



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 24, 2018

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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 23, 2018. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 4.1 inches in Milton (Santa Rosa County). The average mean temperature ranged from 79.7°F in Fort Pierce (Saint Lucie County) to 86.9°F in Key West (Monroe County).

Citrus

Daily temperatures were above average in the citrus growing region, with afternoons reaching the high 80s to the mid 90s all week. Rainfall was less frequent, with most stations recording only one or two days of significant rainfall. Isolated stations in the western and central areas had over two inches, but all other stations accumulated less than an inch. According to the September 20th, 2018 U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire citrus region remained drought free.

Caretakers sprayed, pulled vines, and put out fertilizers. Irrigation was run two to three times a week. Generally, well-maintained groves looked good. Fieldworkers reported that oranges were about tennis ball size, and grapefruit were as large as softballs. Grove owners tested maturity levels of early oranges, grapefruit, and tangerines. Packinghouses made preparations to begin running in the next week or two.

Fruits and Vegetables

Southern Florida continued to have widespread flooding in low-lying fields, and many growers used throw-out pumps to remove excess water. Vegetable field preparations for winter plantings continued in several counties. Strawberry bed preparations were nearly complete in Hillsborough County. Producers planted a wide variety of crops, including beans, bitter melon, boniato, carrots, leafy greens, malanga, okra, peppers, radish, snap beans, sweet corn, and tomatoes. Crops harvested included avocado, bitter melon, boniato, malanga, and okra.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattlemen in Osceola County shipped some of their calves to market. Hit-or-miss showers led to some pastures wilting while others stayed soggy. In several southern counties, pasture quality declined seasonally as grasses matured. Cattle condition remained mostly good.

Field Crops

Dry weather in some counties allowed producers to harvest peanuts and hay at a fast rate. However, scattered, heavy rains prevented harvesting in other counties. Sugarcane continued to look good. The crop was nearing harvest in St. Lucie County.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 9/23/18

Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	3	0	NA
Short.....	19	5	NA
Adequate.....	59	71	NA
Surplus.....	19	24	NA

Crop Progress for Week Ending 9/23/18

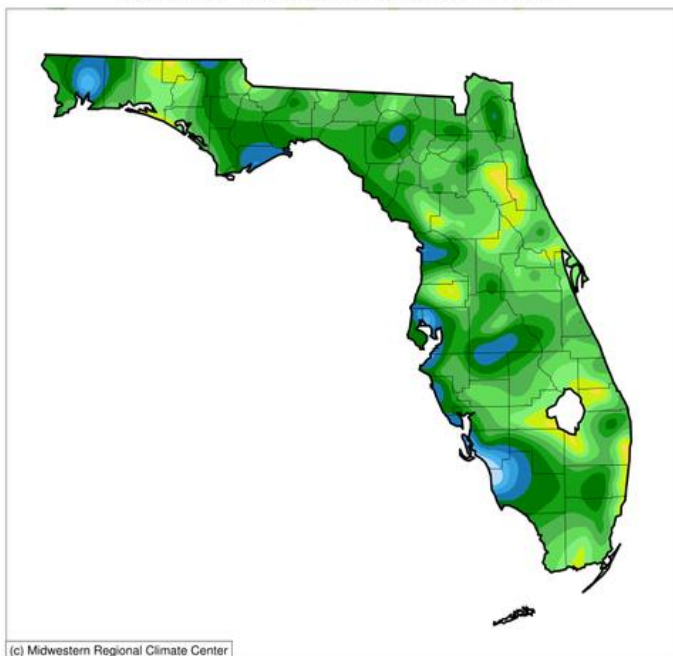
Crop stage	This week	Prev week	Prev year	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Bolls Opening ...	59	43	55	NA
Cotton - Harvested.....	1	0	3	NA
Peanuts - Dug.....	44	28	37	NA
Peanuts - Harvested.....	29	16	27	27

Condition for Week Ending 9/23/18

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	0	2	14	65	19
Cotton.....	0	5	28	45	22
Pasture & range....	0	4	22	53	21
Peanuts.....	1	2	16	62	19

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

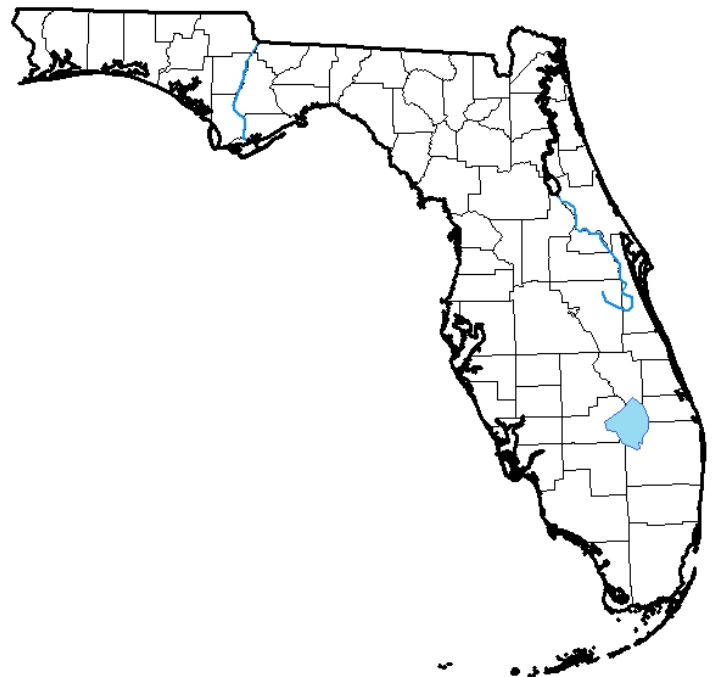
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
September 17, 2018 to September 23, 2018



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



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



Intensity:

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

September 18, 2018 (Released Thursday, September 20, 2018)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>