2 0.3 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 1.5 1.75

Mrcc.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 19, 2017 (Released Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017)
http://droughtmonitor.unl